

Water Scarcity Situation Report

1st Aug 2019

HEADLINE

Early Warning of water scarcity remains in place for Aberdeenshire, Angus, Dundee and Fife.

Normal Conditions are in place across the rest of the country.

Situation summary

Following recent rainfall across the Earn catchment, some river levels, and soil moisture, have improved over the past week. Therefore, normal conditions are now back in place for this catchment. Although conditions are improving, an Early Warning remains in place for Fife, and the east coast between Dundee and Aberdeenshire.

Groundwater levels in the east of the country still remain low for this time of year, and ground conditions are generally quite dry in coastal areas. Any prolonged periods without rainfall in these areas may see a water scarcity situation develop quickly.

Advice for water users

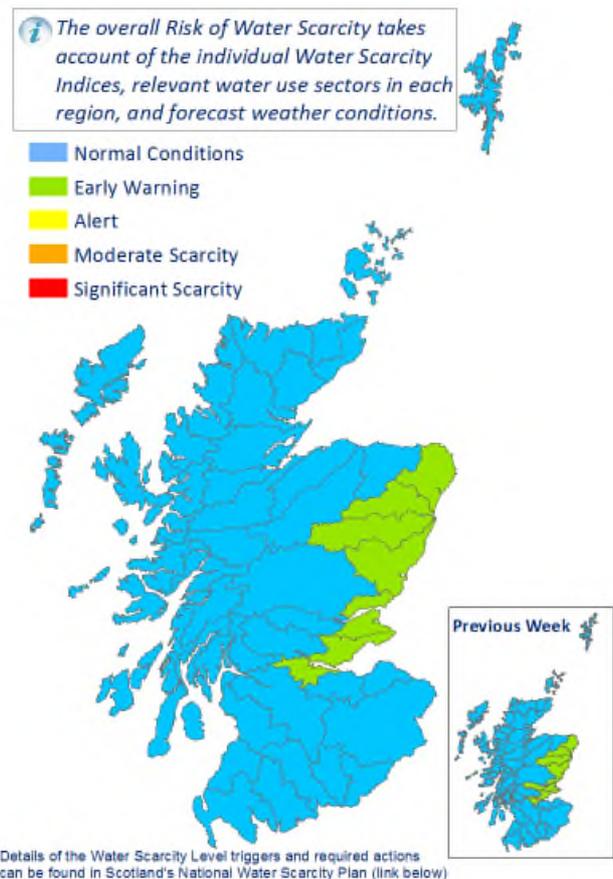
Farmers using water for irrigation should:

- Only irrigate when, and only as much as, absolutely necessary;
- Make sure irrigation equipment isn't leaking;
- Position irrigators carefully so that they do not over-spray beyond the edge of the crop.

Managers of golf courses are asked to do the same.

SEPA are monitoring the situation closely and coordinating steps to manage water resources in line with [Scotland's National Water Scarcity Plan](#). If you have noticed any impact as a result of the dry weather, we would be interested in hearing about them. For further details on reporting impacts of dry weather see <https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/>.

General and sector specific advice for abstractors is available: [advice for abstractors](#).



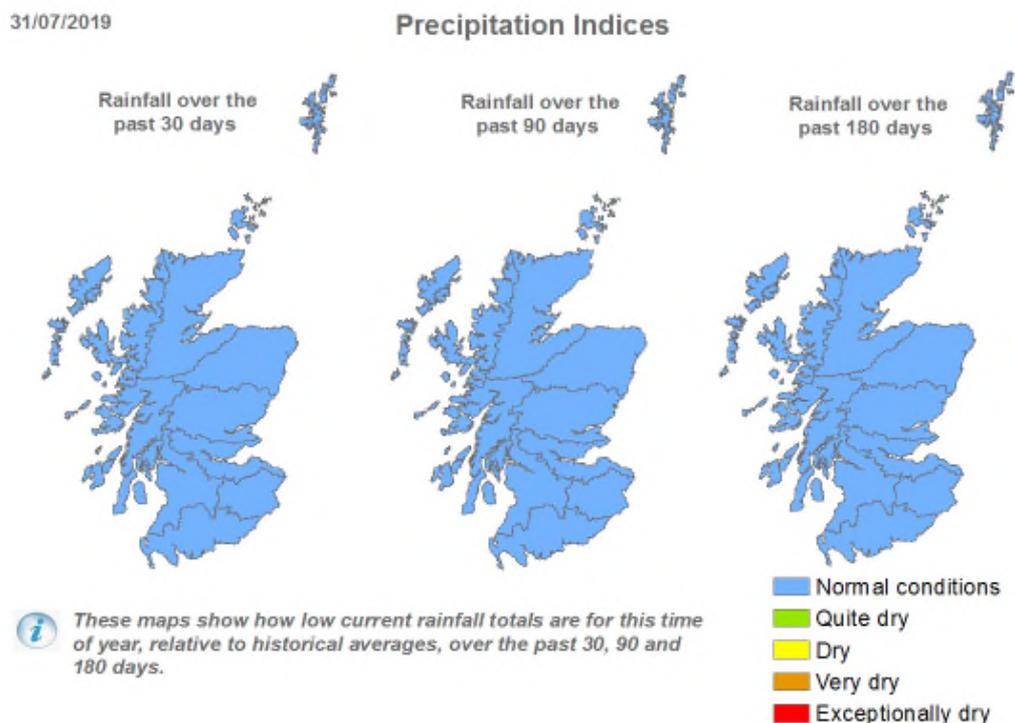
Water abstractors with concerns about meeting licence conditions or wishing to discuss contingency measures should [contact their local SEPA office](#).

Rainfall forecast (Source: Met Office 01/08/2019)

Showers on Thursday morning, will develop more widely for the afternoon and become heavy and perhaps thundery, especially across western and central parts, although less widespread than Wednesday. Further showers Friday but lighter and more scattered. The weekend and Monday see showers or longer spells of occasionally heavy, perhaps thundery, rain or showers.

The longer-term outlook is uncertain. For August, wetter-than-average conditions are marginally more likely. For August-September-October as a whole, the chances of above- and below-average precipitation are similar. For further details on the seasonal forecast see the latest 3-month outlook summaries at <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/index>

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

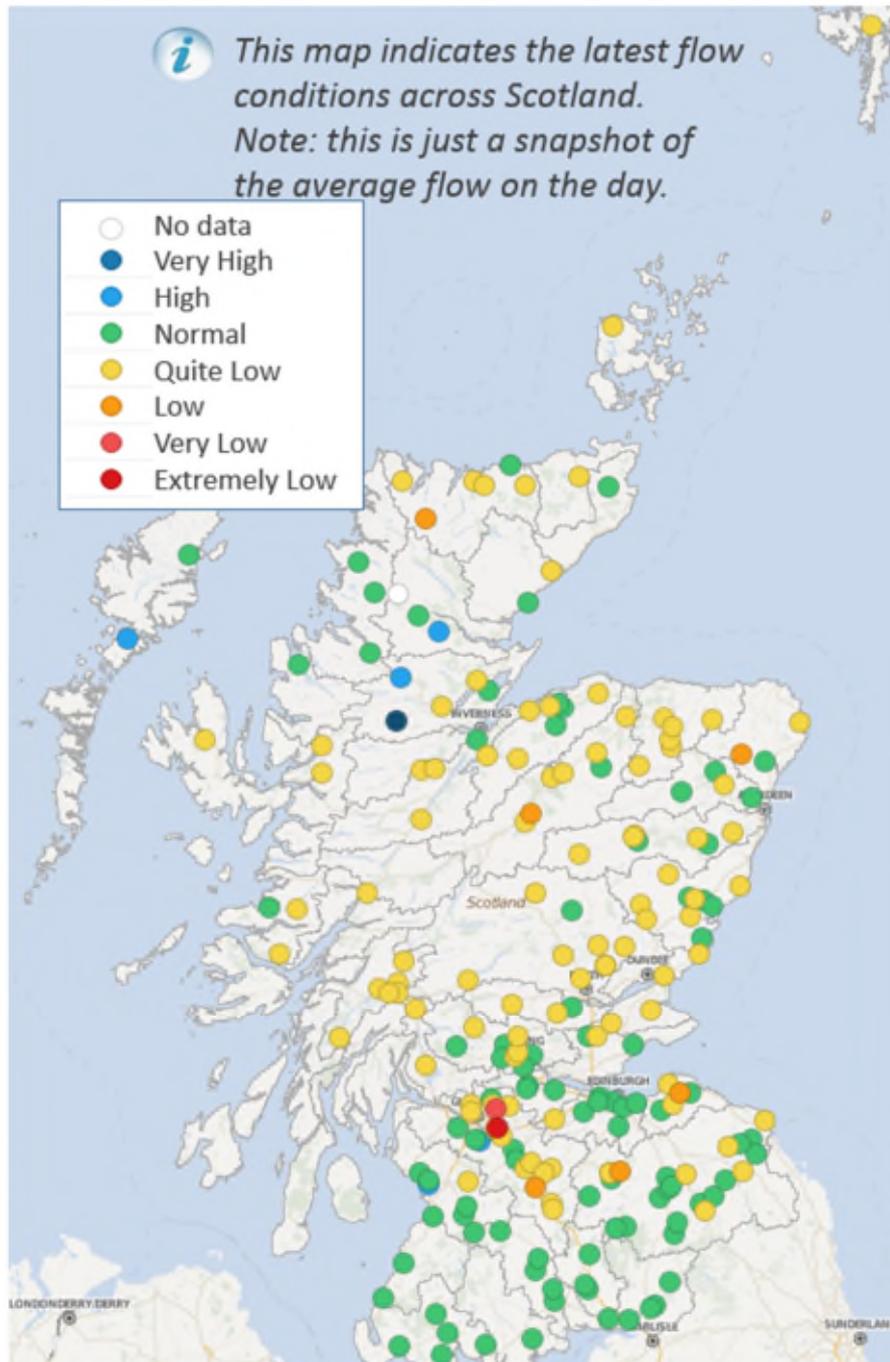


Soil moisture deficit update

The soil moisture deficit has continued to improve since last week, and most of the country now has No Deficit. Conditions are Quite Dry along the east coast, and locally in the central belt; around Inverness; across north Uist and Benbecula, and in Sutherland and Orkney.

31/07/2019

Current Flow Conditions





These charts show the trend in groundwater level (GWL) since autumn 2018 at selected monitoring sites (see map above). The white zone represents the observed range in the long-term record. The black line shows the actual groundwater level and the dashed line is the long-term average trend.

Record high groundwater level
Normal groundwater level range
Record low groundwater level

