

**SHELTER ISLAND WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE –
August 2025, Well Height data report
DRAFT Issue date tbd**

Recommendation: TBD

The WAC will review and make recommendations per policy.

Background / Summary

State and regional organizations drought intensity categories – (section 1a and 1b)

On August 29, the NYDEC added Shelter Island to their “Watch” status, the initial DEC drought intensity category.

The DEWS drought intensity status remained unchanged at “D0 Abnormally Dry”. The categories for large areas of New England were intensified to “D3 Severe Drought”.

Big 5 Percentile level values for monitoring wells versus history: (Sections 2 and 3)

Average of Big 4 monitoring wells_ – The average score improved from the 20th to the 29th percentile, supportive of a “Guarded/Abnormally Dry” rating.

Individual Big 4 monitoring wells – Two wells scored >30th percentile, one the 27th percentile, one 13th percentile.

Shallow Wells level values for monitoring wells versus history: (Sections 3)

Shallow monitoring wells – all wells above the 70th percentile.

Aquifer height in 5 wells (of 8) of the shallower wells increased,

Direct measurements Monitoring wells: (Section 4)

As is typical for August, the Big 4 wells dropped in aquifer height, although the drop for each was lower than last month.

Local measurement of precipitation -

There were 4 decent rainy days (>1/2 inch) in August, mostly in the second half, plus smaller rainfalls during the month. Hopefully, this will turn out to be the end of the dry weather pattern.

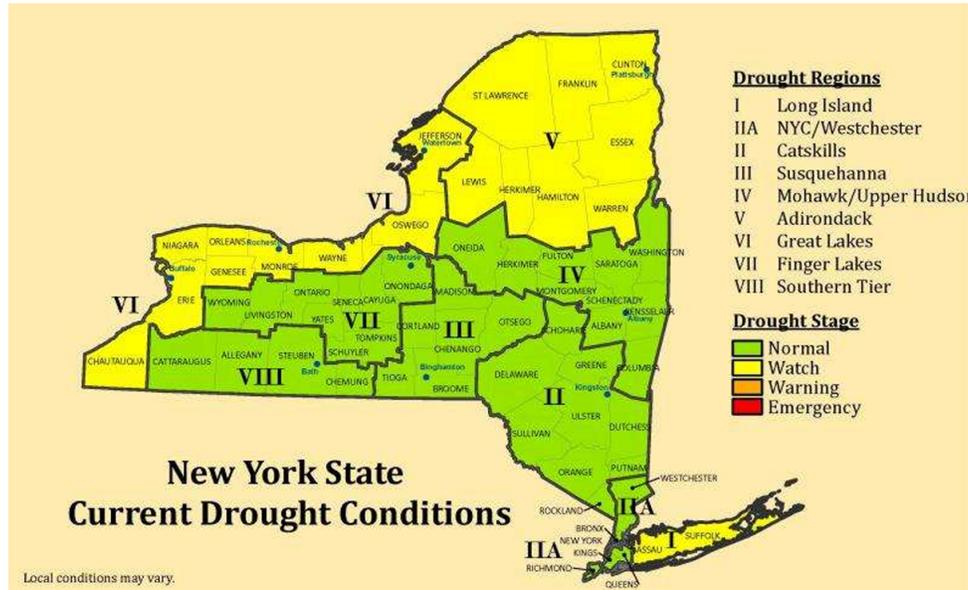
Rainfall levels vary by area of the island, *ranging from 3.5 to 4.5 inches*. The typical rainfall is in the 4 to 5 inch range.

Section 1a – New York DEC Drought monitor.

On August 29 the NYDEC placed Suffolk County in “Watch” status. A widespread area in the north and western zones of the state have also been downgraded to Watch category.

Current Drought Conditions

Drought Regions I, V, and VI are currently in Drought Watch. Drought status determinations are based on a State Drought Index that uses New York State specific attributes, so it may differ somewhat from national drought assessments. In addition, local conditions may vary, so some areas of the state may make their own terminations of drought stage using locally-focused criteria.



A "watch" is the first of four levels of state drought advisories ("watch," "warning," "emergency" and "disaster"). There are no statewide mandatory water use restrictions in place under a drought watch, but residents are strongly encouraged to voluntarily conserve water. Local public water suppliers may require conservation measures, depending upon local needs and conditions.

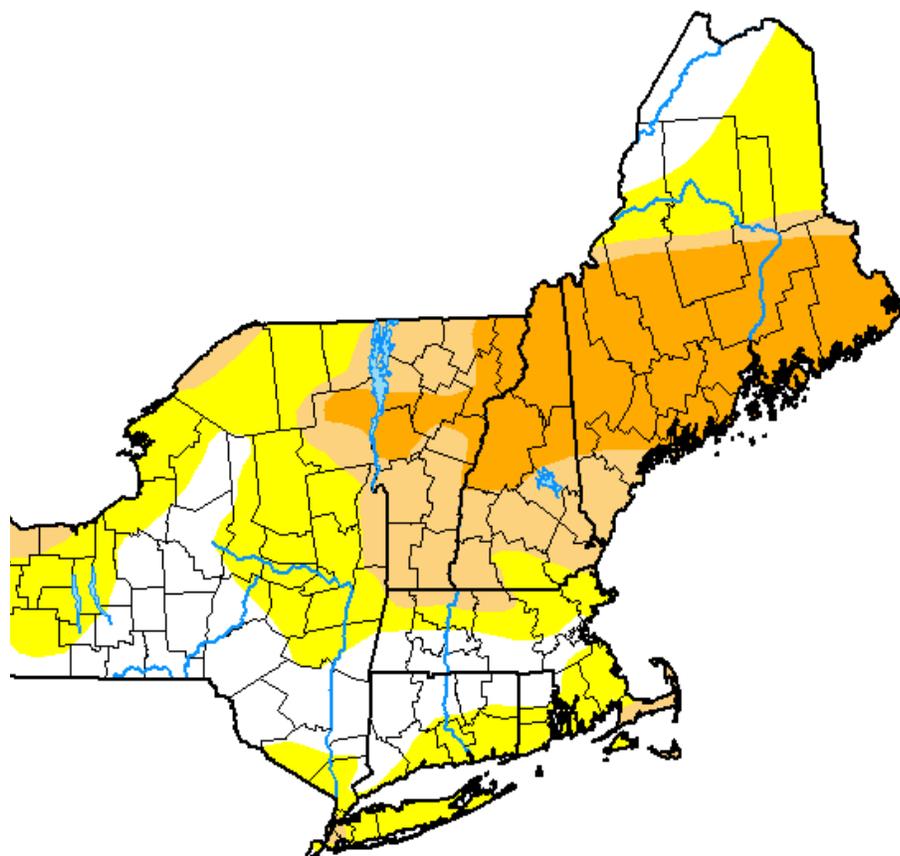
New York's drought advisories are intended primarily for guidance to public and private water suppliers and withdrawals. If you are experiencing a water shortage, please contact your water supplier, local agricultural extension, or local health department.

Section 1b - National Drought Monitoring:

Shelter Island status was unchanged, with all of Suffolk County status as “DO/Abnormally Dry.” While Suffolk County was unchanged, large areas of the northeast were downgraded into either D1/Moderate Drought or D2/Severe Drought.

U.S. Drought Monitor Northeast DEWS

September 2, 202
(Released Thursday, Sep. 4, 2
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

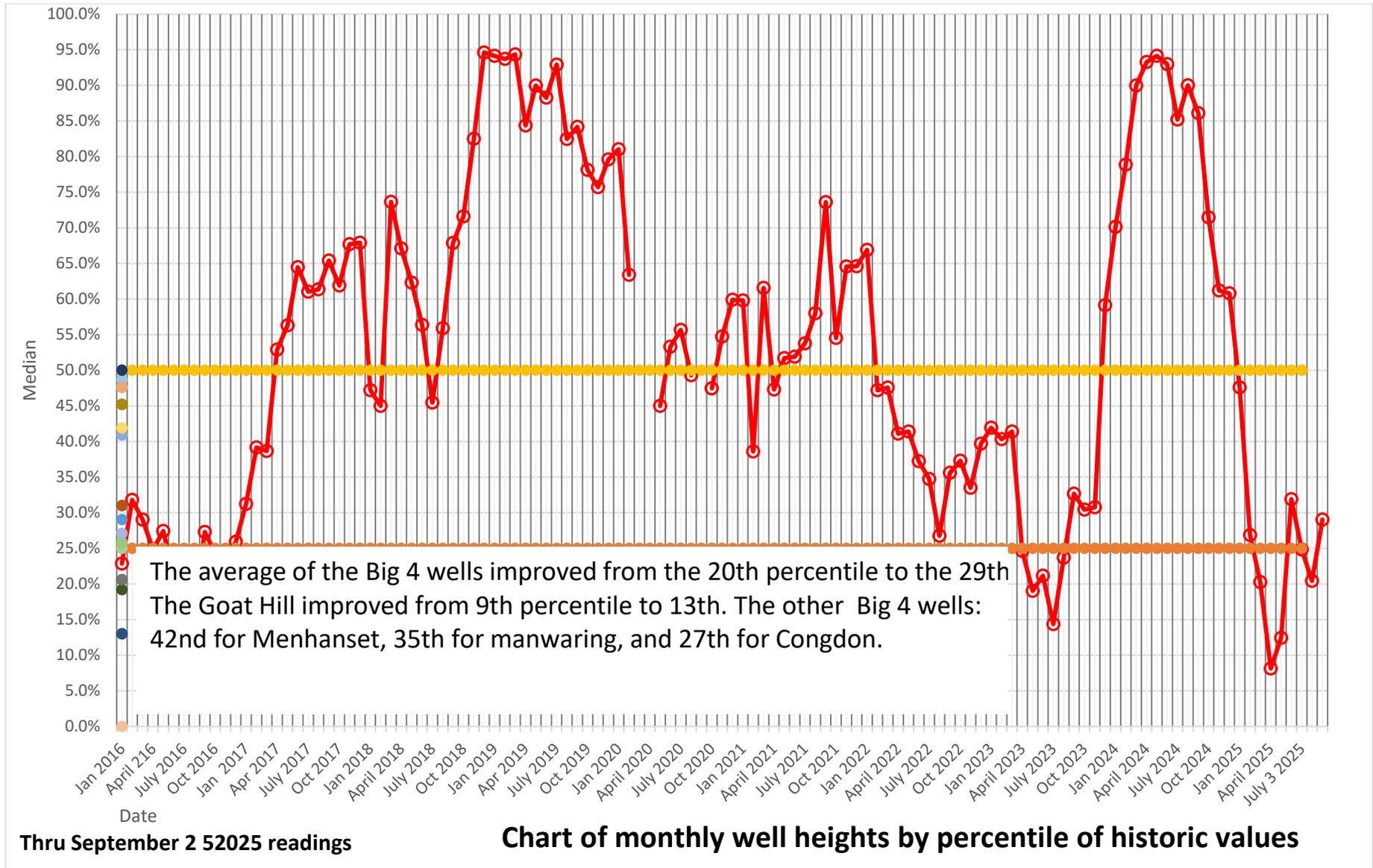
The Drought Monitor focuses on conditions. Local conditions may information on the Drought Mon <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/A>

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Section 2 – Chart showing “ranking of monthly well heights by percentile of historic values.” The chart is a graphic of the data for the Big Four feeder wells showing the percentile rank for the current month versus history for each month. Average of the big4 wells is 29th percentile, an improvement from the previous 20th value.



Section 3 – Comparison showing aquifer height readings for the month compared to the median history

The percentage rank of all of the wells improved, with only the Big 4 wells below the 50th percentile, although closer to the midpoint than last month. Part of the strength of the shallower wells may reflect the impact of rainfall on August 20 and 29, when about 1.5 inches of rain fell. All of the shallower wells were above the 70th median.

Well readings compared to the months Median for each well for:	Manhansett, Well #1	Rocky Point Ave/Belvedere Well #2	Big Ram Island Well #3	Manwaring Rd Well #4	Congdon Well #5	Brander/Lilliput Well #6	Menantic Rd Well #7	Deer Park Lane Well #8	LITTLE RAM Well #9	DERING HARBOR Well #10	HAY BEACH Well #11	Goat Hill Well #12	SHOREWOOD Well #13	White Birch Well #14
August 2025	25	26	23	24	27	26	23	25	18	18	23	24	22	11
Median Value	3.12	1.93	1.54	4.13	5.00	1.68	1.67	2.82	1.62	1.87	2.40	5.86	1.37	1.79
Reading taken Sep 2 2025	2.91	2.17	1.91	3.75	4.52	1.85	MT	3.11	1.72	2.06	2.45	5.15	1.54	1.89
Previous Month reading	3.1	2.1	1.79	4.01	4.95	1.86	MT	3.28	1.64	2.05	2.51	5.43	1.55	1.75
Change from prev. month	(0.19)	0.07	0.12	(0.26)	(0.43)	(0.01)	no data	(0.17)	0.08	0.01	(0.06)	(0.28)	(0.01)	0.14
		2.34			7.67	2.83								
	4.26	2.21		6.22	7.01	2.31		3.80				7.43		
	3.90	2.20	1.98	5.32	6.56	2.10		3.67			2.72	7.13	1.82	
	3.82	2.17	1.91	5.25	6.41	1.96	2.11	3.30			2.70	7.12	1.71	
	3.71	2.17	1.88	5.21	6.33	1.91	1.98	3.30		2.15	2.69	7.09	1.59	
	3.63	2.15	1.84	5.15	6.15	1.88	1.97	3.26	1.92	2.09	2.62	7.07	1.56	
	3.52	2.12	1.84	5.05	6.12	1.85	1.93	3.26	1.81	2.06	2.55	6.36	1.54	
	3.41	2.10	1.80	4.50	5.59	1.83	1.89	3.11	1.81	2.04	2.48	6.19	1.53	
	3.30	2.05	1.80	4.50	5.57	1.80	1.81	3.07	1.81	2.03	2.45	6.17	1.53	1.93
	3.26	2.00	1.74	4.36	5.32	1.79	1.81	3.06	1.74	2.02	2.43	6.07	1.52	1.89
	3.15	1.98	1.67	4.31	5.25	1.76	1.80	3.05	1.72	1.90	2.43	6.01	1.52	1.85
	3.13	1.98	1.63	4.26	5.22	1.76	1.79	2.98	1.66	1.90	2.43	5.97	1.39	1.82
	3.13	1.95	1.59	4.21	5.14	1.69	1.69	2.97	1.65	1.88	2.42	5.89	1.38	1.80
Median Value	3.12	1.93	1.54	4.13	5.00	1.68	1.67	2.82	1.62	1.87	2.40	5.86	1.37	1.79
	2.97	1.91	1.48	4.05	4.75	1.66	1.67	2.71	1.61	1.86	2.30	5.82	1.36	1.71
	2.91	1.91	1.44	3.89	4.67	1.63	1.66	2.71	1.51	1.86	2.22	5.72	1.33	1.60
	2.86	1.90	1.42	3.88	4.60	1.62	1.64	2.67	1.47	1.83	2.20	5.66	1.28	1.60
	2.83	1.90	1.41	3.75	4.57	1.55	1.61	2.65	1.41	1.80	2.19	5.56	1.27	1.60
	2.83	1.87	1.41	3.71	4.53	1.53	1.58	2.65	1.34	1.74	2.19	5.55	1.26	1.46
	2.74	1.85	1.39	3.69	4.52	1.53	1.55	2.57	1.32	1.74	2.15	5.44	1.25	
	2.70	1.85	1.38	3.64	4.48	1.50	1.47	2.57	1.32	1.73	2.13	5.44	1.25	
	2.68	1.76	1.37	3.57	4.39	1.46	1.45	2.48	1.28	1.69	2.09	5.26	1.16	
	2.68	1.74	1.34	3.57	4.34	1.46	1.44	2.42	1.18	1.58	2.07	5.15	1.16	
	2.59	1.71	1.23	3.50	4.34	1.30	1.26	2.42			2.05	5.09	1.07	
	2.48	1.55	1.18	3.26	4.27	1.25	1.25	2.35			2.03	4.33	1.05	
current month value	2.18	1.55		2.79	4.23	1.06	1.15	2.04				4.27		
		1.48			3.33	1.02								
	Big 4			Big 4	Big 4							Big 4		
CURRENT MONTH ANALYSIS														
percentrank current read to historic range	42%	84%	95%	35%	27%	86%		78%	71%	88%	73%	13%	81%	90%
historic minimum	2.18	1.48	1.18	2.79	3.33	1.02	1.15	2.04	1.18	1.58	2.03	4.27	1.05	1.46

Section 4 - “Raw” aquifer readings for the Big 4 wells.

Raw well height graph is independent of the percent rank history. It presents a direct comparison of aquifer heights by month. Seasonal drawdown continues, although the rate of drawdown was slowed compared to last month.

	Previous	Current		Previous	Current		
Congdon	0.51	0.43	Slightly lower	Manwaring	0.28	0.26	Essentially equal
Goat Hill	0.57	0.28	Much less lower	Manhansett	0.33	0.19	Slightly lower

