



Northeast Drought Update

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Agenda

What is Drought?

History of NE Drought

Current Drought Levels

2023 Provincial Drought Actions

Next Steps

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“Drought is a recurrent feature of climate involving a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period, resulting in a water shortage for activities, communities or aquatic ecosystems.”

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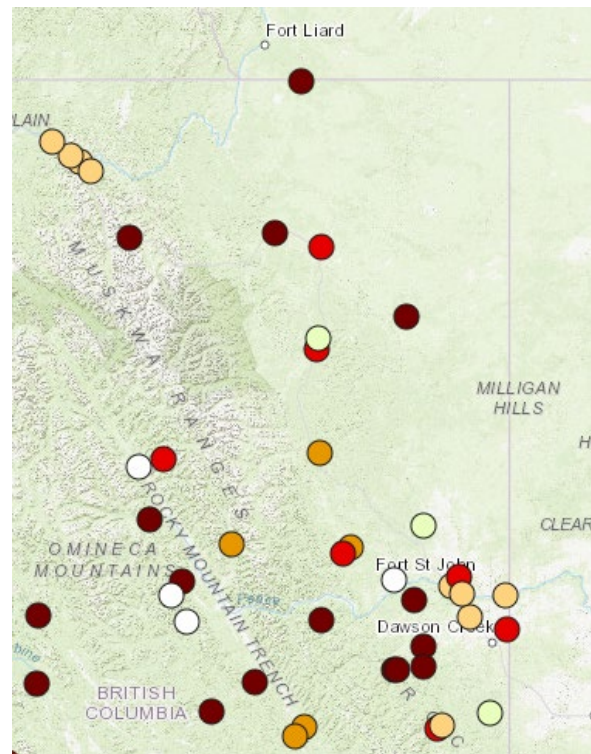
- BC Drought and Water
Scarcity Response Plan (2023)

Drought Response Levels

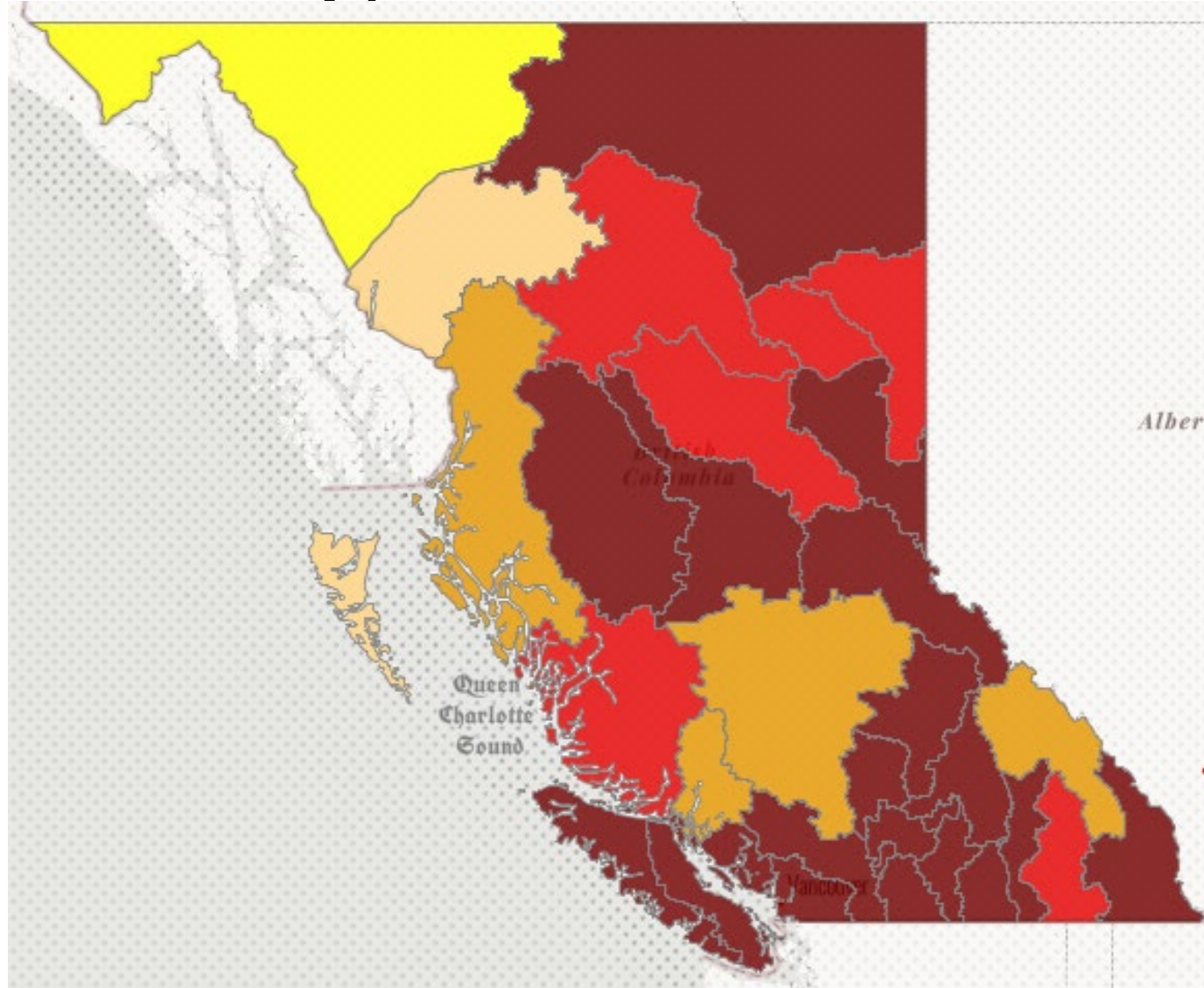
Level	Impacts	General Response Measures
0	There is sufficient water to meet socio-economic and ecosystem needs	Preparedness
1	Adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are rare	Conservation
2	Adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are unlikely	Conservation Local water restrictions where appropriate
3	Adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are possible	Conservation Local water restrictions likely
4	Adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are likely	Conservation and local water restrictions Regulatory action possible
5	Adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are almost certain	Conservation and local water restrictions Regulatory action likely Possible emergency response

Streamflow Indicators

Indicator	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
30 Day* Precipitation (Percentiles)	>30 th	21 st - 30 th	11 th - 20 th	6 th - 10 th	2 nd - 5 th	< 2 nd
7-Day Average Streamflow (Percentiles)	>30 th	21 st - 30 th	11 th - 20 th	6 th - 10 th	2 nd - 5 th	< 2 nd



Current Drought Levels



2023 Drought Levels

2023 DROUGHT LEVELS AT A GLANCE																							
Drought Levels:	0	1	2	3	4	5																	
BASINS	01-Jun	08-Jun	15-Jun	22-Jun	29-Jun	06-Jul	13-Jul	20-Jul	27-Jul	03-Aug	10-Aug	17-Aug	24-Aug	31-Aug	07-Sep	14-Sep	21-Sep	28-Sep	05-Oct	12-Oct	19-Oct	26-Oct	02-Nov
Fort Nelson	2	3	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5						
East Peace	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4						
North Peace	1	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4						
South Peace	1	2	2	2	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5						
Northwest	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Stikine	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2						
Skeena-Nass	0	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3						
Bulkley-Lakes	1	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5						
Finlay	1	2	2	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4						
Parsnip	1	2	2	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4						
Upper Fraser West	1	2	2	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	5						
Upper Fraser East	1	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5						
Upper Columbia	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3						
Lower Columbia	1	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5						
West Kootenay	1	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4						
East Kootenay	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5						
Kettle	0	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	5						
Middle Fraser	1	2	2	2	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3						
Lower Thompson	0	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5						
North Thompson	0	2	2	2	3	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5						
South Thompson	0	2	2	2	3	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5						
-Salmon River	0	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5						
Nicola	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5						
-Coldwater River	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5						
Okanagan	0	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5						
Similkameen	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5						
Central Pacific Range	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	3						
Eastern Pacific Range	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5						
Sunshine Coast	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5						
Lower Mainland	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5						
Central Coast	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4						
West Vancouver Island	2	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5						
East Vancouver Island	2	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5						
Haida Gwaii	0	1	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	2						

Prepared By: Water Management Branch - Ministry of Forests

2023 Drought Actions

Outreach

- Municipalities and First Nations
- Sent voluntary restrict letters to all licensees
- Provincial media request
- Weekly meeting with fish biologists, range, agriculture, BCER, executive, RFC

Compliance

- Identify watersheds of high concern
- Targeted inspections of licensees
- Targeted inspections at easy access points



Temporary Protection Orders

Precedence of Rights

Trigger: A licensee with senior rights is not able to exercise their rights due to decreased water availability

- Order junior rights holder to cease diverting water, beginning with those with the most junior rights

Declaration of Water Shortage

- Trigger: Used when one or more streams in an area have fallen or are at risk of falling below their Critical Environmental Flow Threshold

CEF Protection

- Trigger: Used immediately following Declaration of Significant Water Shortage
- Regionally significant aquatic ecosystem
- Enforcing the CEFT will help prevent significant or irreversible harm to the aquatic ecosystem of the stream
- CEFT takes precedence over all water use, and FITFIR can be enforced



Next Steps

Agricultural Outreach

- Consider water storage
- Funding opportunities
- Climate Preparedness

Fisheries

- Identify sensitive species and streams
- Temperature monitoring

Non-Licensed Users

- Education and outreach
- Bring into compliance





Thank you

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