

South Carolina Water Resources Monthly Summary

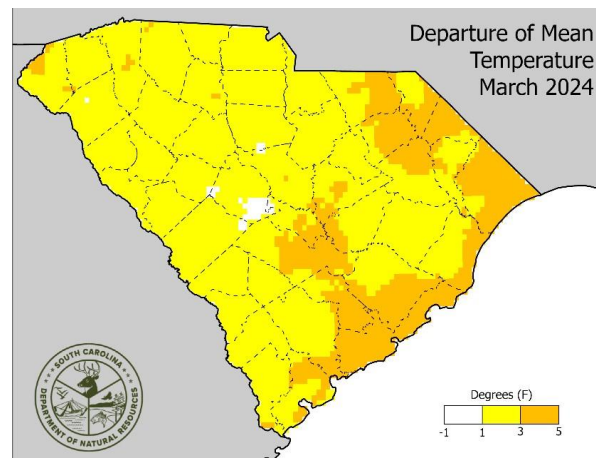
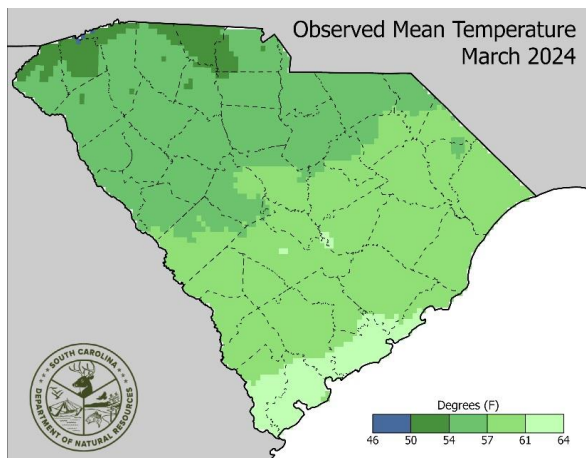
For March 2024

Provided by

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

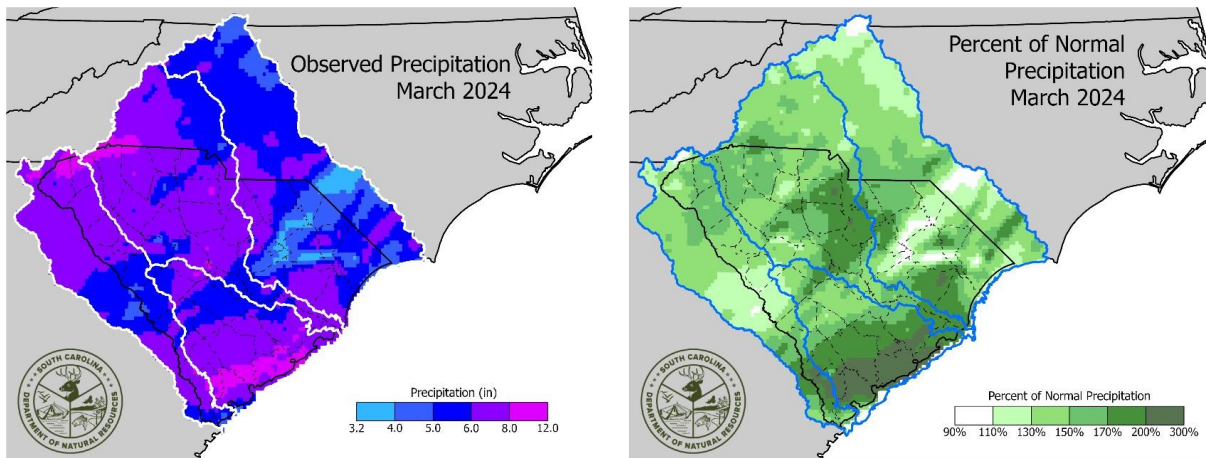
Temperature

Statewide, South Carolina had an average temperature of 58.0 degrees, 3.9 degrees above the long-term average (1895-2023) of 54.1 degrees for March. Most of the state experienced average temperatures that were above normal for the month. Portions of the Coast and Pee Dee Region were warmer than the rest of the state and experienced average temperatures that were 3 to 5 degrees above normal for the month. The highest daily maximum temperature recorded in March was 87 degrees at the Yemassee 1 N NWS station in Hampton County. The lowest daily minimum temperature recorded in March was 21 degrees at the Caesars Head NWS station in Greenville County.



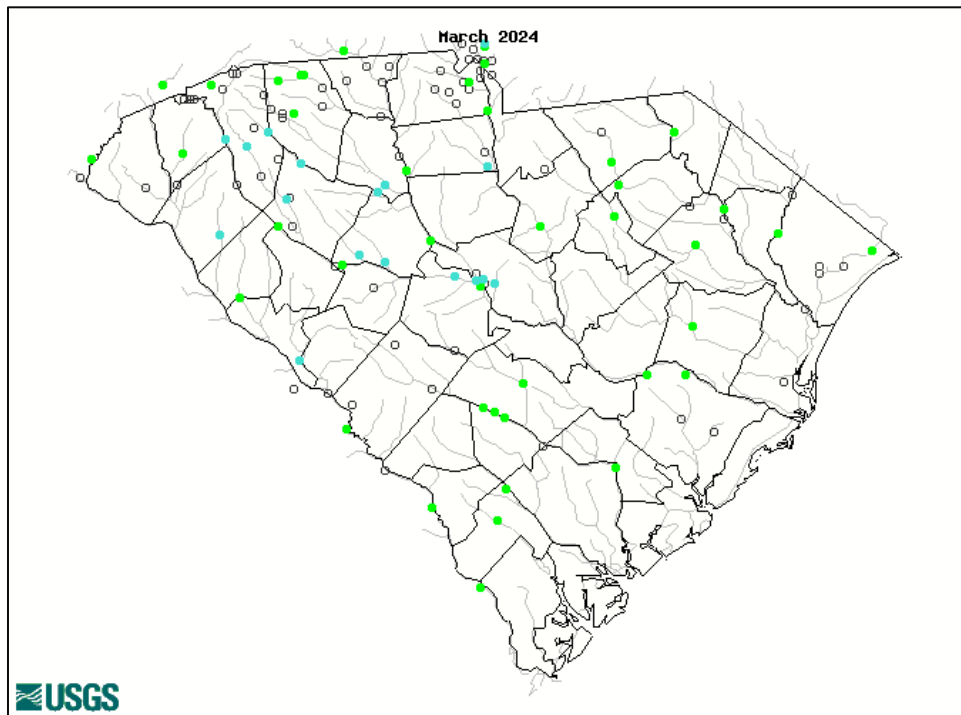
Precipitation

The statewide average precipitation for March 2024 was 6.13 inches, 1.98 inches below the long-term average for the month (1895-2023) of 4.15 inches. Most of the state received above normal precipitation for the month of March. The wettest portions of the state were the coastal areas of the Lowcountry, where precipitation totals were between 170% to 300% of normal for the month. The highest precipitation total for March was recorded by the Columbia 2.1 NNW CoCoRaHS observer in Richland County with 12.38 inches of rain. The lowest precipitation total for March was recorded by the Summerton 7.6 ESE CoCoRaHS observer in Clarendon County with 2.53 inches of rain.



Streamflow

The USGS's monthly streamflow map compares the current monthly average streamflow to its historical monthly average streamflow conditions for the same month over the gage's period of record. South Carolina received abundant rainfall in December and January, followed by a slightly dry February. March observed normal rainfall, thereby improving the below-normal streamflow conditions. As observed on the map, March recorded normal to above-normal streamflows in the State.

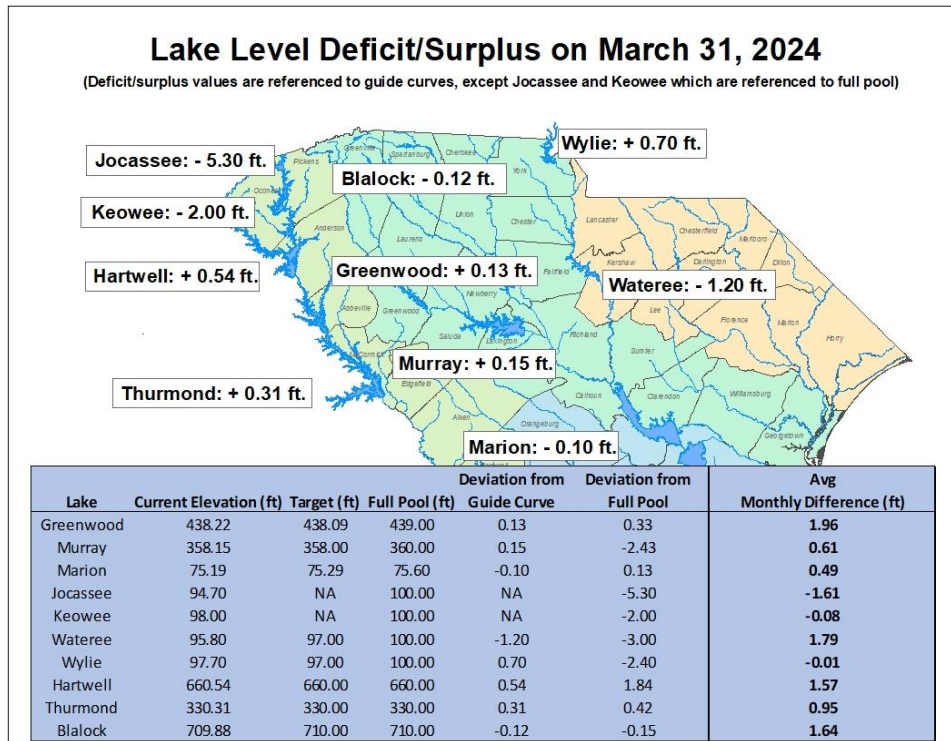


Explanation - Percentile classes								
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data	
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal			



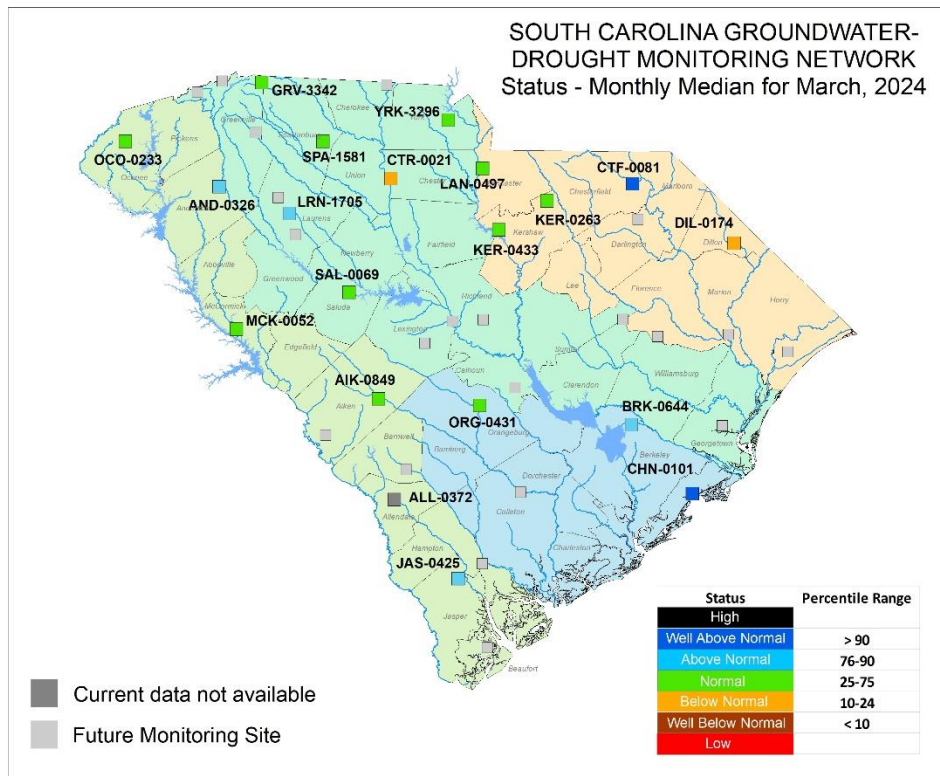
Reservoirs

The map below shows a surplus or deficit from the guide curves or full-pool elevations for the major reservoirs in the State, based on conditions for March 31st. The state received normal rainfall in March and most of the lake levels fluctuated within their normal range for this time of the year.



Groundwater

The groundwater condition map for March is based on the monthly medians for the data collected by the USGS and SCDNR. The state received normal rainfall in March that helped having consistent recharge for groundwater. Only two of the nineteen wells observed a drop in the monthly medians from February to March, the rest of the groundwater wells observed some improvements. Groundwater levels at the Chester well have been fluctuating below normal levels since November, with some improvements in December but continuing to remain below normal through March. Groundwater levels at Dillon well also stayed below normal in February and March.



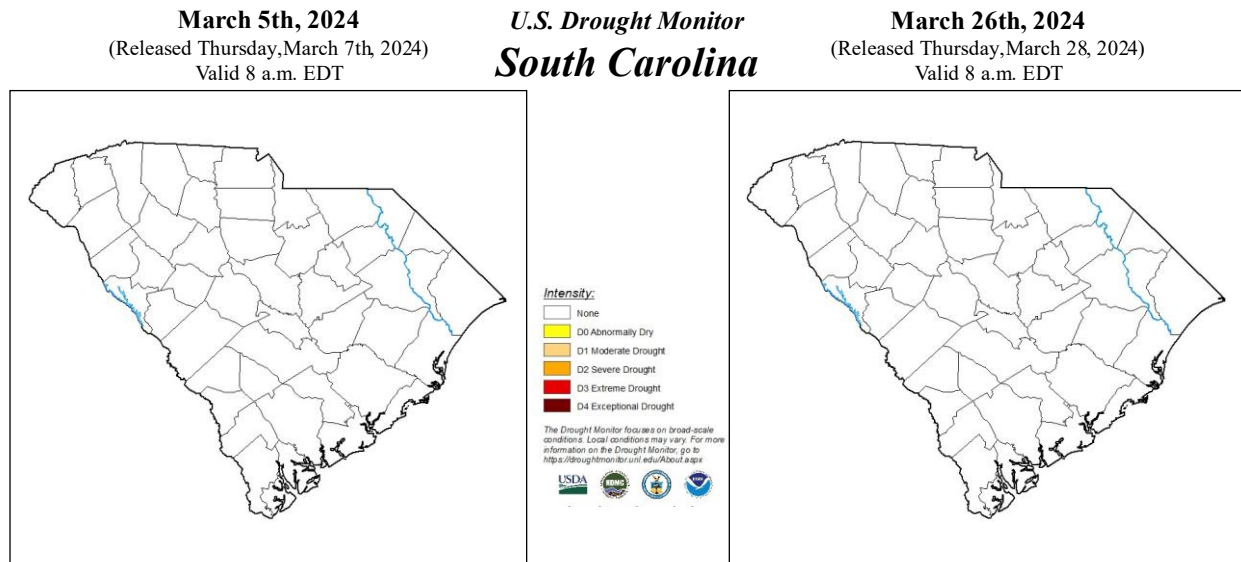
	USGS well sites											DNR Telemetry sites								
	MCK-0052	AND-326	OCO-233	KER-0433	SPA-1581	CTR-0021	YRK-3296	LAN-0497	JAS-0425	CHN-0101	DIL-0174	CTF-0081	GRV-3342	KER-0263	LRN-1705	SAL-0069	ORG-0431	AIK-0849	ALL-0372	BRK-0644
February 2024 Monthly median (ft, below land surface)	38.68	2.73	29.25	53.52	43.80	91.92	19.31	25.90	54.22	12.84	4.49	86.41	47.04	35.57	13.27	--	26.51	42.48	58.68	9.49
March 2024 Monthly median (ft, below land surface)	38.06	2.52	28.56	52.46	43.89	91.995	17.83	24.30	51.56	12.86	4.39	86.29	46.86	35.02	12.81	10.84	25.91	42.23	58.58	9.05
Difference in monthly median from past month (ft)	0.63	0.21	0.69	1.06	-0.09	5.63	1.48	1.61	2.66	-0.02	0.11	0.12	0.18	0.55	0.46	--	0.61	0.26	0.11	0.44



Drought

On the last U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) map for February (2/27) 10.75% of South Carolina was in abnormally dry (D0) conditions (covering portions of the interior Coastal Plain). On the first map USDM map of March (3/5), all D0 conditions were removed and all of South Carolina was in normal conditions. This improvement was due to rainfall totals of 1.00 to 3.00 inches across the state between February 28th and March 5th. Throughout the month, rainfall totals were above normal, leading to normal to above normal soil moisture values and streamflow conditions across the state. Between the first USDM map of March (3/5) and the last map of the month (3/26), the state stayed in normal condition on the USDM.

The South Carolina Drought Response Committee (DRC) did not meet in March but continued to monitor conditions.



Summary

South Carolina experienced a warm and wet March. Average temperatures and precipitation totals were generally above normal across the state. Portions of the coastal Lowcountry were the wettest part of the state. The above normal rain totals increased soil moisture values and streamflow values across the state.

Looking Forward

As of April 15th, precipitation totals have ranged from 1.00 to 4.00 inches. The wettest areas have been in the Coastal Plain, with rain totals ranging from normal to 300% of normal, while the precipitation totals above the Fall Line have been 50% to 90% of normal. For this period, average temperatures have ranged from 55 to 70 degrees, which is normal to 3 degrees above normal. Average temperatures south of the Fall Line have been near normal, while 1 to 3 degrees above normal north of the Fall Line.

For the rest of the month, conditions are forecast to be warm and dry. The forecast and outlooks indicate that temperatures are likely to be above normal and precipitation totals are likely to be below normal. Given the conditions, there could be changes to the U.S. Drought Monitor map in South Carolina in the coming weeks, particularly if soil moisture dries out and affects the crop or pasture conditions.

Contact

For questions about:	Person to contact	Email	Phone
Drought, General	Elliot D. Wickham	Wickhame@dnr.sc.gov	(803)-734-8311
Climate Data	Melissa Griffin	Griffinm@dnr.sc.gov	(803)-734-9091
Hydrologic Data	Priyanka More	MoreP@dnr.sc.gov	(803)-734-3945
General Hydrology	Scott Harder	harders@dnr.sc.gov	(864)-986-6254

