

Mississippi River Basin / Gulf of Mexico Nutrient Runoff Network Info Bulletin

Sharing information and making connections from the headwaters to the gulf.

October 2, 2020

Welcome!

This bulletin is designed as a way to share information with those interested in nutrient runoff issues and impacts. *We hope that you find this a valuable resource and encourage you to be a part of the exchange!* You can join the distribution list, or share relevant news, resources, or information for inclusion in future bulletins by sending an email to noaa.centralregion@noaa.gov.

Outlooks and Forecasts

Historic 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season Continues through October

October shows signs of enhanced activity, continuing an extremely active season in the Atlantic. This is a result of several contributing factors including possible warmer-than-average seas surface temperatures, reduced vertical wind shear, weaker tropical Atlantic trade winds, and an enhanced west African monsoon. Monitor the season through [NOAA's National Hurricane Center](#), which provides tropical weather outlooks out to five days in advance, provides track and intensity forecasts for individual storms, and issues watches and warnings for specific tropical storms, hurricanes, and the associated storm surge.

NOAA Issues La Niña Advisory

La Niña - the cool phase of the [El Niño-Southern Oscillation](#) climate pattern - emerged in the tropical Pacific in August 2020. Forecasters estimate a 75% chance these conditions will last through Northern Hemisphere winter. La Niña winters tend to favor warm and dry conditions in the southern tier of the U.S.

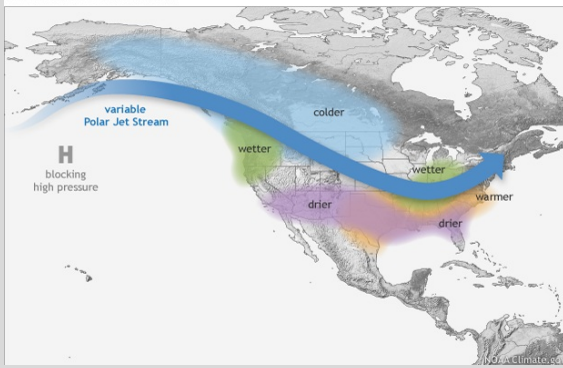


The Mississippi River headwaters at Itasca State Park. Image courtesy of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

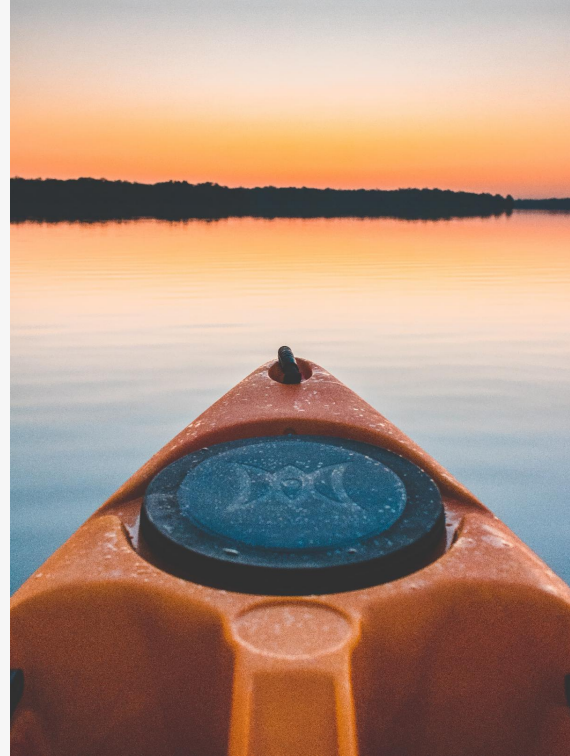
Spotlight: Upper Basin

Headwaters Fall Restoration Efforts

The Mississippi headwaters at Itasca State Park has suffered from erosion over many years due to visits from over half a million people each year. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will repair the area this fall to restore the channel to its original width and stabilize the streambank. According to the story by Minnesota Public Radio and their interview with Connie Cox, the park's lead interpretive naturalist, she estimates over the past 10 years 50 cubic yards of dirt and gravel have washed into the river. [Check out the story](#) to learn more and get a glimpse of the history related to the headwaters.



This graphic depicts the average location of the jet stream and typical temperature and precipitation impacts during La Niña winter over North American. Follow the [ENSO Blog](#) to learn more about monitoring and forecasting El Niño, La Niña, and their impacts.



Hypoxia Related Highlights

Smaller than Average Summer "Dead Zone" Measured in the Gulf of Mexico

Scientists supported by NOAA's National Ocean Service National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science determined this year's "Dead Zone" in the Gulf of Mexico is approximately 2,116 square miles, equivalent to 1.4 million acres of habitat potentially unavailable to fish and bottom species. The measured size is the third smallest in the 34-year record of surveys. A major factor for the smaller measured size was due to extensive mixing caused by hurricane Hanna, which passed through right before the survey cruise. [Read more....](#)

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Newsletter

Housed within NOAA's National Ocean Service, the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) deliver ecosystem science solutions to sustain thriving coastal communities and economies. NCCOS provides coastal managers the information and tools they need to balance society's environmental, social, and economic goals. [Learn more about NCCOS](#) and to stay up to date on the latest news and information related to their mission, [subscribe to their quarterly newsletter](#).

Hypoxia Task Force Fall 2020 Meeting

The Mississippi River Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force held the Fall 2020 Public Meeting on October 1. [Meeting materials will be shared here when they are available](#).

Hypoxia Task Force Newsletter

A quarterly publication produced by EPA's Office of Water in partnership with the Hypoxia Task Force,

Spotlight: Lower Basin

Paddle the Gulf Launches New Website

Paddle the Gulf is an initiative to inspire people to become more connected to nature by exploring coastal streams and rivers that flow into the Gulf of Mexico. The website is designed to showcase coastal paddle trails, also known as blueways, across the five U.S. Gulf States. The site is a starting place to learn about local water trails, upcoming events, and ways to become involved as a citizen scientist.

[Check out the new site to learn more!](#)



the [July 2020 Hypoxia Task Force Newsletter](#) is available online. The Newsletter highlights current information about the task force, providing a snapshot of recent state activities throughout the Basin, federal agency activities, publications, and resources - several which are then also highlighted in this bulletin. [Sign up for the newsletter here.](#)

Items of Interest

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Resources

NRCS published findings from their Conservation Effect Assessment Project in the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation. A robust collaboration between USDA, other government agencies, academia and additional partners resulted in a [special issue](#) consisting of 15 peer-reviewed research papers and two feature articles, including analysis of results from watershed studies from 15 years of assessments. Findings show conservation practices are working to reduce runoff, improve soil quality, and mitigate contaminants in small watersheds.

Also be sure to check out the [NRCS Conservation Outcome Webinar Series](#) with upcoming events and an archive of recorded webinars to highlight related issues, outcomes, tools, and emerging opportunities.

North Central Region Water Network Launches a New Blog

The North Central Region Water Network launched a blog featuring stories that highlight the importance of human capital in watershed management. The series is a result of collaboration of 12 land grant universities and colleges and aims to focus on the human element of water resource management and the vast number of sectors involved in addressing water challenges. [Read the first blog and learn more about the series.](#)

Nature Research Journal Publication

A recent article of interest featured the topic of mapping of 30-meter resolution tile-drained croplands using a geospatial modeling approach. [Access the article](#) to learn more about this exciting and valuable work related to a widely-used agriculture practice.

Spotlight: NOAA Turns 50!

On October 3 NOAA officially celebrates its 50th anniversary as a combined agency of multiple components focused on earth science, stewardship, and service. To share in the celebration, check out the ["Our People" video](#) to hear firsthand what makes NOAA so special.

You can also visit the [NOAA 50th website](#) to explore many interesting resources, including: a [video on NOAA's history](#), a [video on NOAA's Birthday story](#), a [snapshot](#) of how NOAA impacts the lives of every American, and more!

Spotlight: Back to School

As classroom and virtual learning resumes, we will continue to highlight helpful resources.

Educational Webinar Series Back by Popular Demand

The NOAA Live! webinar series is designed to capture the imagination of young learners, but is of interest to viewers of all ages. Each weekly webinar features a different NOAA expert/topic and a moderated question and answer session. The audience comes away with a feel for what NOAA staff do within their area of expertise. To register and learn more about the series go to [NOAA Live!](#) The previous season with 34 webinar recordings is available on the [NOAA Live! YouTube Library](#).



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**NOAA Regional
Collaboration
NETWORK**

This bulletin is compiled by the NOAA Central Region and Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaboration Teams nutrient runoff working group.

Members represent Minnesota, Louisiana, and Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Programs, National Water Extension Program, Northern Gulf Institute, NOAA National Center for Coastal Ocean Science, NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Offices and River Forecast Centers.

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