

April 2, 2026

U.S. RIVER CONDITIONS

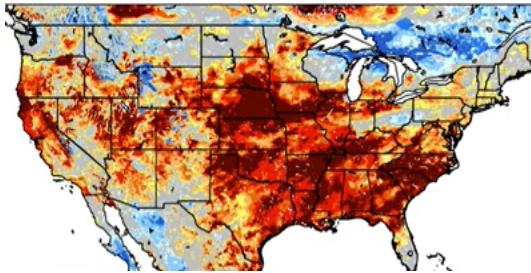
MARCH WEATHER SUMMARY

During March precipitation averaged below normal across most of the Country.

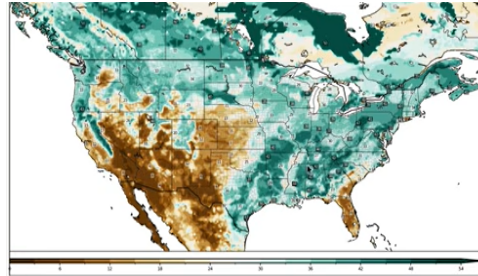
Temperatures averaged well above average. Soil moisture levels had become extremely dry which was concerning as Spring crop planting was approaching.

Substantial precipitation did return late March across the Midwest and East Coast quickly replenishing ground moisture in time for planting. Moisture did not return to areas of the Central Plains and Southwest which remained dry and now concerning for Sorghum/Wheat planting.

Below Map, Soil Moisture levels as of March..



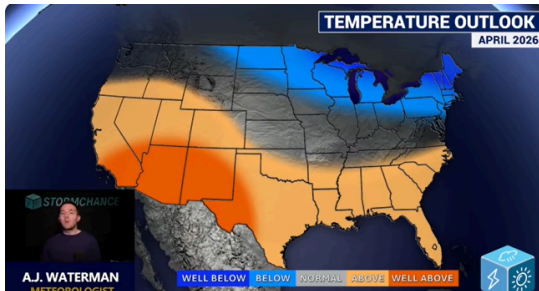
Below Map, Soil Moisture improvement as of April 1.



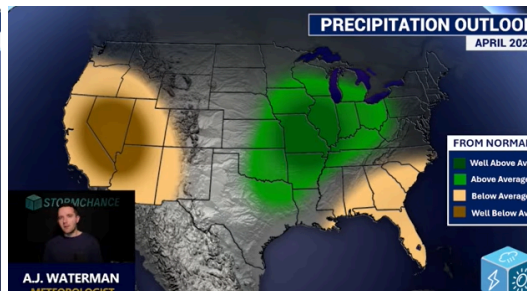
APRIL WEATHER FORECAST

Temperature forecast for April is moderate to slightly above average for most of the Country. April forecasts expect precipitation to continue in the Midwest and Ohio River Valley. Rolling rainstorms may be severe and turbulent. Some much needed precipitation may return to the Central Plains. However, forecasts are not certain for the Plains at this time and will require monitoring over the coming weeks.

April Temperature Forecast



April Precipitation Forecast



CURRENT RIVER CONDITIONS

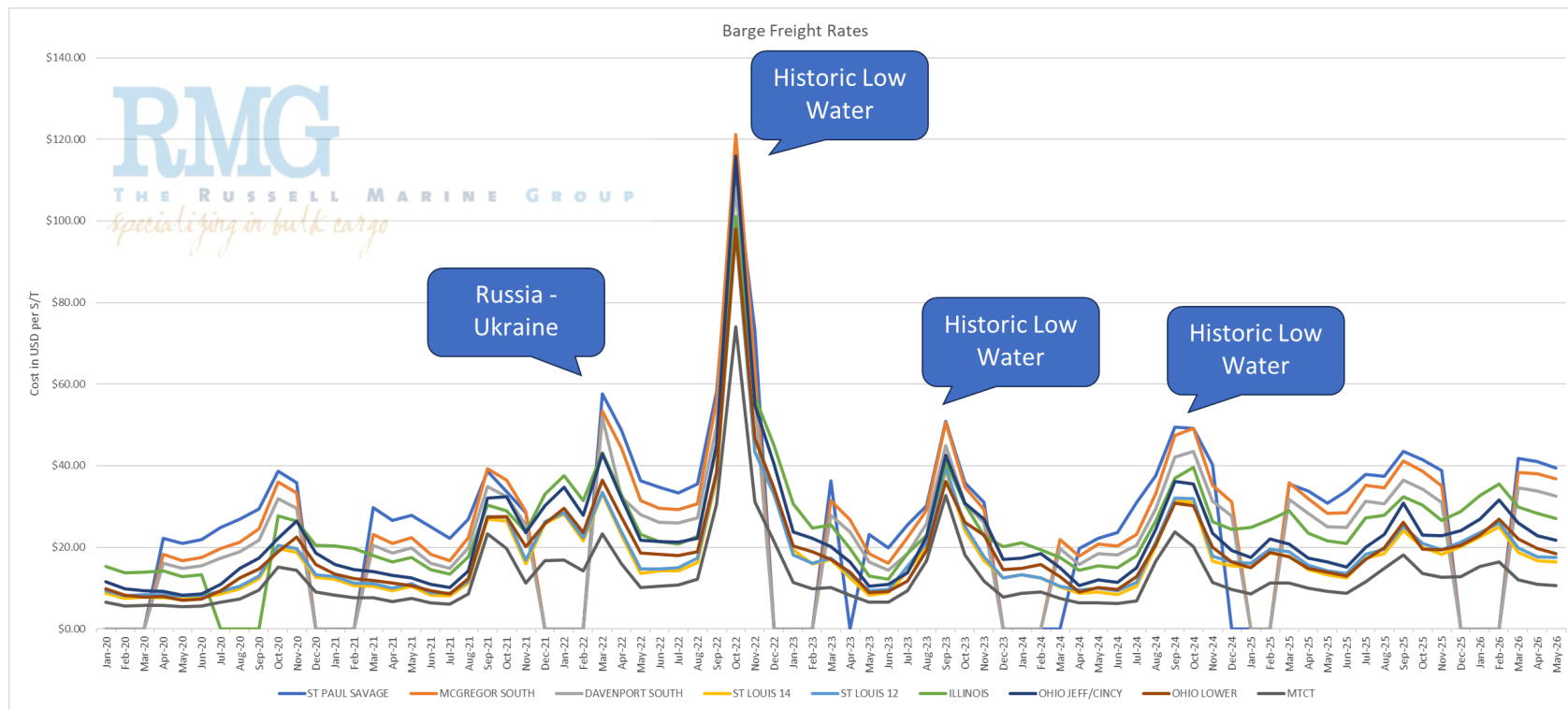
 All Rivers in the system are well charged and in good condition for barge traffic. Barges are loading to typical max drafts of 12 ft 6 inches with no operating restrictions.

The April precipitation forecast will keep water levels charged through Spring and into Summer. Some severe rain storms may cause temporary high water levels in some areas but nothing extreme is expected.

Key Notes: Annual lock closures on the Upper Mississippi have now all been reopened.
 Lockport Lock at mile 291 on Illinois River will close for repairs March 31 to May 19, 2026

Water level readings at key location of Memphis. Note: Gauge level forecasts only take into account precipitation over the next 48 hours. Optimal levels for barge traffic is plus 5 to 10 ft. Levels will remain charged.

DATE	4/3	4/4	4/5	4/6	4/7	4/8	4/9	4/10	4/11	4/12	4/13	4/14	4/15	4/16	4/17	4/18	4/19	4/20	4/21
MEMT1	7.5	8.8	9.4	9.5	9.8	10.8	12.6	14	14.8	14.8	13.9	12.3	10.9	9.7	8.6	7.8	7	6.4	5.8



The graph above illustrates the barge freight rate costs in dollars over the last six years, along with a forecast for the beginning of 2026.

Below are rates expressed as a percentage of benchmark tariffs for the main locations of the river.

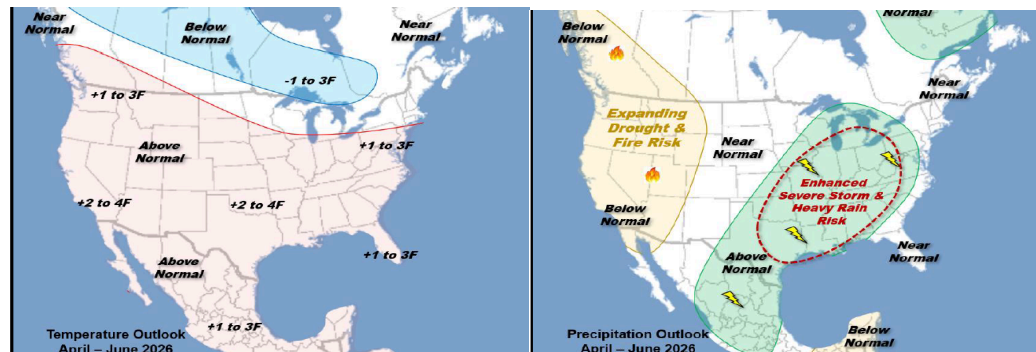
DATE	ST PAUL SAVAGE (\$6.19)	ST LOUIS (\$3.99)	ILLINOIS (\$4.81)	OHIO LOWER (\$3.99)	MTCT (\$3.14)
FEB '26	CLOSED	628.875% / \$25.01	737.5% / \$35.47	675% / \$26.93	525% / \$16.49
MAR '26	675% / \$41.78	471.5% / \$18.81	622.5% / \$29.94	552.5% / \$22.04	385% / \$12.09
APR '26	662.5% / \$41.01	418.75% / \$16.71	587.5% / \$28.26	493.75% / \$19.70	350% / \$10.99
MAY '26	637.5% / \$39.46	412.5% / \$16.46	562.5% / \$27.06	462.5% / \$18.45	337.5% / \$10.60

(Benchmark Tariff)

LONG TERM FORECAST APRIL, MAY, JUNE

Long Term Map below. Warmer than average temps into June. Regular precipitation in Midwest and Ohio River Valley.

Greater concern later this summer is development of an **EL NINO** weather pattern. (See below)



EL NINO and La NINA WEATHER EVENTS

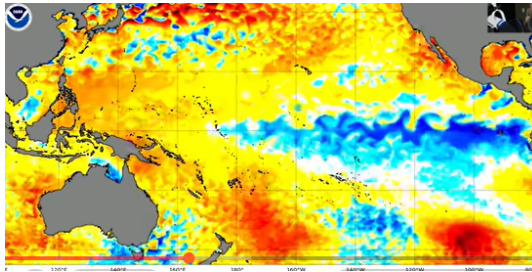
El Nino and La Nina are opposing weather events that can have significant impact on weather in the U.S. and other parts of the World. The impact can be intense depending on the degree of the event. A strong El Nino or La Nina can trigger floods or extreme droughts in areas such as Indonesia/India.

During El Nino, waters in the Pacific warm and trade winds blow from East to West.

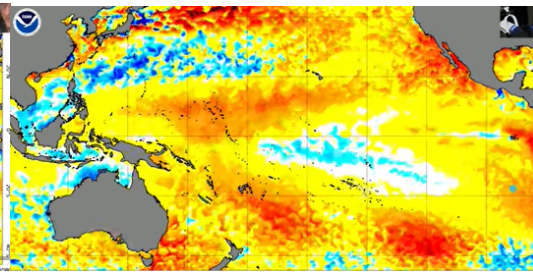
In a La Nina, waters in the Pacific cool and trade winds blow from West to East. Those trade winds and water temperatures influence weather across the entire U.S.

The El Nino potentially has the greatest effect on U.S. crops and river water levels due to drier conditions in Midwest and Ohio River Valley, especially if development occurs in mid- Summer as opposed to late August to early Fall.

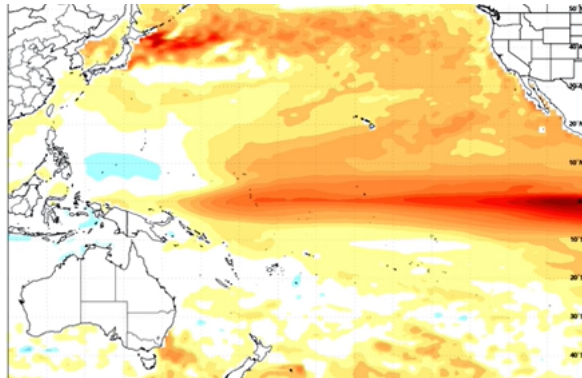
La Nina Equatorial Water Temps in December/ January



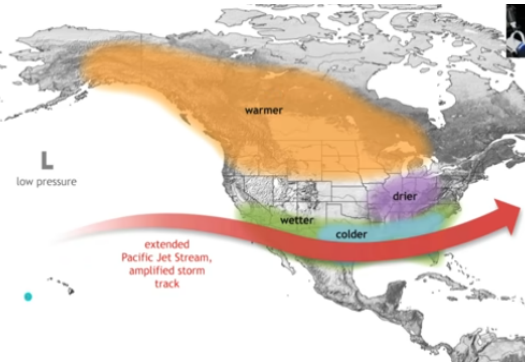
Warmer Water Temps as of April – La Nina transitioning to El Nino



Projected Water Temperature for Aug indicating Strong El Nino



Per Below Map, El Nino can produce below weather pattern for U.S.



U.S. TROPICAL STORMS – ATLANTIC

El Niño tends to suppress Hurricane activity in the Gulf and Caribbean Basin. There is more wind shear and cooler water temps that impede storm development.

La Niña usually produces more storm activity in the Atlantic and Caribbean Basin due to lack of wind shear and warmer water temps. Both are conducive to storm development.



El Niño can reduce development of storms in the Gulf due to wind shear. However, the track of storms are always greatly influenced by position of a Bermuda High. Typically, during Summer, a high-pressure system develops in the Atlantic near Bermuda. The exact position and strength of the "Bermuda High" steers storm tracks. The position can block storms from hitting the U.S. mainland, pull them out of sea, or if located closer to Europe not have any effect and expose the U.S. mainland. I.E., last hurricane season there were a typical number of storms but all remained at sea due to the position of the BBB High.

Below is early forecast for the number of storms and potential track. Looks like a typical storm season. The El Niño will help suppress storms in the Gulf but if a BBB High will be in play is yet to be determined.



Image Big Beautiful Bermuda High



NEW ORLEANS and BATON ROUGH HARBORS

Barge and vessel traffic moving under normal conditions. Water levels are a little low with expected

rise to come as precipitation increases during April.

Fog season is ending with only minimal delays having occurred. Above average precipitation is expected this Spring.

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.

Rgds,

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