



Recent Drought Impacts on Rivers

Massachusetts Rivers Alliance

Presentation to Drought Management Task Force

October 7, 2020

MASSACHUSETTS
Rivers Alliance



Charles River, 9/17

- Watertown, just downstream of the dam
- Entire gravel section is normally underwater.
- Trees are growing from the bank.

*Photo: Charles
River
Watershed
Association*



Fort River, Amherst 9/27/20.

- USGS staff gauge (USGS 01171300)
- River is below the entire staff gauge!
- Appears to be slightly less than 0.9 foot, the lowest field observation ever at that gauge.
- Gauge was maintained from 1966 to 1996.



*Photo: Brian Yellen, Fort River
Watershed Association*

Mulpus Book in Lunenburg

October 5, 2020



- Coldwater fishery
- Very low flow, some sections are disconnected, so no fish movement

*Photo: Kath Nelson, Nashua
River Watershed Association*