

Drought Task Force Meeting

August 8, 2022

MassDEP-Water Management Program Update

WMA Permits

- Most WMA Permits require reductions in nonessential water uses when one or more of the following are triggered from 5/1 - 9/30:
 - Specific streamflow triggers generally include
 - June ABF is the May-June trigger
 - August ABF is the July –September trigger
 - Groundwater elevations on Cape, Islands and parts of Southeastern MA
 - Triggers are the period of record monthly 25th percentile depth to water level values, as determined and published by the USGS.
 - Drought Declaration or 7-Day Low Flow

USGS Streamflow Gages and Monitoring Wells

- 54 USGS Gages are tracked
 - On May 3rd – 4 gages had been below the May/June trigger for 3 consecutive days
 - On June 6th – 49 gages had been below the May/June trigger for 3 consecutive days
 - On July 5th – 53 gages had been below the July/August/September trigger for 3 consecutive days
 - On August 1, 49 gages had been below the July/August/September trigger for 3 consecutive days
- 6 USGS Monitoring Wells
 - On May 3rd - 1 gage had met or been below the trigger values for 60 consecutive days
 - On June 6th – 1 gage had met or been below the trigger values for 60 consecutive days
 - On July 5th – 1 gage had met or been below the trigger values for 60 consecutive days
 - On August 1st – 1 gage had met or been below the trigger values for 60 consecutive days

Drought Declarations and 7-Day Low Flow

Drought Declarations

- May 16th
 - Level 1 - Mild Drought in the Southeast and Islands Drought Regions
- June 15th
 - Level 1 - Mild Drought in the Connecticut, Central and Islands Drought Regions, and
 - Level 2 – Significant Drought in the Central and Northeast Drought Regions
- July 18th
 - Level 1 - Mild Drought- - Western and Islands Drought Regions, and
 - Level 2 -Significant Drought - Northeast, Southeast, Connecticut River Valley, and Central Regions
- July 21st
 - Level 1 – Mild Drought in the Western, Cape Cod and Islands Regions;
 - Level 2 – Significant Drought in the Connecticut River Valley and Southeast Regions; and
 - Level 3 - Critical Drought in the Northeast and Central Regions.

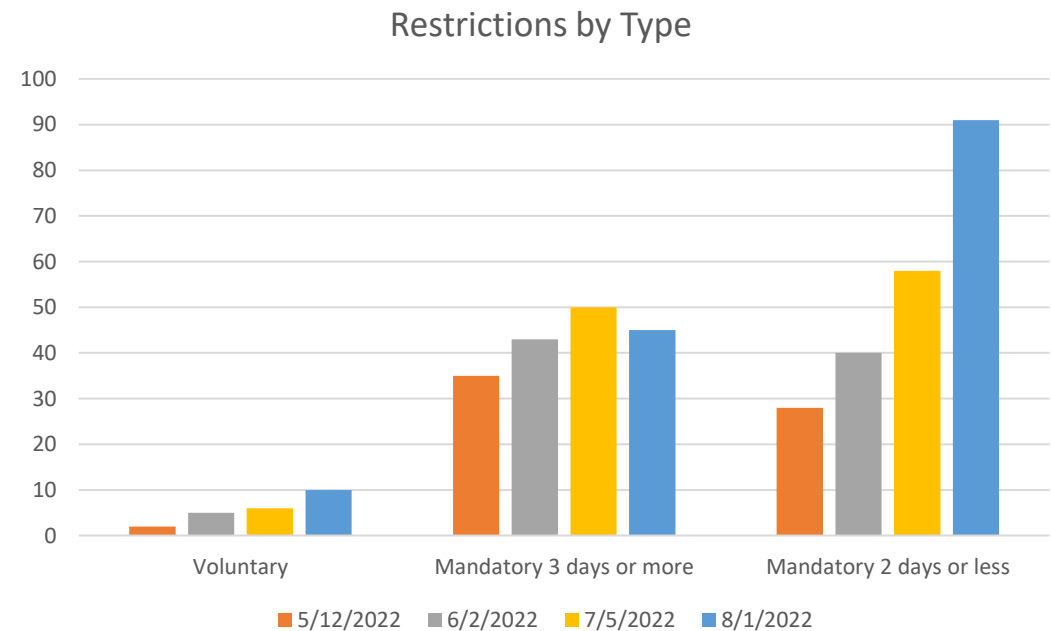
7 Day Low Flow

- June 6th
 - 0 gages had hit the 7-day low flow
- July 25th
 - 14 gages had hit the 7-day low flow
- August 1st
 - 20 gages had hit the 7-day low flow



Restriction Numbers

- 5/12 we had:
 - 2 Voluntary restrictions
 - 35 Mandatory restrictions of 3 days or more
 - 28 Mandatory restrictions of 2 days or less
- 6/2 we had:
 - 5 Voluntary restrictions
 - 43 Mandatory restrictions of 3 days or more
 - 40 Mandatory restrictions of 2 days or less
- 7/5 we had:
 - 6 Voluntary restrictions
 - 50 Mandatory restrictions of 3 days or more
 - 58 Mandatory restrictions of 2 days or less
- 8/1 we had:
 - 10 Voluntary restrictions
 - 45 Mandatory restrictions of 3 days or more
 - 91 Mandatory restrictions of 2 days or less



The Maps

