Extended Hydrologic Outlook
April 20, 2026

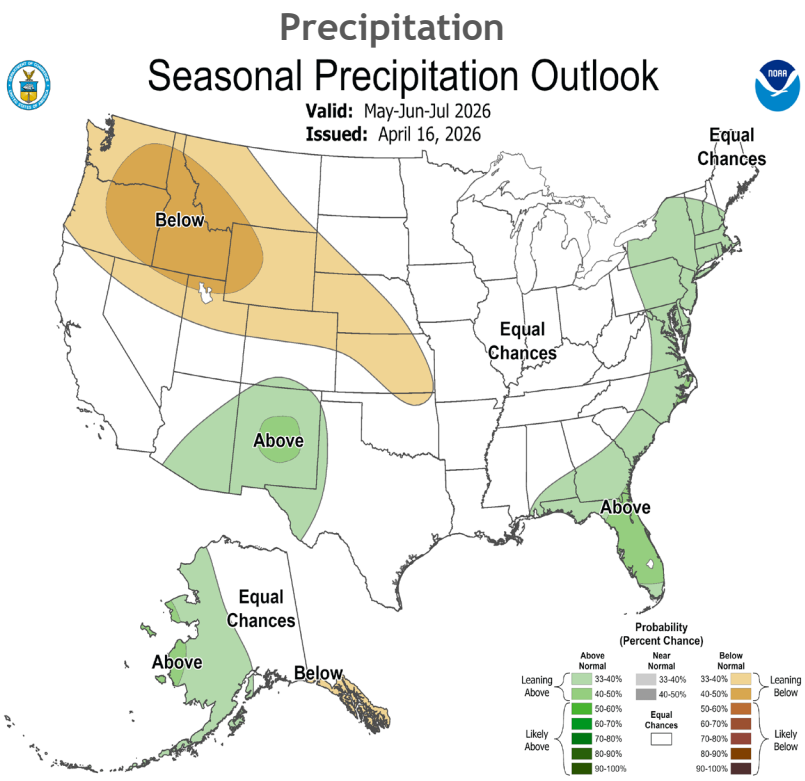
- The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is forecasting above normal rainfall for May through July.
- La Niña is present and ENSO-neutral conditions are favored through April-June 2026 (80% chance). In May-July 2026, El Niño is likely to emerge (61% chance) and persist through at least the end of 2026.
- Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO) is currently in the warm phase:
  - Average annual inflow to Lake Okeechobee is nearly 50% greater during the warm phase compared to the cold phase.

U. S. Seasonal Outlooks

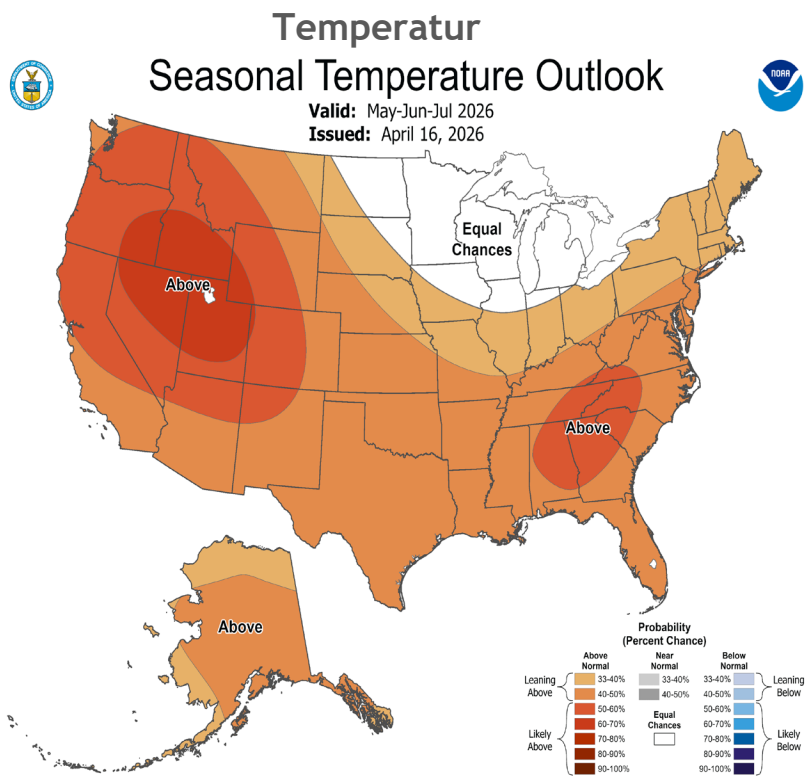
May - July 2026

The seasonal outlooks combine the effects of long-term trends, soil moisture, and, when appropriate, ENSO.

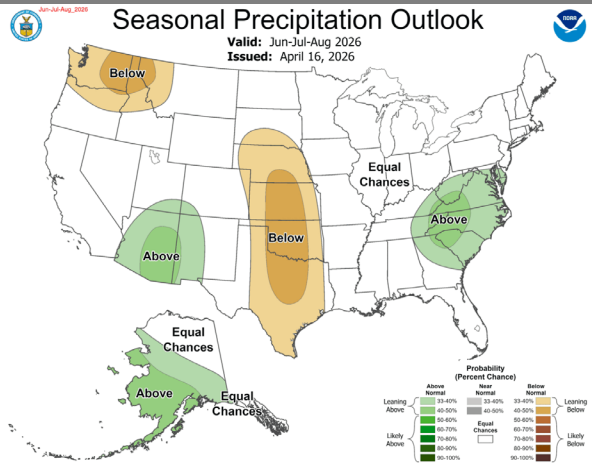
Precipitation

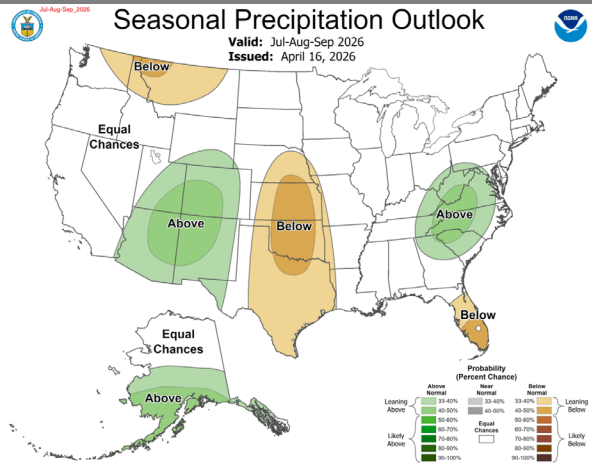


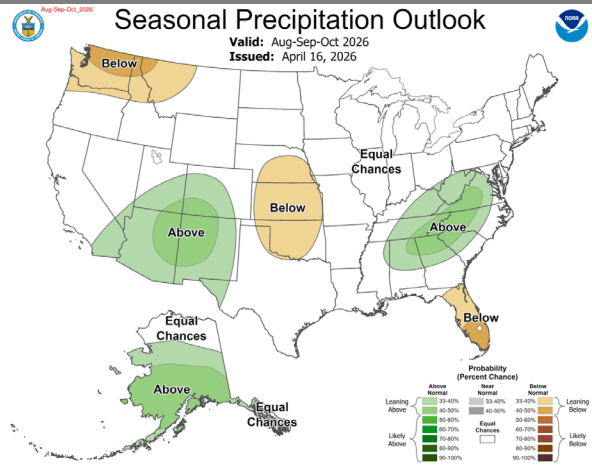
Temperatur

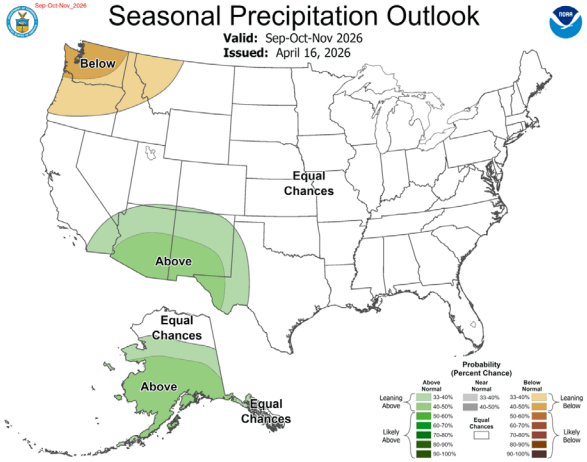


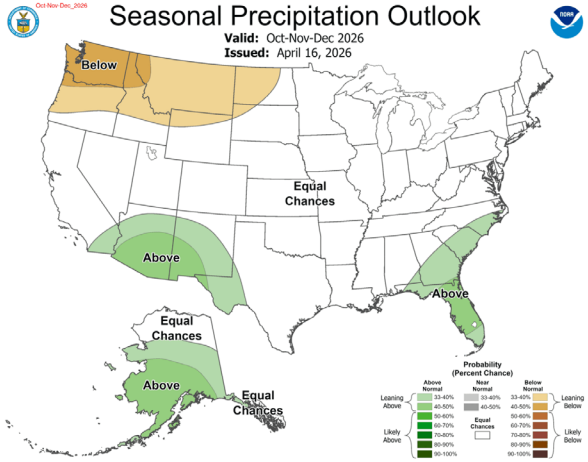
Prepared by: Climate Prediction Center/NCEP

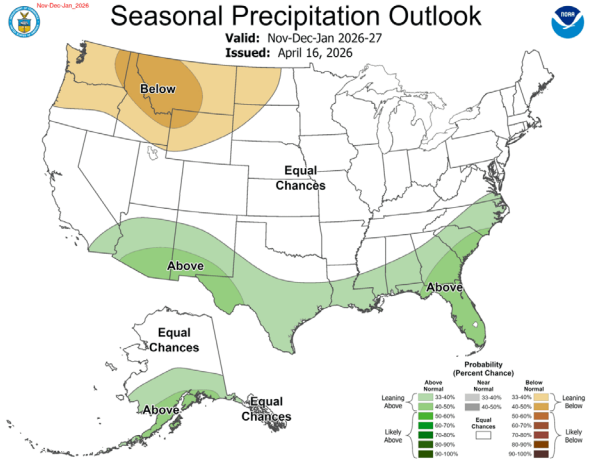


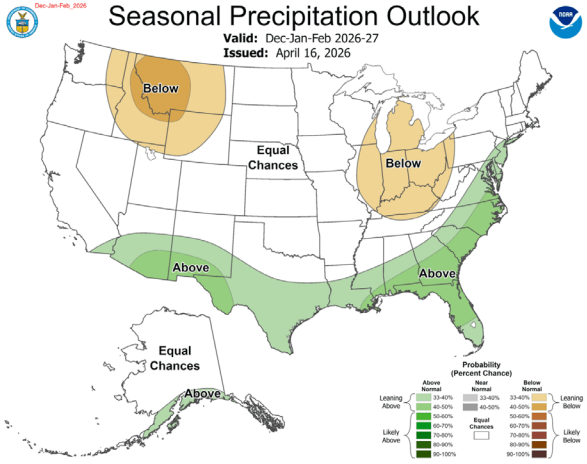


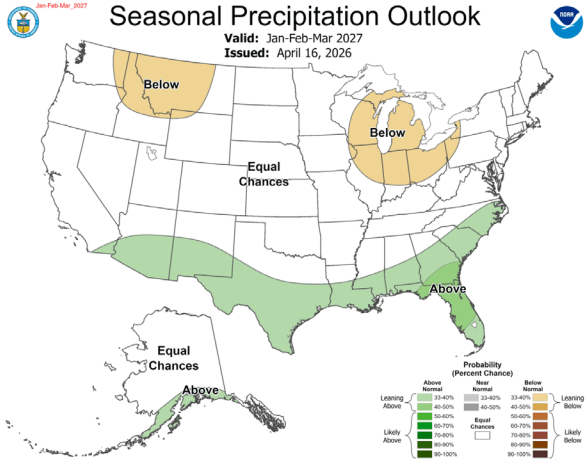


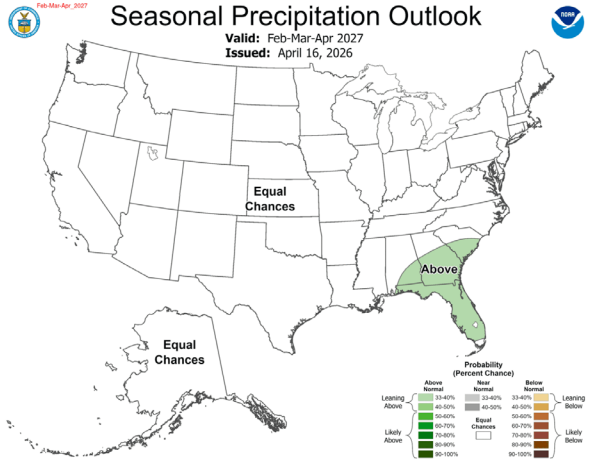












Prepared by: Climate Prediction Center/NCEP

Teleconnections to South Florida

Climate anomalies being related to each other at large distances:

<u>El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)</u>

- **El Niño increases the chances of a wetter-than-normal dry season and decreased tropical activity, La Niña increases the chances of a drier-than-normal dry season and increased tropical activity (both have most influence in south Florida from November through March)**

<u>Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO)</u>

- **Increases variations in south Florida dry season rainfall, positive leads to more El Niño events, negative leads to more La Niña events**
- **The current PDO is negative**

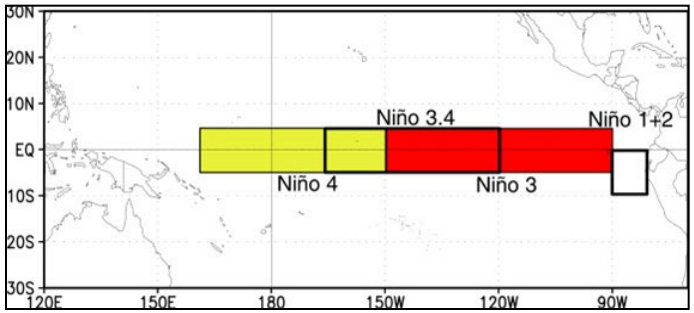
<u>Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO)</u>

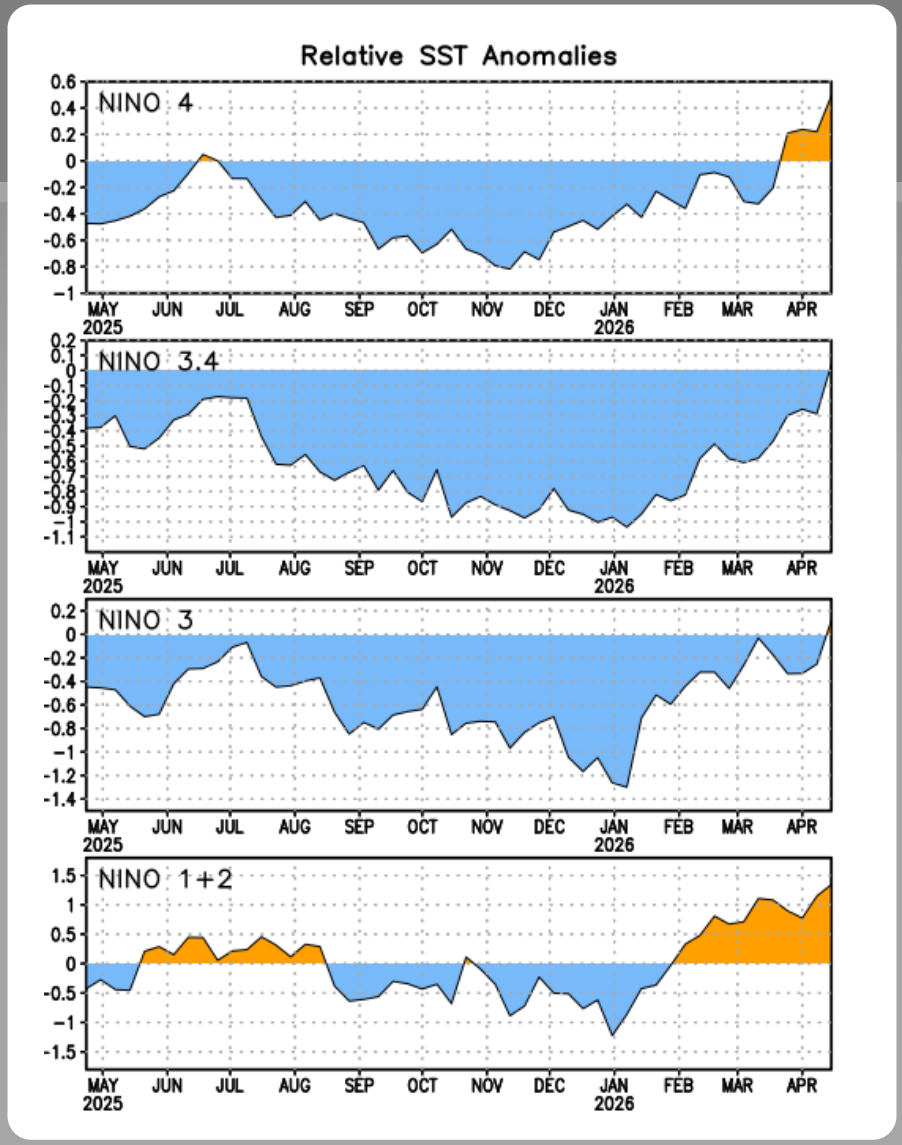
- **Average annual inflow to Lake Okeechobee is nearly 50% greater during the warm phase compared to the cold phase of the AMO, easterly flow toward south Florida affected by phase**
- **The AMO is currently in the warm phase**

Niño Region SST Departures (ºC) Recent Evolution

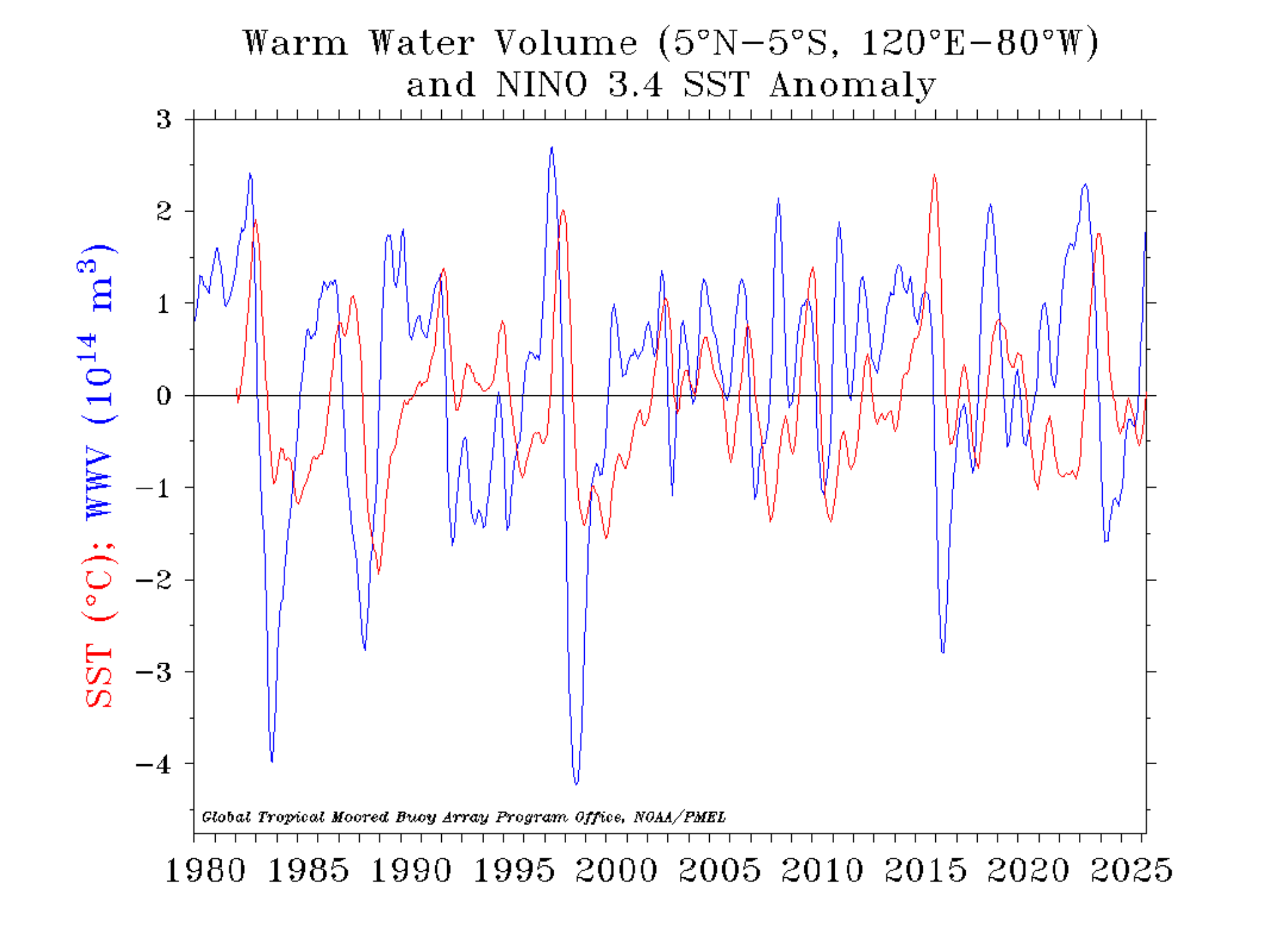
The latest weekly SST departures are:

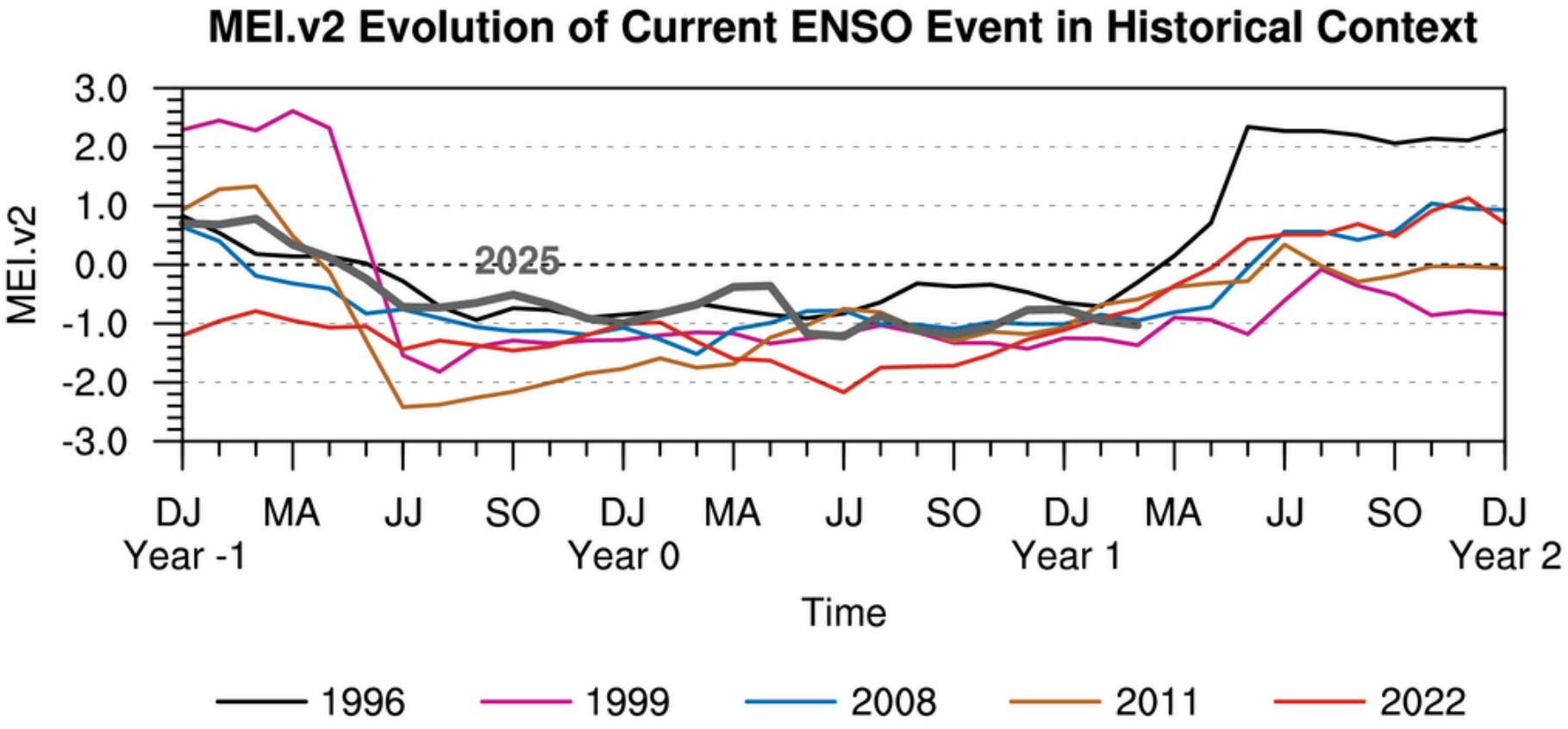
Niño 4	0.6ºC
Niño 3.4	0.1ºC
Niño 3	0.2ºC
Niño 1+2	1.2ºC





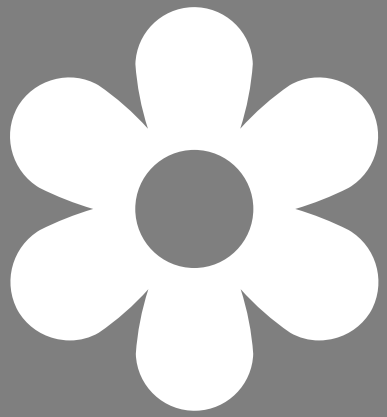
Prepared by: Climate Prediction Center/NCEP


Warm Water Volume (5°N–5°S, 120°E–80°W)
and NINO 3.4 SST Anomaly
SST (°C); WWV (10^{14} m^3)
3
2
1
0
−1
−2
−3
−4
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
2020
2025
Global Tropical Moored Buoy Array Program Office, NOAA/PMEL



Prepared by: NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory

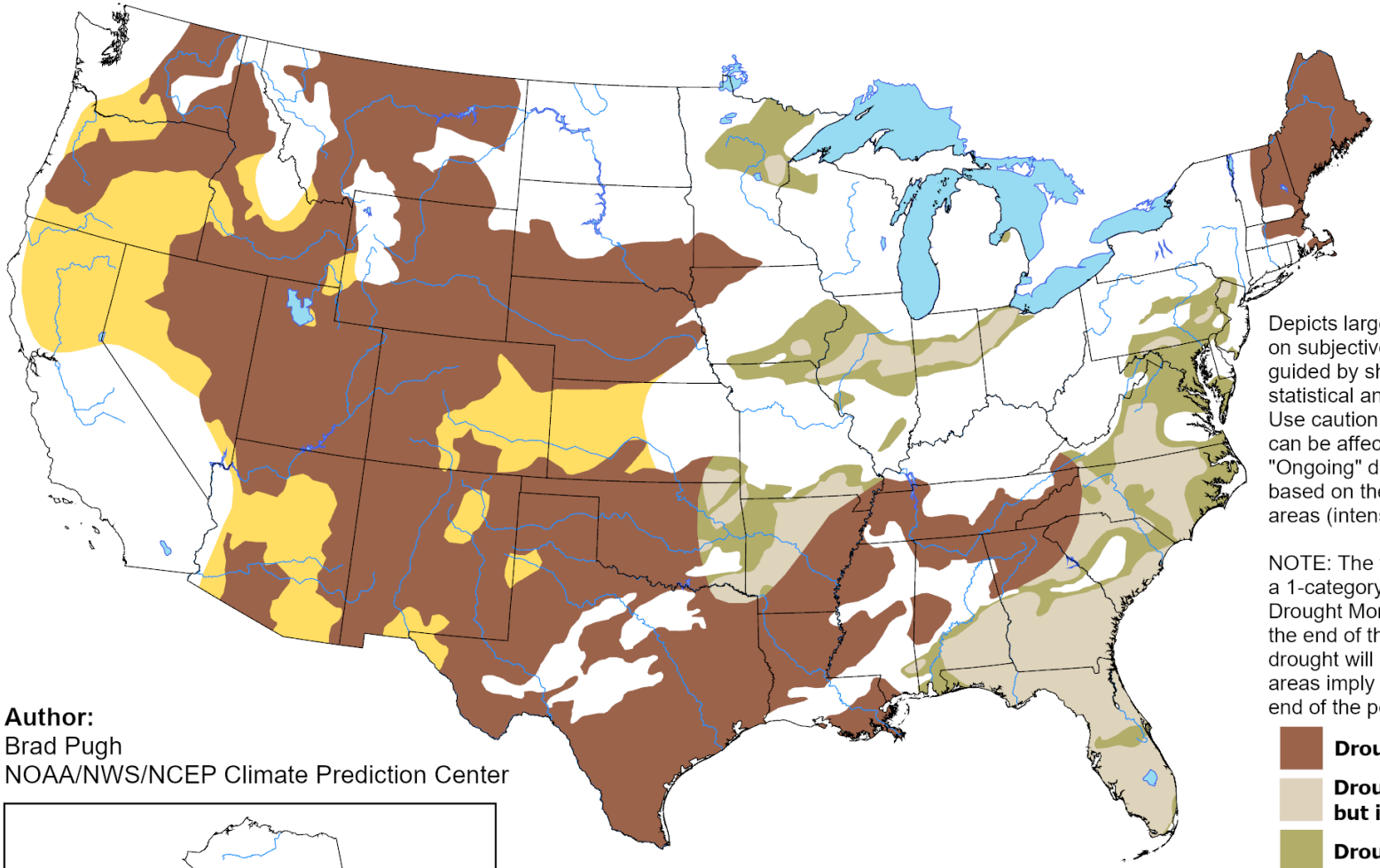
2026 Spring Outlook



U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 19 - June 30, 2026
Released March 19, 2026

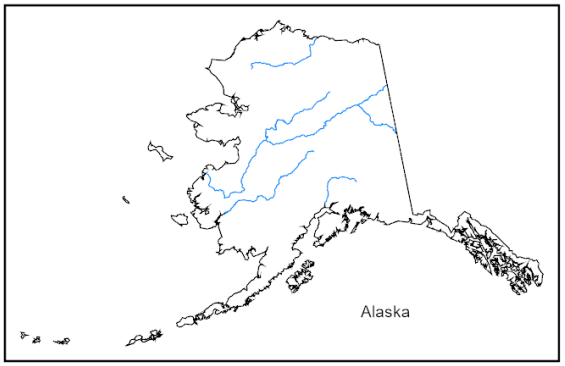


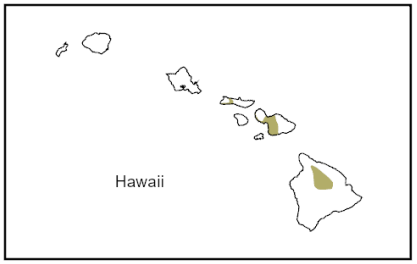
Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

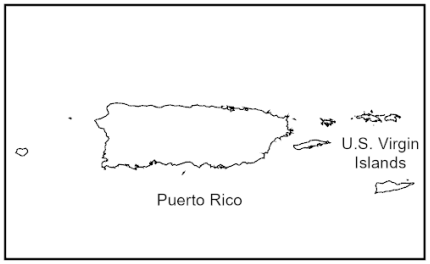
NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- **Drought persists**
- **Drought remains, but improves**
- **Drought removal likely**
- **Drought development likely**
- **No drought**

Author:
Brad Pugh
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center







https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73

2026 CSU Tropical Outlook

ATLANTIC BASIN SEASONAL HURRICANE FORECAST FOR 2026

Forecast Parameter and 1991–2020 Average (in parentheses)	Issue Date 9 April 2026
Named Storms (NS) (14.4)	13
Named Storm Days (NSD) (69.4)	55
Hurricanes (H) (7.2)	6
Hurricane Days (HD) (27.0)	20
Major Hurricanes (MH) (3.2)	2
Major Hurricane Days (MHD) (7.4)	5
Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) (123)	90
ACE West of 60°W (73)	50
Net Tropical Cyclone Activity (NTC) (135%)	100

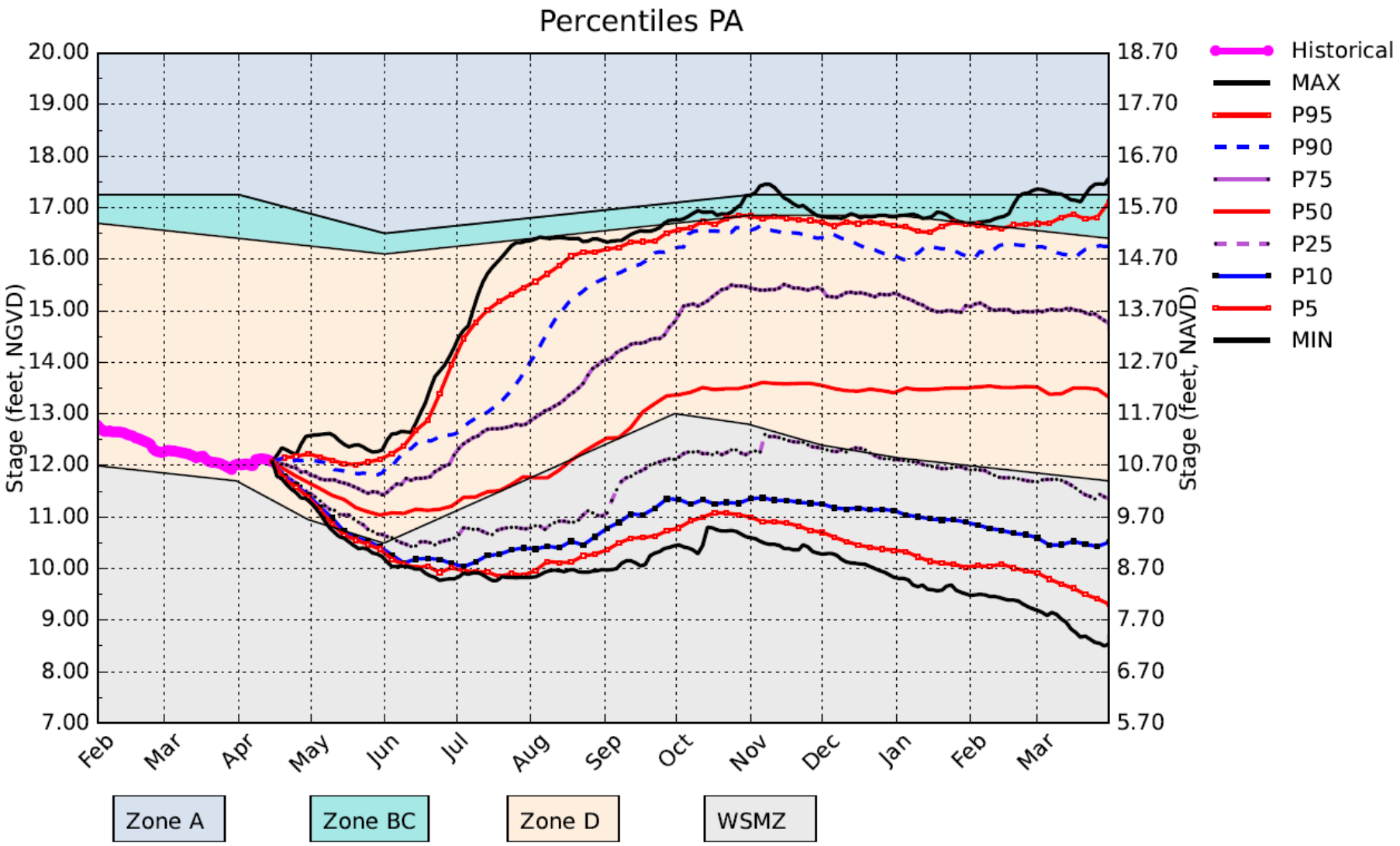
- Somewhat below-normal activity
- Current weak La Niña conditions are likely to transition to El Niño in the next few months, with the potential for a moderate/strong El Niño for the peak of hurricane season (increased levels of tropical Atlantic vertical wind shear)
- Sea surface temperatures in the western tropical Atlantic are warmer than normal but slightly cooler than normal in the eastern and central tropical Atlantic
- Next update: June 10, 2026

Prepared by: Colorado State University

April 15, 2026 DPA Assumptions

- **The April 15, 2026 Dynamic Position Analysis (DPA) simulation is based on historical climatic conditions spanning the period 1965-2016. This DPA posting is made with the South Florida Water Management Model (SFWMM) v7.3.6.**
- **The April 15, 2026 DPA resets the initial stages for Lake Okeechobee (LOK) and the Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) on April 1st of each year of the DPA simulation and conditions the simulation to real time data during April to achieve real time stages on April 15th for LOK and WCAs.**
- **The Lake Okeechobee operations follow the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM). Modeling assumptions are consistent with modeling performed for LOSOM Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).**
- **LOK Temporary Forward Pump operations will be in place, whenever necessary, to improve water supply deliveries from LOK under low LOK stages.**
- **STA surface area values are modified to reflect current flow ways under operation. STA depths are maintained to a minimum of 6 inches using Lake Okeechobee releases.**
- **Lake Okeechobee Water Shortage Management (LOWSM) is included in the simulation which reflects the currently approved 40E-21 and 40E-22 water shortage rules.**

Lake Okeechobee SFWMM April 15 2026 Position Analysis



(See Assumptions on the Operational Planning Website)

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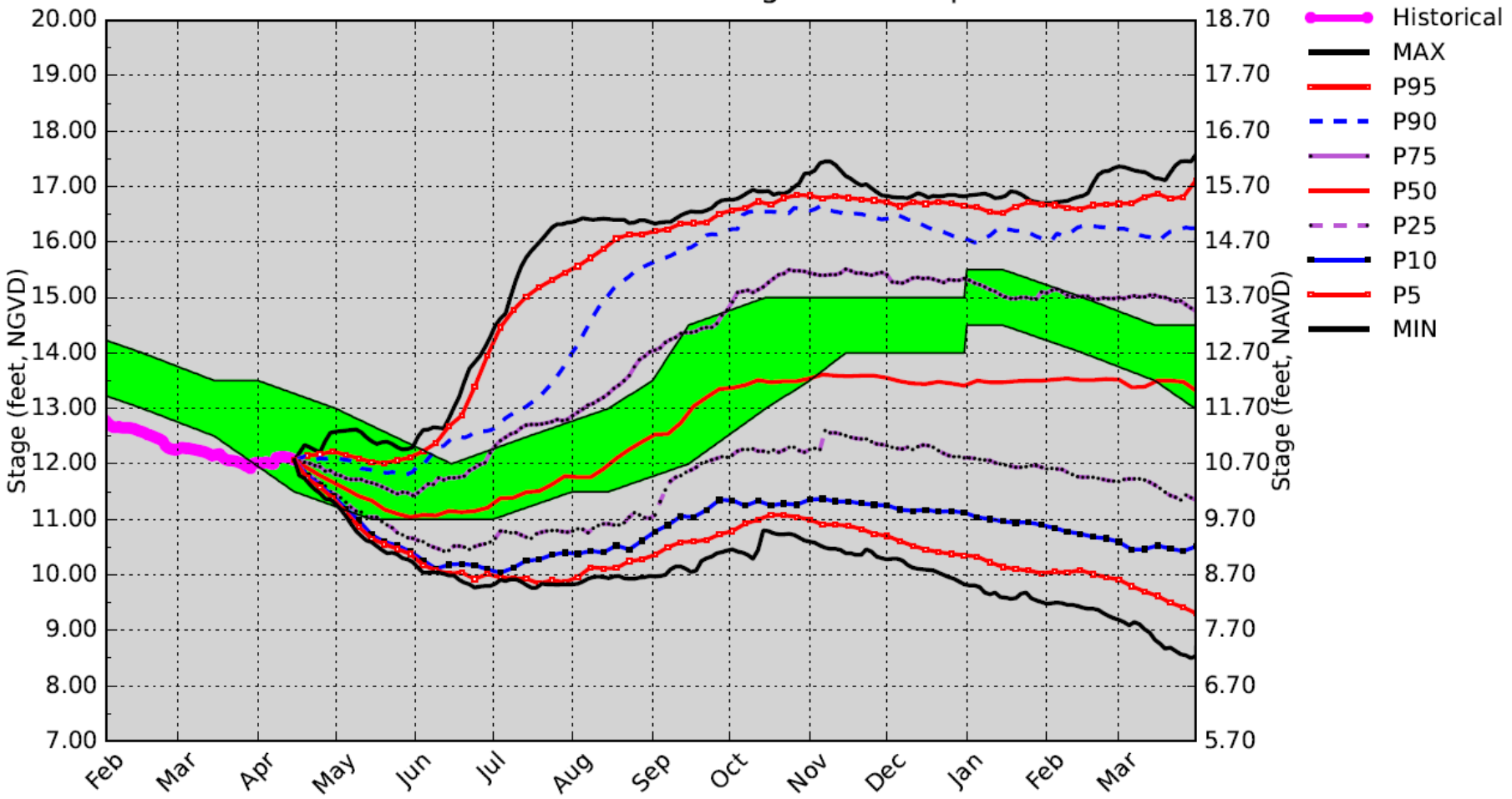
Lake Okeechobee SFWMM April 15 2026 Position Analysis

Percentiles PA with Ecological Envelopes



(See Assumptions on the Operational Planning Website)

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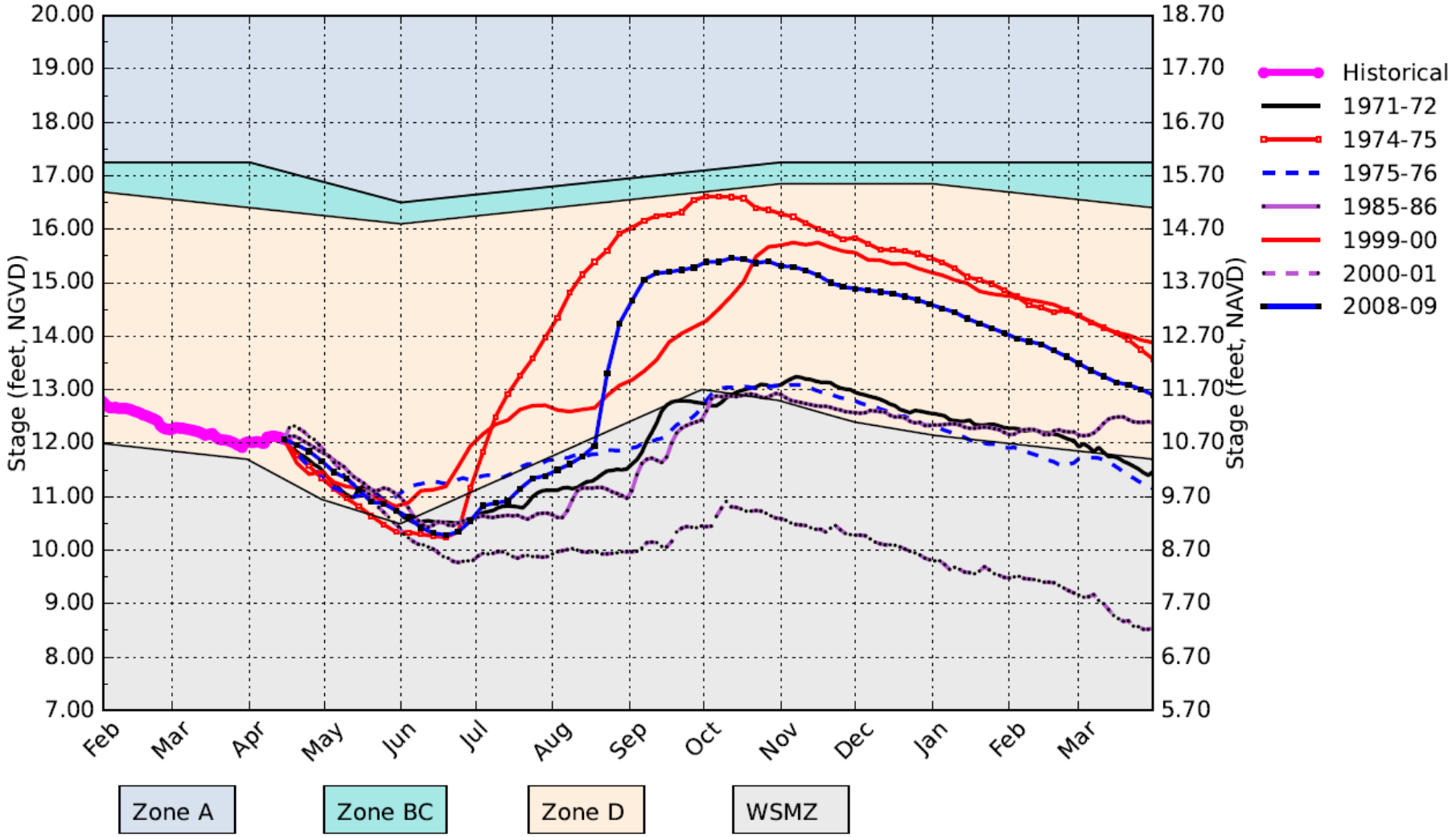
Lake Okeechobee SFWMM April 15 2026 Position Analysis



(See Assumptions on the Operational Planning Website)

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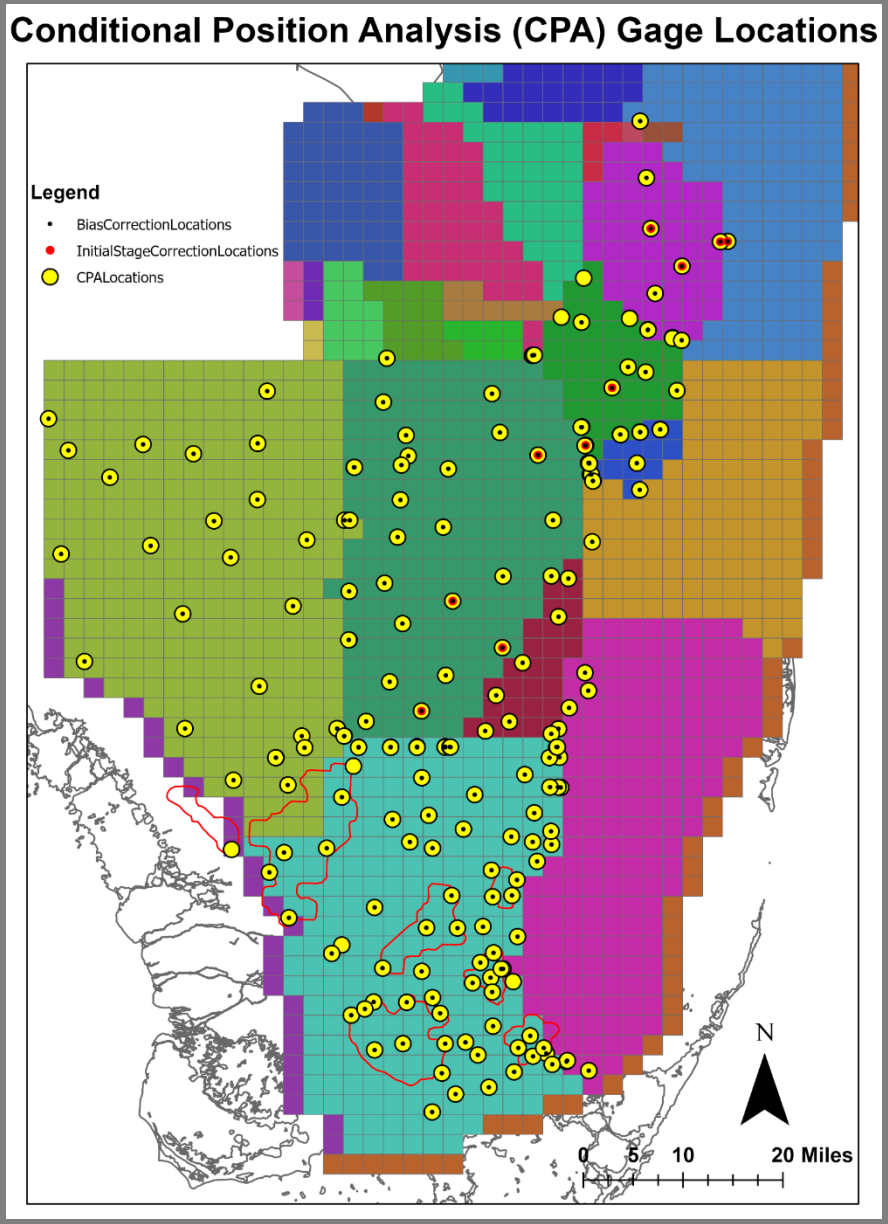
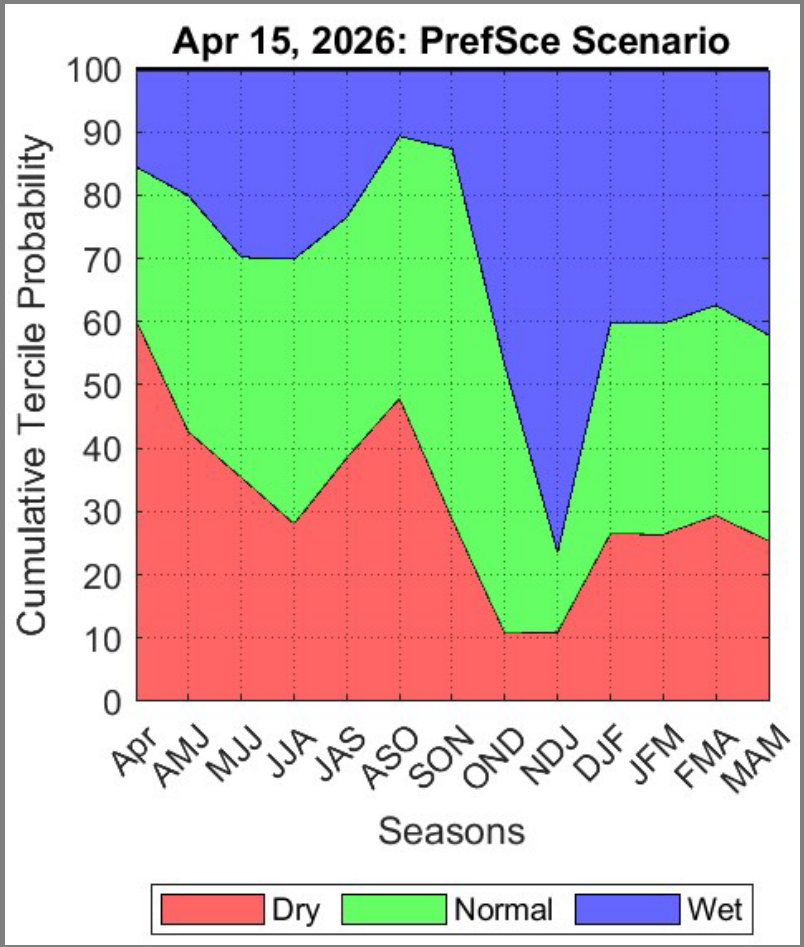
Conditional Position Analysis Overview

- CPA is a stochastic framework that transforms stages obtained from Dynamic Position Analysis (DPA) based on forecasted rainfall conditions over the next twelve months (Ali, 2016).
- CPA depends on DPA - DPA stage outputs are used as inputs to CPA. DPA uses a physically based model (SFWMM) to forecast stages progression over 1 year from the currently observed stages using 52-years of historical rainfall.
- CPA is implemented for 200+ locations in the Everglades including Lake Okeechobee.

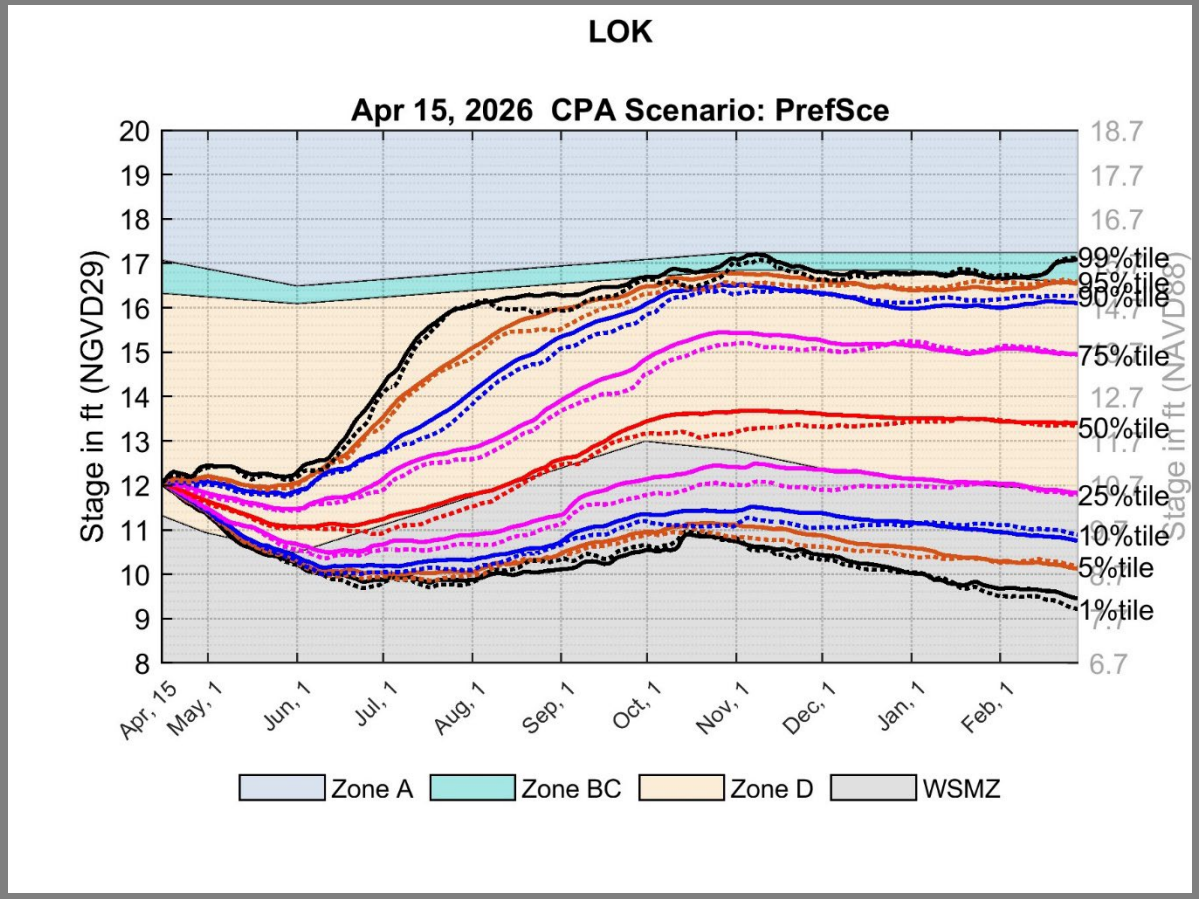


April 15, 2026 CPA: Preferred Rainfall Scenario

Seasonal rainfall probabilities are calculated based on historical data and projected Niño-3.4 Index published by CPC. The seasonal rainfall probability of the remaining days of current AMJ season, and the monthly probability for the remaining days of April are derived from QPF estimates produced by WMD, WPC, ECMWF HRES, and 100 ECMWF ensembles, in combination with historical rainfall data during 1991–2020.



Lake Okeechobee – The CPA implementation indicates that most CPA percentile lines are either on the DPA lines or shift downward from the respective DPA percentile lines by 0.03 to 0.13 feet at the beginning of the wet season in June 2026. Under the Preferred Scenario (PrefSce), the median (50th percentile) and 25th percentile traces project stages of ~11.04 feet NGVD29 (9.74 feet NAVD88) and ~10.55 feet NGVD29 (9.25 feet NAVD88), respectively, at the start of the wet season.



Solid lines → Climatological Scenario/DPA Dotted lines → CPA Scenario: PrefSce