Massachusetts Rivers Alliance
Presentation to Drought Management Task Force
July 21, 2022
Weir River, Hingham
July 15
Photo: North and South Rivers WA
Weir River, Hingham
July 15
Photo: North and South Rivers Watershed Association
North and South Rivers
(Unable to access photo files)

- Streamflow is very low
- Tributaries are going dry, especially those not fed by groundwater (most of them)
- "Everyone focuses on the here and now, but we are most worried about lasting ecological effects in September, October, and into next year if we don’t get a healthy snowpack this winter. Things are dying now but we are concerned about the health of the herring population as they will not be able to get back to the ocean for their outmigration."
Neponset River, Hyde Park (mainstem)
July 9
Photo: Tom Palmer, NepRWA
Neponset River, Milton
July 13

- Fowl Meadow
- Always has water in it
- Worst Ian has seen it: turbid, shallow, filamentous algae

Photo: Ian Cooke, NepRWA
Neponset, Norwood (USGS gage 6/4-7/16)

- Neponset has been below 90% flow for all of July, below 99% last 10 days.
- Lowest recorded flow in 85 years was 2 cfs, was at 3 cfs, thinks it’s now down to 2.
- Not worst drought (precipitation), thinks evaporation due to climate change/heat is severely impacting river.
Nashua River, Shirley
July 14
Photo: Nashua River WA
Palmer River, Rehoboth
July 14

Photo: Mass Rivers Alliance

- No water flowing over the dam
- Dry streambed downstream
- Friends of Palmer River have not seen it like this in several years
- Drains to Narragansett Bay
Charles River, Bogastow Brook, Millis
July 19
Photo: Charles River Watershed Association

- Reach upstream of Ridge St culvert
- Bank exposed on stream left (right side in photo); depth at culvert ~2 inches
Along Brook Path, upstream of Forest St

Dry river bed in most upstream portion of brook, right near major stream restoration project area
Runnins River, Seekonk (Trib to Ten-Mile), July 18
Photo: Mass Rivers Alliance

- Tributary to the Ten-Mile
- Completely dry
Not a river…
Seekonk Community Garden