Climate Review for the month of December 2015

Presented by:

National Weather Service

Newport/Morehead City

Summary

December 2015 was characterized by a persistent ridge along the southeast coast providing a warm, moist southwest flow resulting in temperatures that were not only well above normal, but the warmest December on record for many parts of eastern North Carolina. Cape Hatteras had an average temperature in December of 62.8 degrees, shattering its old record of 56.6 degrees set in 1956. Likewise, New Bern had its warmest December on record with an average temperature of 59.8 degrees, breaking the old record of 56.3 set in 1971. Other locations such as Kinston and Jacksonville also had their warmest December ever.

Rainfall was close to normal near the coast, but 1 to 4 inches above normal over inland areas from the southern Coastal Plains to the Sound Counties.

Average Temperatures within our CWA in December 2015

	Avg_ Max	Avg_Max Normal	Avg_ Min	Avg_Min Normal
Beaufort	68.1	57.0	54.0	39.7
Cape Hatteras	68.9	55.9	56.8	42.7
New Bern	69.5	57.5	50.0	36.1
Greenville	67.8	55.3	48.5	34.0
Williamston	66.7	54.6	48.7	33.0
Plymouth	67.6	56.0	49.4	35.9
Bayboro	68.5	58.3	50.5	35.7

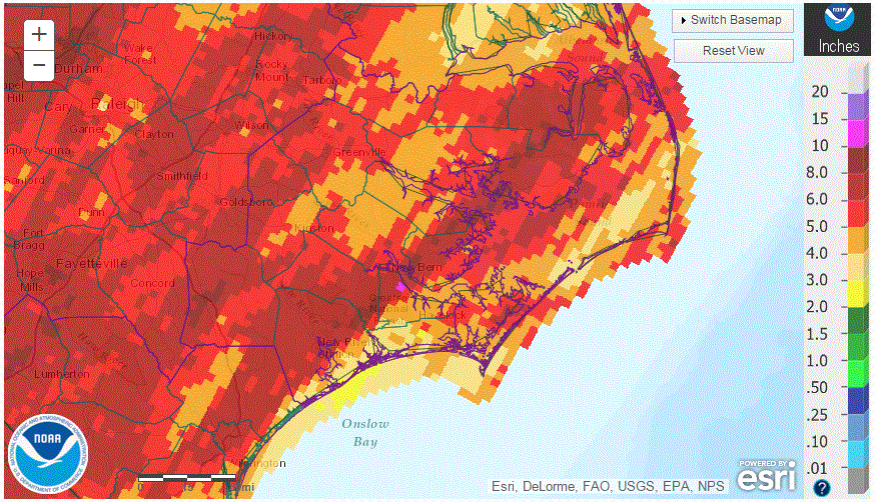
Temperatures were as much as 10 to 15 degrees above normal for both maximum and minimum temperatures through the month of December 2015.

Max and Min Temperature within our CWA in December 2015.

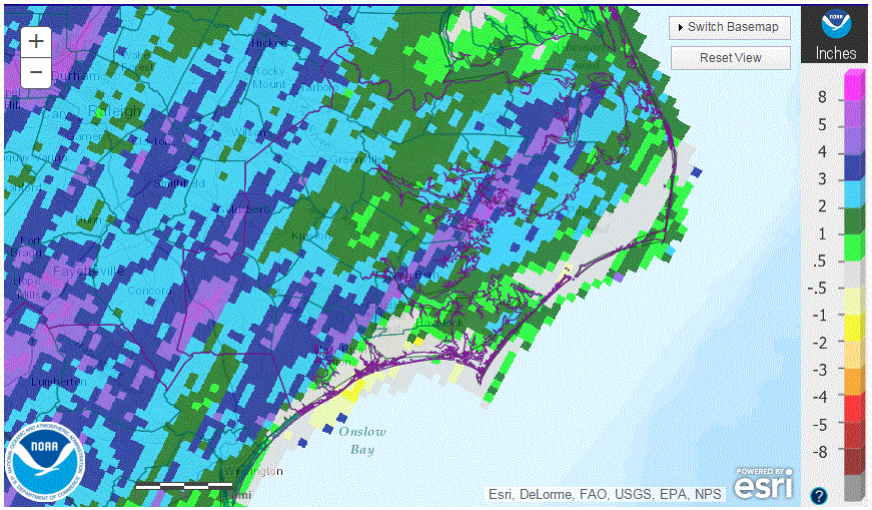
	MAX	MIN
Beaufort	75	33
Cape Hatteras	76	40
New Bern	80	28
Greenville	81	28
Williamston	80	29
Plymouth	79	26
Bayboro	78	32

December 2015 Rain versus Climate Normal

	Precipitation (inches)	Normal	Difference
Beaufort	4.11	3.52	**0.59**
Cape Hatteras	4.97	4.27	**0.70**
New Bern	6.42	3.40	**3.02**
Greenville	5.34	3.25	**2.09**
Williamston	4.39	3.24	**1.15**
Plymouth	4.61	3.29	**1.32**
Bayboro	7.57	3.75	**3.82**



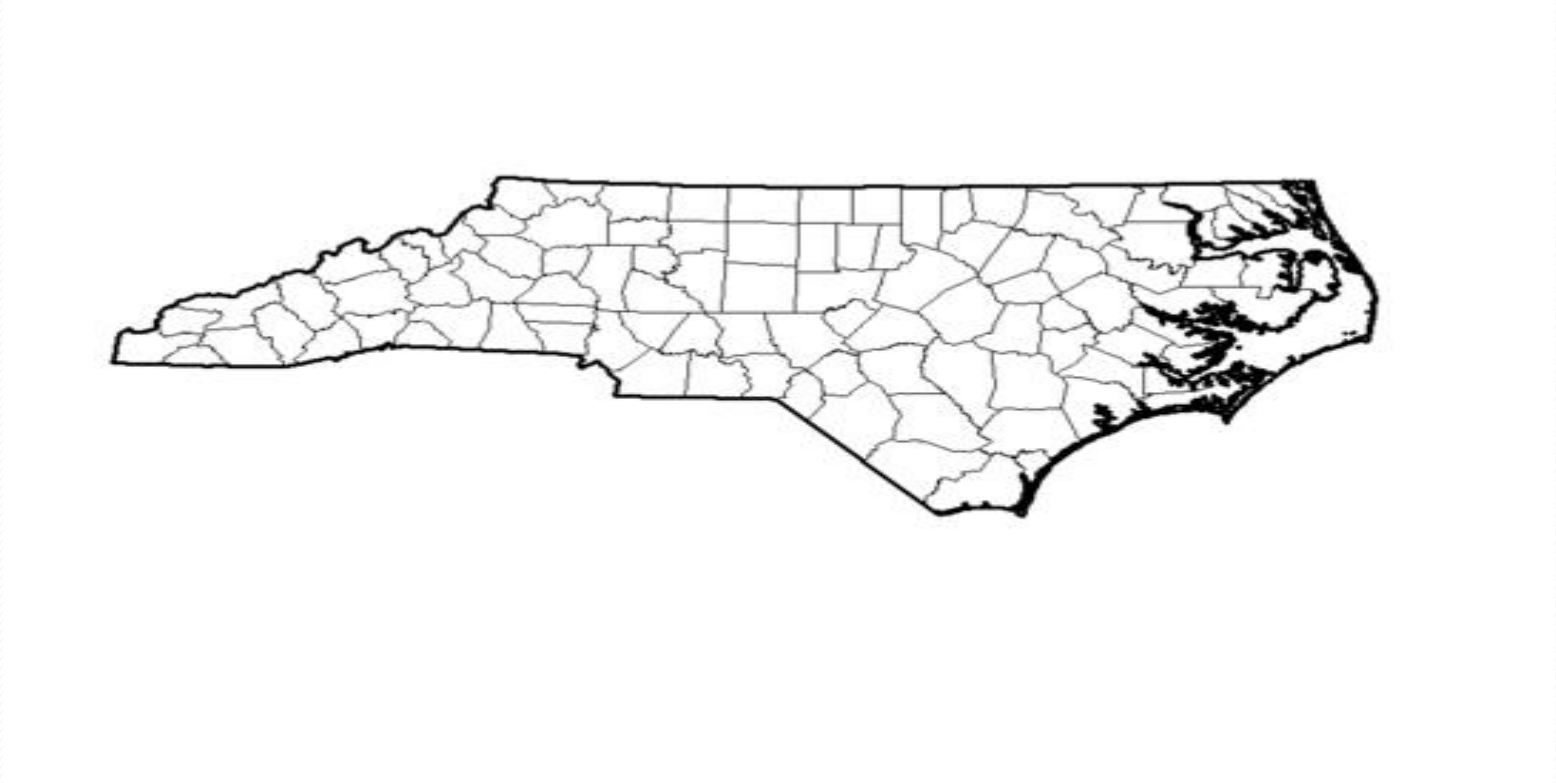
Observed Precipitation



Departure from Normal

Rainfall in December 2015 ranged from near normal along the coast, to 1 to 4 inches above normal over inland areas, especially in the southern Coastal Plains and Sound Counties.

Latest Drought Monitor for North Carolina



No Drought Conditions observed in North Carolina as of December 29, 2015

Seasonal Drought Outlook

January through March