



OKANAGAN MOVES TO DROUGHT LEVEL 2 AS HOT, DRY SUMMER CONTINUES

The B.C. Government has elevated the Okanagan to a Level 2 drought rating as a precautionary measure.

While Okanagan water purveyors are generally experiencing average supply conditions, regional drought conditions have escalated after weeks of hot, dry conditions. Kokanee and other fish species need sufficient flows in the fall to successfully spawn and fisheries scientists are becoming concerned about flows in several Okanagan streams, especially if the current weather patterns continue. The Province is sending letters to water users on those streams.

Given that water demand has also increased in many communities in August, we ask that water purveyors take a close look at current reservoir levels and downstream flows and consider ramping up communications with customers, increasing watering restrictions, or implementing other conservation measures as needed. Once again, the province is also asking licensees with upstream storage to closely follow their release schedule requirements to avoid low flows downstream and potential impacts to fish.

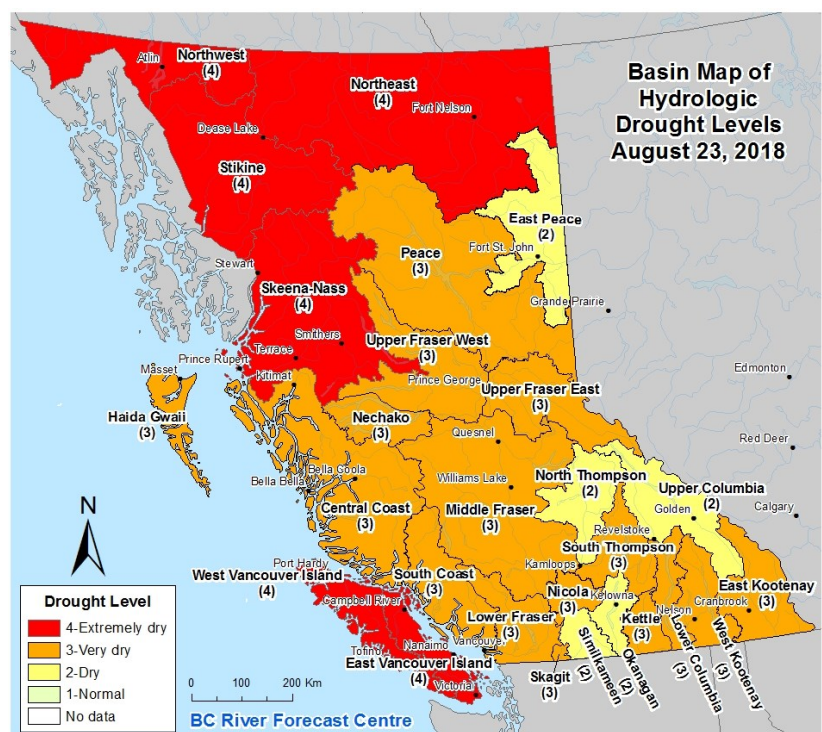
All independent licensees on streams, and all groundwater users who are on aquifers that may be connected to streams, are encouraged to monitor their withdrawals and ensure they are using water efficiently.

Information about drought levels and average streamflows is available on the [Drought Information Portal](#).

KEEP IN TOUCH!

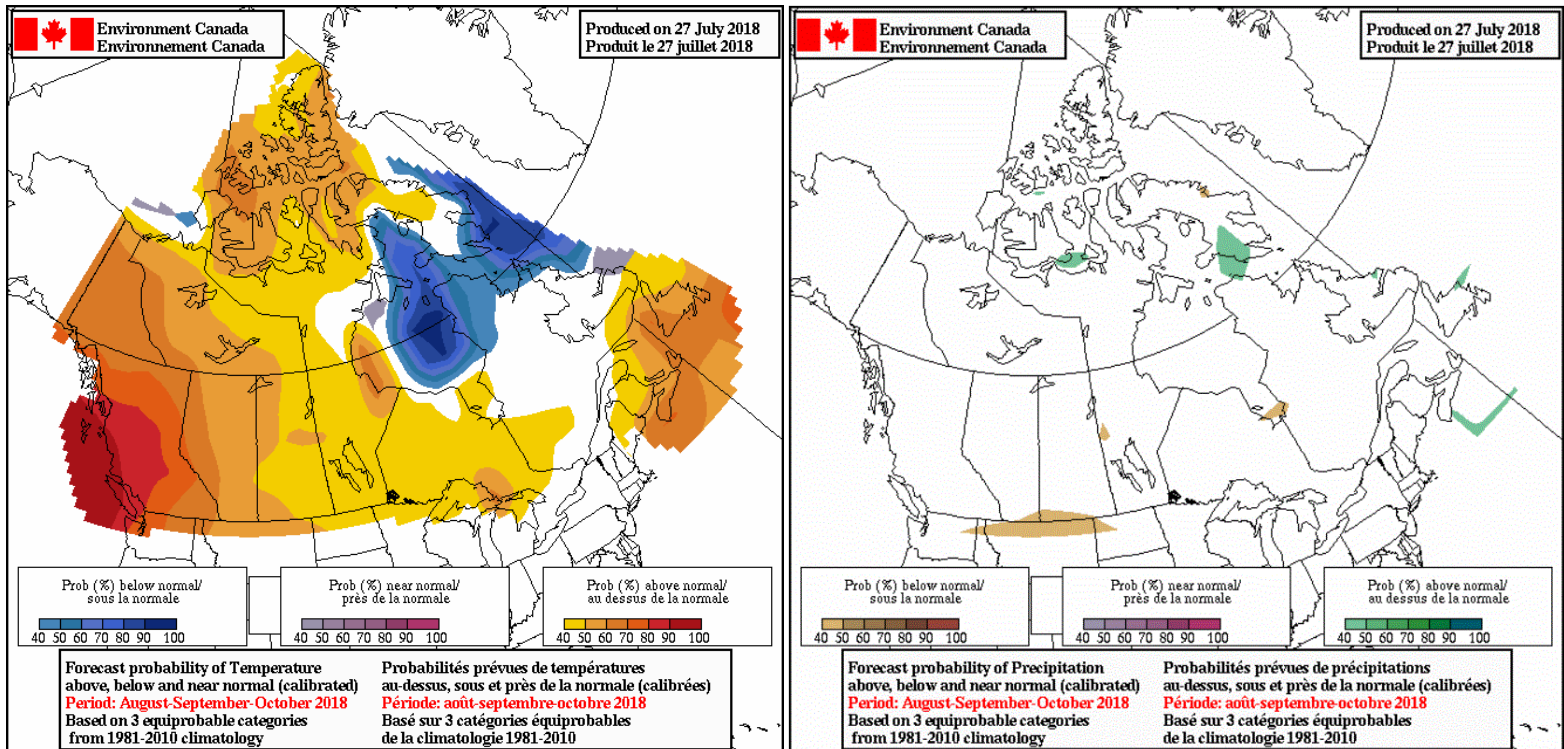
The OBWB would like to hear about your water supply. Please let us know if you change watering restrictions, and any other factors that influence water availability in your communities.

Contact Kellie at
kellie.garcia@obwb.ca or 250-469-6321.



WEATHER FORECAST

According to Environment Canada, there is a 60–70% probability that the Okanagan will experience above normal temperatures for the rest of the summer and into the fall. They are less sure about precipitation. The forecasts show an equal chance we could receive below, near, or above normal precipitation (forecast probabilities for none of the three categories exceed 40%). Rain and cooler temperatures are forecasted for this weekend—cross your fingers!



Temperature and precipitation maps retrieved from https://weather.gc.ca/saisons/prob_e.html on August 23, 2018.

COMMUNICATING WATER CONSERVATION WITH THE PUBLIC



Photo: OBWB Chair Tracy Gray congratulates Armstrong Mayor Chris Pieper on his community's win.

The **Make Water Work (MWW)** campaign, encouraging outdoor residential water conservation during the summer, will continue until late September to help meet the water needs of agriculture and returning salmon. The campaign, an initiative of the OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program, is delivered in partnership with water utilities throughout the valley.

The campaign encourages residents to visit www.MakeWaterWork.ca to find conservation tips, their community watering restrictions, and pledge to conserve and Make Water Work more effectively and efficiently. In addition to being entered to win WaterWise yard prizes, we award the community with the most pledges per capita with the title of "Make Water Work Community Champions." This is traditionally announced at the OBWB Annual Meeting. This year the meeting was held a month earlier than usual, on Aug. 10. Despite having one less month to collect pledges, some communities doubled their numbers from last year, and some tripled their numbers. This year's *MWW Champion* is Armstrong!

MWW radio, bus, social media ads, and more, have been running since June. Partners have received MWW Frisbees and bookmarks to hand out to residents. We also encourage utilities to use a MWW badge on their websites and hyperlink it to the MWW website to direct people for more information. For more on the MWW program, please contact Corinne Jackson at corinne.jackson@obwb.ca or 250-469-6271.