

HEADLINE

An Alert is issued for the Northeast and Forth areas.

Tay is maintained at Early Warning status.

Early Warnings are also issued for Tweed, Solway, Clyde, Argyll and West Highland.

Situation summary

Hot and dry weather conditions continued across the country this week. River levels are now low to very low across much of the country and soil moisture deficits are continuing to rise everywhere. Soils are particularly dry in the east and as there is little rain forecast in the short term this could start to put pressure on water resources.

We are monitoring the situation closely and coordinating steps to manage water resources in line with [Scotland's National Water Scarcity Plan](#).

Public water supplies are operating normally and are not a cause of concern.

Water sources used for irrigating farm land are at risk of becoming limited particularly in the Northeast and Forth regions. We are urging farmers in these areas, especially if taking water from burns and small rivers, to:

- Only irrigate when, and only as much as, absolutely necessary;
- Make sure irrigation equipment isn't leaking;
- Try to irrigate at night to reduce evaporation losses;
- Explore how you and your neighbours in the same river catchment could avoid irrigating at the same time;
- Consider whether you could switch to using groundwater rather than river water if conditions worsen. If you would need a new borehole to do this your local SEPA office will be able to help and advise.

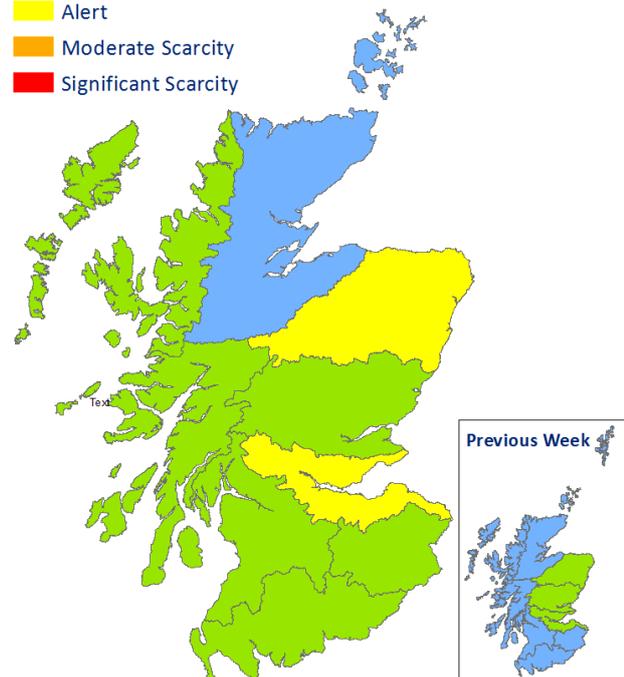
Managers of golf courses in this part of the country are asked to do the same.

Water abstractors with concerns about meeting licence conditions or wishing to discuss contingency measures should contact their local [SEPA office](#).

Risk of Water Scarcity

 *The overall Risk of Water Scarcity takes account of the individual Water Scarcity Indices, relevant water use sectors in each region, and forecast weather conditions.*

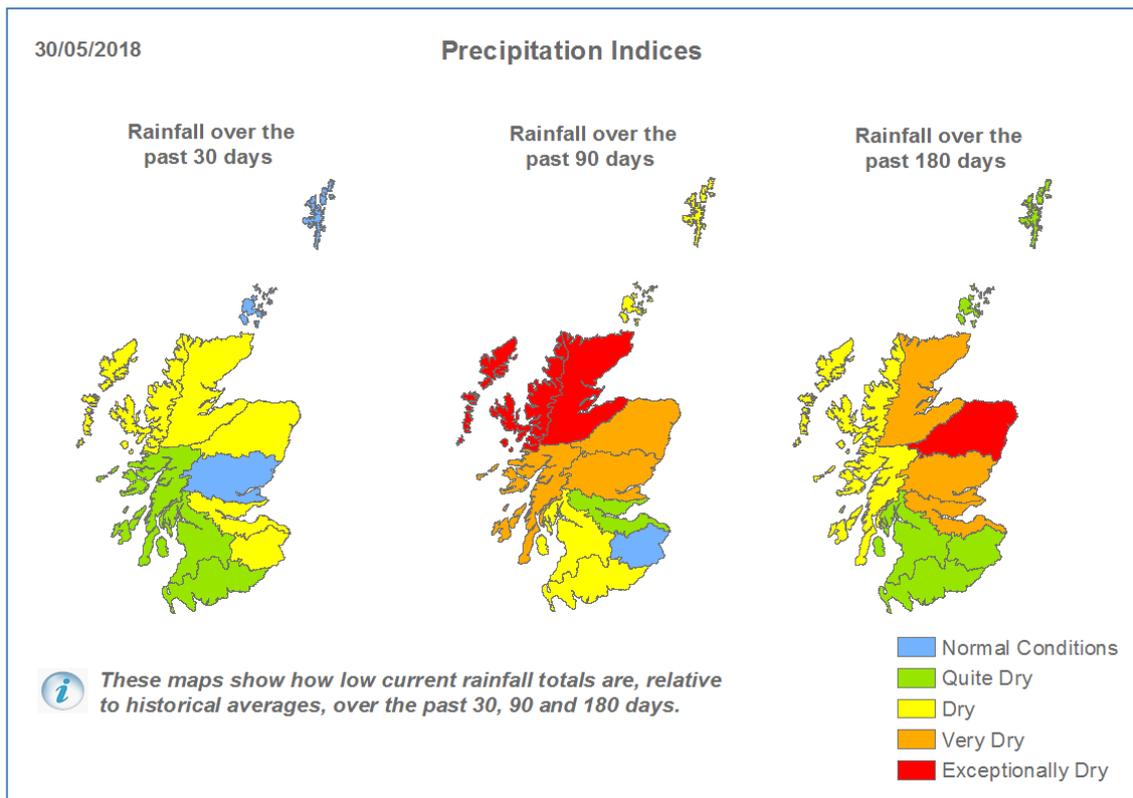
-  Normal Conditions
-  Early Warning
-  Alert
-  Moderate Scarcity
-  Significant Scarcity



Forecast

The forecast for the next five days is for more warm weather. Thunderstorms are forecast over mainland Scotland within the next 3-5 days. The exact location and amount of rainfall these will bring is highly uncertain. The conditions over the wider area will generally be dry. Currently, 30mm of rain is expected widely across the North Highland and Tay areas. The longer-term outlook (up to three months) shows broadly normal rainfall and river flow conditions for the time of year are most likely.

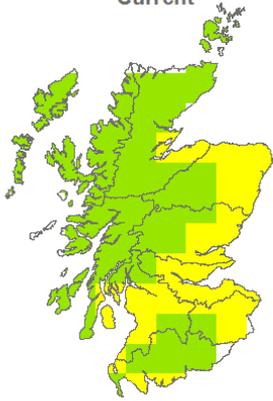
Further details on the current situation are provided in the following figures.



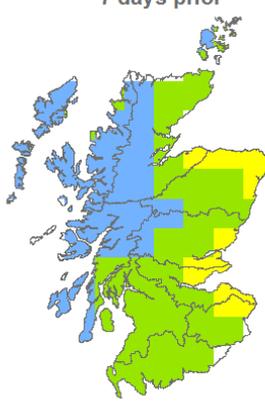
30/05/2018

Soil Moisture Deficit Maps

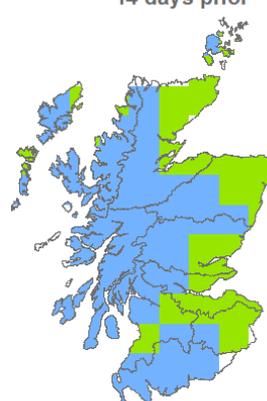
Soil Moisture Deficit
Current



Soil Moisture Deficit
7 days prior



Soil Moisture Deficit
14 days prior



These maps depict the latest Soil Moisture Deficit (SMD) data and the SMD 7 and 14 days prior.

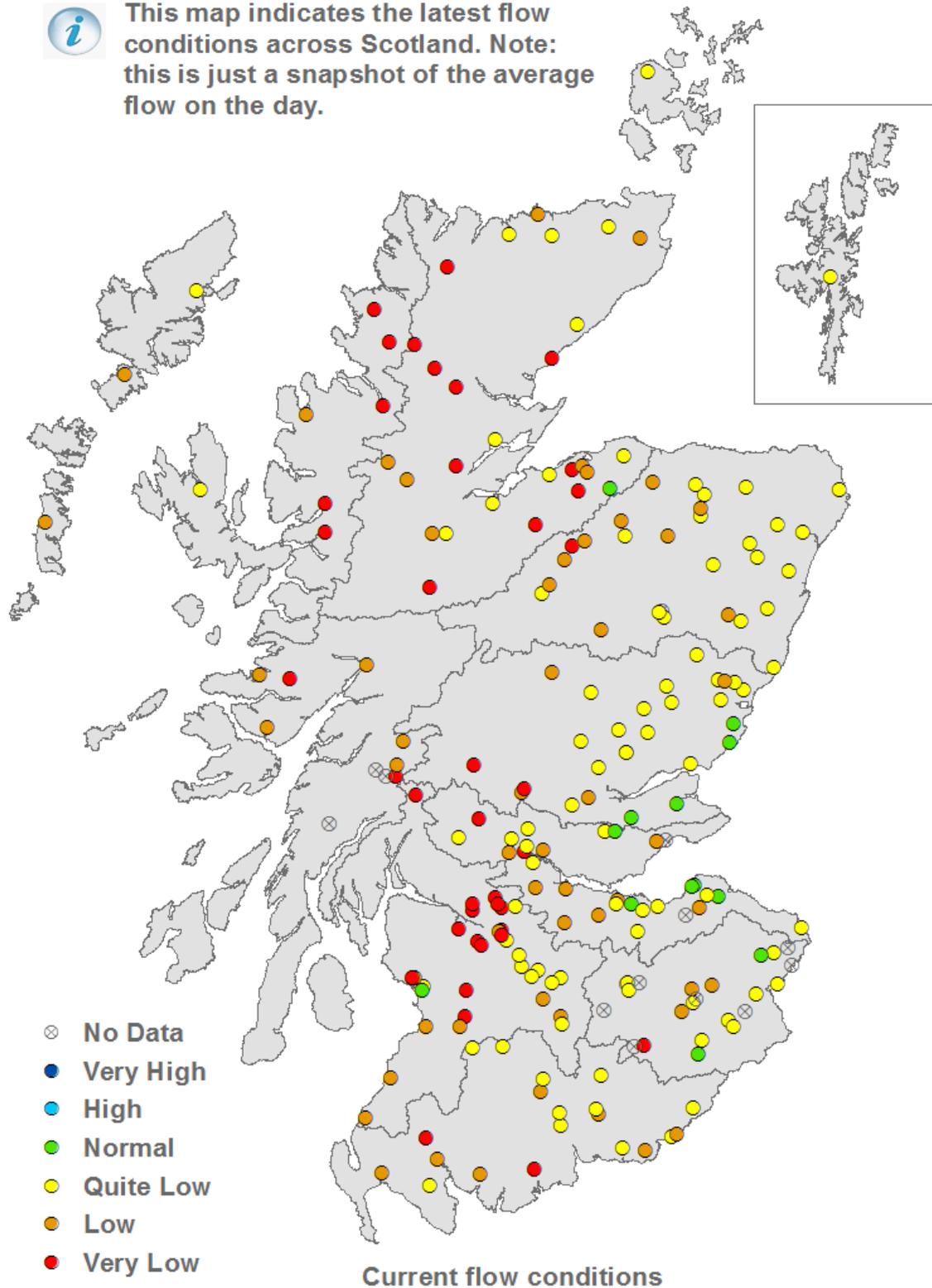
- No Deficit
- Quite Dry
- Dry
- Very Dry
- Exceptionally Dry

Current Flow Conditions

30/05/2018

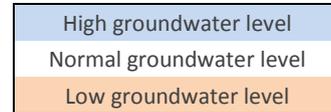
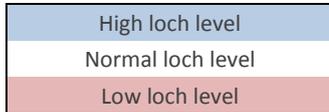


This map indicates the latest flow conditions across Scotland. Note: this is just a snapshot of the average flow on the day.



Loch and Groundwater levels: 30/05/2018

 These historic trend groundwater and loch levels show the current levels (the dark line) compared to the record high and low. The white zone represents the observed range with the central line as the long-term average trend.



The lochs shown are representative uninfluenced lochs. Loch levels respond quicker to rainfall than groundwater levels so it is normal that the level fluctuates more.

