9/1/25

U.S. RIVER CONDITIONS – BULLETIN

UPDATE

General dryness did set in during 2nd half August across key areas necessary to maintain unrestricted water levels in the river system. Water levels are low on most rivers particularly, the Lower Mississippi.

Currently, all rivers are operating without tow size or barge draft restrictions. However, without rain injections, navigation issues can soon be expected.

The critical navigation point of Memphis on the Lower Miss has been on the fall. Forecasts call for only intermittent rain during September. The estimated river stages at Memphis are listed on the below graph.

As the Lower Miss falls, the first anticipated barge draft reduction of 6 inches will be implemented this week. The river will be navigable during September but it will be slow going with unexpected groundings and additional tow size and barge draft reductions if rains do not occur. Extra barge transit times will have to be taken into account during this period.

WEATHER PATTERNS

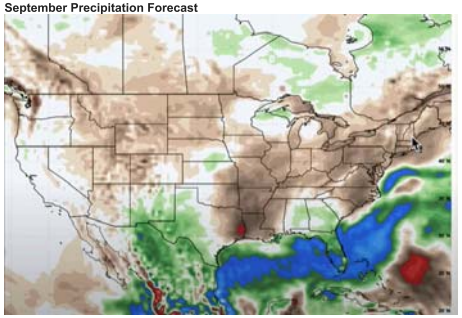
The Big Beautiful Bermuda High, sitting in the Atlantic has been in a friendly position for U.S. weather. During June and July, it was positioned closer to the U.S. Coast, near Florida. That pushed Gulf moisture into the interior U.S. The BBBH then drifted from the Coast and further into the Atlantic which drew Atlantic Hurricanes out to sea and keeping them away from the U.S. mainland.

Now the BBBH has drifted further northeasterly, much further away from the U.S. Coast. It no longer impacts U.S. weather. There is no Gulf moisture push inland and the East Coast and Gulf Coast are exposed to potential Atlantic Hurricane penetration.

September is the most active time for Hurricane development. August 29th was the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina that hit New Orleans with devastating flooding and damage. The tropics are quiet but Atlantic Storm activity is expected to fire up during 2nd half September before winding down. Pop up storms in the Gulf will also be a possibility due to conditions during September.

During Fall, there are signs of a LaNina weather pattern developing which normally produces precipitation in areas that would help to recharge rivers. For now, will have to make it through September and watch development of long term weather patterns for return of precipitation.

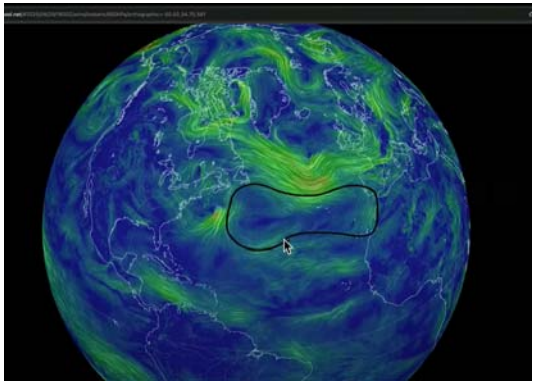
September Precipitation Forecast



ESTIMATED RIVER STAGE AT MEMPHIS BASIS NO PRECIPITATION – (Note Record low stage at Memphis was minus 11.5 feet)

DATE	8/30	8/31	9/1	9/2	9/3	9/4	9/5	9/6	9/7	9/8	9/9	9/10	9/11	9/12	9/13	9/14	9/15	9/16	9/17	9/18	9/19	9/20	9/21	9/22	9/23	
MEMT1	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.1	-0.5	-1	-1.5	-2	-2.4	-2.7	-3	-3.3	-3.7	-4	-4.2	-4.5	-4.7	-4.9	-5.2	-5.4	-5.6	-5.9	-6.1	-6.4	

Position of BBBH much further away from U.S. Coast and will not affect US Weather



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8/25/25

U.S. RIVER CONDITIONS

Summary of Summer Weather

The weather across most the U.S. was influenced by the position of a Big Beautiful Bermuda High located in various areas of the Atlantic over the past few months.

Initial summer forecasts expected June, July, and August to be hot and dry across the entire U.S. That forecast was correct for the West Coast which is currently in drought. However, most areas of the Country experienced milder and wetter conditions than expected due to the position of Bermuda High.

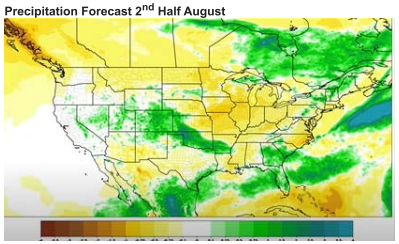
The high pressure system had enough strength to be a dominating weather influence that produced friendly weather systems for most of the Country.

The high drifts in the Atlantic. Initially, it was positioned more southerly near Florida. The position funneled Gulf moisture under and up through Texas into the upper areas of the Central U.S. producing good amounts of rain resulting in what is expected to be record crops and yields. This was the primary reason June, July, and early August did not go dry.

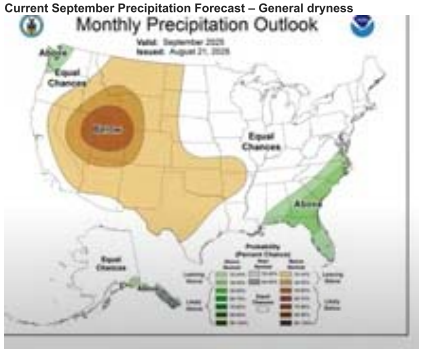
The BBBH has recently drifted further out in a northly eastward direction. The current positioning no longer pushes Gulf moisture on to land. However, it is a good position to draw Atlantic originated Hurricanes under and around the high pressure helping to keep them at sea. If the high does move further north-east, it will no longer impede storm movement and expose the East Coast and Gulf Coast to the potential for Hurricane impacts as we enter Sept which is typically most active period for Hurricanes.

Image Big Beautiful Bermuda High

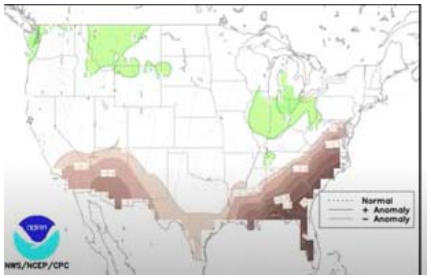
Precipitation Forecast 2nd Half August



Current September Precipitation Forecast – General dryness



Per below October to December Precipitation Map. La Nina building which typically produces above average moisture in the PNW and Central US.



Forward Forecasts and River Conditions

Per above maps, general dryness is expected to set in for late August and September along with substantial heat during September.

Above average heat during September may result in dialing back final crop yields a bit.

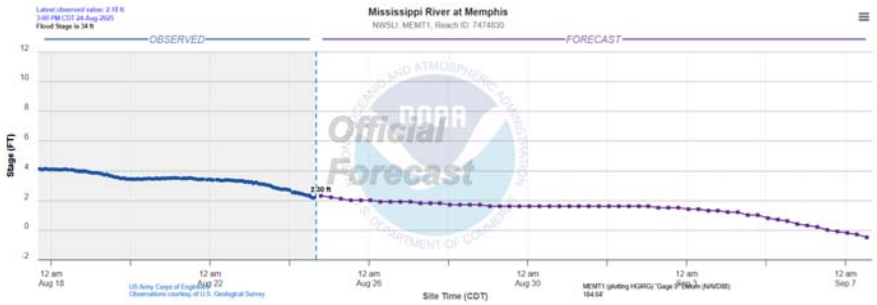
Currently, all rivers are operating under normal conditions but are falling, particularly, in the critical Memphis area on the Lower Miss.

As areas of the Midwest go dry during Sept, river levels will continue to fall. Memphis is dropping from a healthy plus 5 feet and will be negative by early September. It can be expected that some barge drafts and tow size reductions will have to be implemented.

Without rain, river traffic will be a bit bumpy but manageable into late September. Rain will certainly be needed by October.

Per above forecast, a LaNina weather pattern is developing for Fall and into near year. LaNina typically produces rain, especially in the Pacific Northwest and Central-Ohio River Valley areas where it is most needed to keep the rivers charged.

Noteworthy, in the event of a Hurricane or multiple Hurricanes making landfall they usually bring extreme rain events that can recharge rivers abruptly.



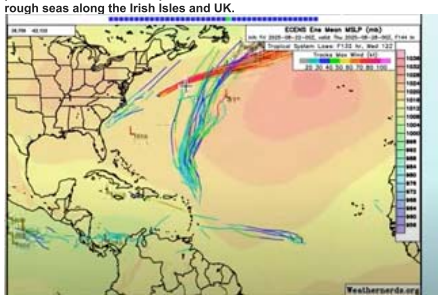
Tropics and Hurricane Season

Late August and September are most active periods for Hurricane development.

Storms most commonly develop off the Coast of Africa and travel across the Atlantic. Given the right conditions pop up storms can develop in the Caribbean or Gulf of Mexico very near the US Coast at time of origination.

Thus far this season, The Big Beautiful Bermuda High has positioned itself during Hurricane season to pull Atlantic Storms and keep them at Sea, per the below storm tracks indicate. There have not been any pop -up storms in the Gulf but the potential is there with the BBBH further away. Additionally, if the BBBH moves further North-Easterly, the Atlantic Coast could be exposed to storm activity but that has not yet happened and remains to be seen.

Current Position of BBBH Pulling Storms to Sea. Last of which was powerful Hurricane Erin kept at sea and remnants will cause rain and rough seas along the Irish Isles and UK.



NEW ORLEANS – BATON ROUGE HARBORS

Vessel and barge activity operating normally. Water levels are low and expected to hover around plus 3-4 feet on the Nola Gauge.

Bar Pilots: Recommended maximum loading draft: 50 Feet.

Crescent Pilots: Recommended maximum loading draft: 50 Feet.

NOBRA Pilots: Recommended loading draft is as follows: 50 feet from New Orleans to Mile 175 ; 47 Feet from Mile 175 - Mile 180; 45 feet from Mile 180 to Mile 234. Vessels with a draft of 41 feet or greater are required to transit the Baton Rouge Harbor (Mile 180 - Mile 234) during daylight hours only.

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