

North Carolina Drought Update

Created By:

North Carolina
Drought Management Advisory Council
www.ncdrought.org

NORTH CAROLINA
CLIMATE OFFICE
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For the assessment period ending **Mar. 19, 2024**
From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

The Main Takeaway

Parts of eastern North Carolina remain dry, although the rain from earlier this month has helped keep Moderate Drought (D1) conditions fairly isolated.

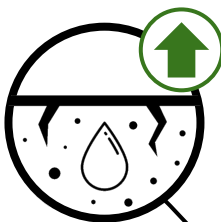
This Week's Summary

After a wet start to March, the past week saw little to no rain across the eastern half of the state, and some streamflows have dipped back below normal, reflecting both the recent dryness plus the dry end to winter. This week, Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions expanded slightly westward in the Sandhills and central Coastal Plain.

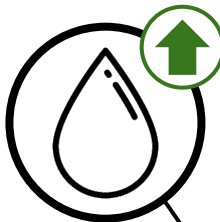
Next Week's Outlook

Low pressure moving up the coast will bring our next round of rainfall on Friday and Saturday. Totals of at least half an inch are expected statewide, increasing to the east with up to 2 inches right along the coastline.

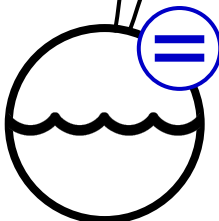
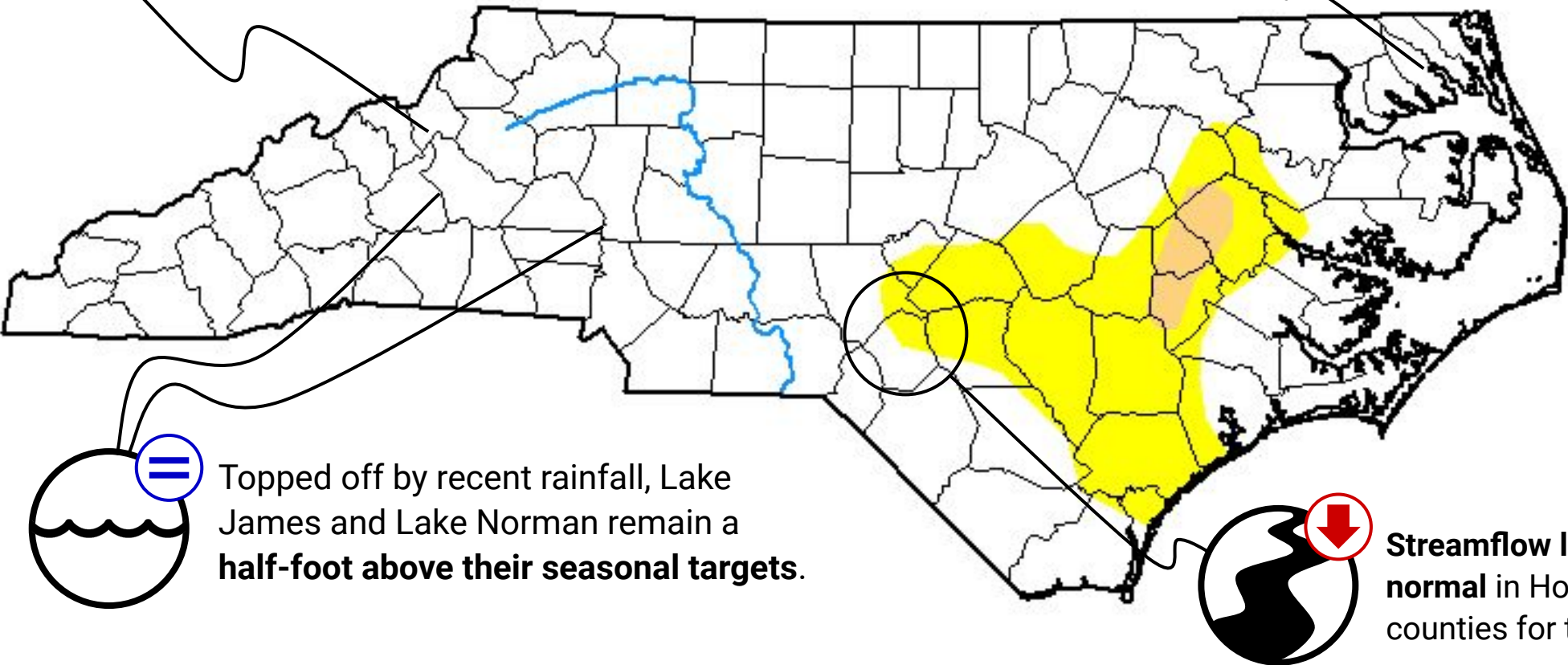
For your local drought status, visit www.ncdrought.org



A CoCoRaHS observer in Avery County reports **damp soil up to 18 inches deep**, which is a sign of good soil moisture recharge over the winter.



Following a dry February, **Elizabeth City is on pace for its 2nd-wettest March on record** with 5.41 inches so far this month.

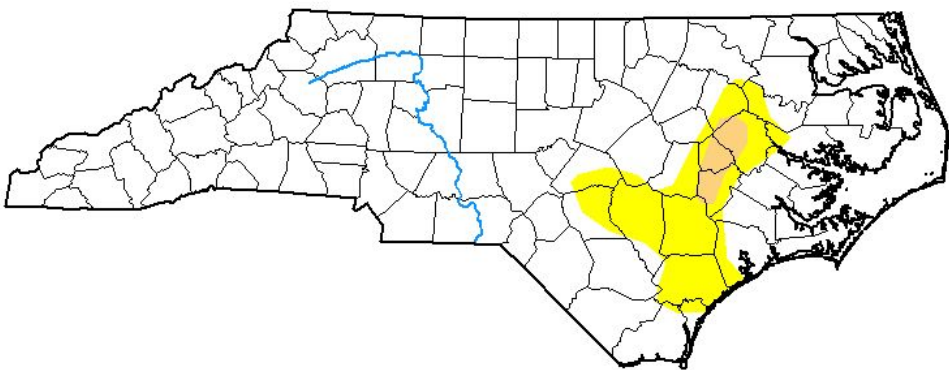


Topped off by recent rainfall, Lake James and Lake Norman remain a **half-foot above their seasonal targets**.



Streamflow levels are below normal in Hoke and Moore counties for the past 28 days.

Last Week's Drought Status



Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	14.44%	+4.30%
D1: Moderate Drought	1.45%	0.00%
D2: Severe Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%