



### Gulf of Maine Significant Events – September–November 2025

Autumn featured **near- to above-normal temperatures**, ranking among the 10 warmest autumns for several Maritimes sites including Moncton, N.B.; Halifax, N.S.; and Summerside, P.E.I. **Below- to near-normal precipitation** fueled **intense drought conditions** that resulted in many impacts, particularly on water resources and agriculture.

#### September

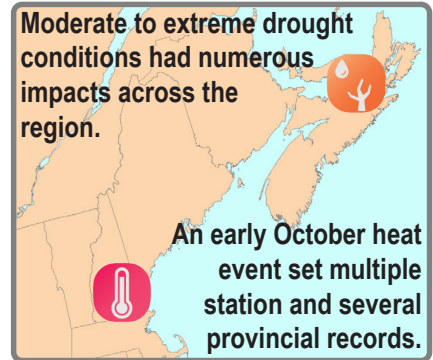
Most of the region saw below-normal precipitation and **intensifying drought conditions** in September. In fact, this September was **record dry** in Greenwood, N.S., and among the five driest for sites like Sydney, N.S., and Bas-Caraquet, N.B. Drought expanded to cover all of the Maritimes, with **exceptional drought**, which is somewhat rare, taking hold. Extreme drought emerged in New England, with around a third of New Hampshire in extreme drought, its **highest such coverage** since the U.S. Drought Monitor began in 2000. September temperatures were up to 2°C (4°F) above normal, with Charlo and Moncton, N.B.; Halifax (Shearwater), N.S.; and Summerside, P.E.I. having one of their **10 warmest Septembers**.

#### October

The first week of October was **unusually warm**, with highs reaching 31°C (88°F). Stanhope, P.E.I., had a high of 28.7°C (84°F), setting a **new provincial record for warmest October temperature**. Edmundston, N.B., saw three days in a row with a high above 28°C (82°F), the first occurrence of such an event in October in the province. Other records for October were set in the Maritimes including first-ever 30°C (86°F) day in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, first-ever two-day stretch above 28°C (82°F) in New Brunswick, and first-ever two consecutive days above 25°C (77°F) in Nova Scotia and P.E.I. Meanwhile, Caribou, ME, saw three consecutive days with a high above 27°C (80°F) for the first time in October, including a high of 28°C (83°F) which became its **warmest October temperature** on record. October wrapped up to be as much as 3°C (5°F) warmer than normal, ranking among the **10 warmest Octobers** for most Maritimes sites and a few in New England. Most areas saw below- or near-normal precipitation, with **drought intensifying** in areas such as northern Maine, western New Brunswick, and central/southern Nova Scotia. However, some wetter weather allowed for **drought improvement** in places like southeastern Massachusetts, southern New Brunswick, and eastern P.E.I. At its peak, extreme drought covered over half of New Hampshire, beating its previous record for highest such coverage set in September, while Maine had its highest coverage of extreme drought in over 20 years.

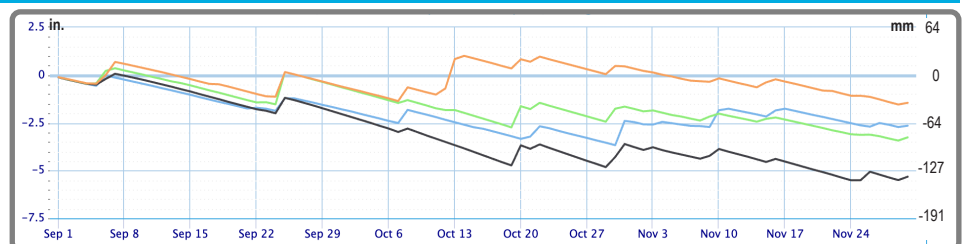
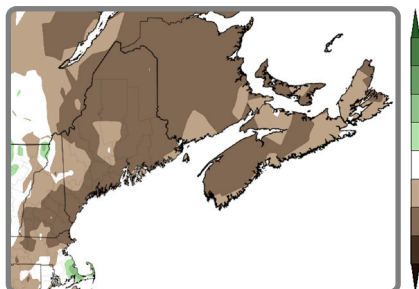
#### November

November precipitation was below or near normal for most areas, with a few spots, such as Cape Breton, N.S., being wetter. However, given the time of year, it was enough precipitation to **reduce drought intensity** in many areas including erasing exceptional drought from Nova Scotia and extreme drought from New Hampshire. **Below-normal groundwater levels** remained an issue, though. November snowfall was below normal for most of the region. In contrast to the previous two months, November **temperatures** were generally **below or near normal**. However, Charlo, N.B., was warmer and tied its ninth-warmest November.



### Regional Climate Overview – September–November 2025

#### Precipitation Autumn Percent of Normal



Accumulated daily precipitation departures from normal during autumn at Caribou, ME (blue line); Portland, ME (black line); Concord, NH (green line); and Boston, MA (orange line).

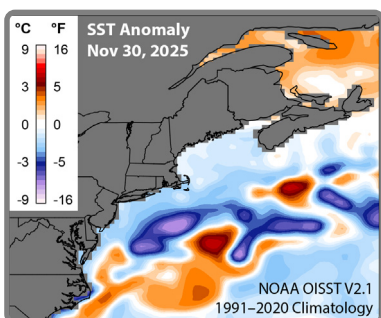
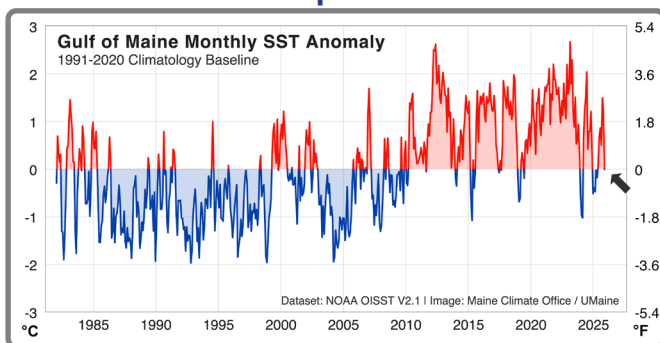
\*Precipitation normals based on 1991–2020 data.

**Autumn precipitation** (accumulated from September to November) ranged from 50% of normal\* to near normal for most of the region, except southeastern Massachusetts which was wetter. **September** precipitation ranged from less than 25% of normal to near normal for most areas. September was record dry in Greenwood and among the five driest for a few other sites. **October** precipitation ranged from 25% of normal to near normal for many areas, with parts of Massachusetts being wetter. **November** precipitation ranged from 25% of normal in parts of coastal New England to 200% of normal in Cape Breton, N.S., with most areas being below or near normal.

# Regional Climate Overview – September–November 2025

## Sea Surface Temperature

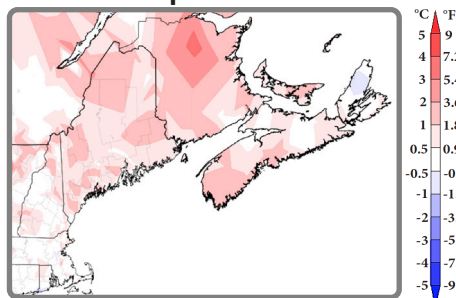
Monthly mean sea surface temperature (SST) averaged across the Gulf of Maine was **above the 1991–2020 climatological mean** in September and October but below the mean in November. The chart shows all monthly SST anomalies from January 1982 to November 2025, estimated from NOAA OISST version 2.1. The arrow on the right of the chart points to the September–November values.



The map at left shows preliminary data for November 30. **Cool SST anomalies** are found in parts of the Gulf of Maine shaded blue, while shades of orange indicate **warm anomalies**, particularly around Nova Scotia. Daily OISST data for the Gulf of Maine are available from the [Maine Climate Office](#).

The map at left shows preliminary data for November 30. **Cool SST anomalies** are found in parts of the Gulf of Maine shaded blue, while shades of orange indicate **warm anomalies**, particularly around Nova Scotia. Daily OISST data for the Gulf of Maine are available from the [Maine Climate Office](#).

## Temperature Autumn Departure from Normal



**Autumn temperatures** (averaged over September, October, and November) were up to 3°C (5°F) above normal for most areas, ranking among the 10 warmest autumns for some Maritimes sites. **September** was up to 2°C (4°F) above normal, ranking among the 10 warmest Septembers for a few Maritimes sites. **October** was up to 3°C (5°F) above normal, ranking among the 10 warmest Octobers for multiple sites. **November** temperatures ranged from 2°C (4°F) below normal to near normal for many areas, with Charlo, N.B., being warmer and tying its ninth-warmest November.

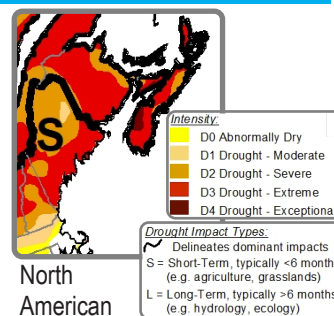
\*Normals based on 1991–2020 data.

# Regional Impacts – September–November 2025

## Drought Impacts

**Intensifying drought conditions** resulted in many impacts across the region during much of autumn.

- **Water Resources:** [Streamflow](#) and [groundwater levels](#) were at **record to near-record lows**, with smaller waterways [drying up](#). **Hundreds of wells ran dry** including in [New Hampshire](#), [Maine](#), and [Cape Breton, N.S.](#), with [New Brunswick officials](#) calling it "one of the most widespread groundwater shortages in provincial history." Some residents were [without water for weeks/months](#) and well-drilling companies had a [backlog of work](#). Laundromats in Nova Scotia saw [increased business](#). Some water suppliers, including [dozens in New Hampshire](#) and [Halifax Water](#) in Nova Scotia, instituted mandatory water restrictions. Reduced water levels stressed fish and affected recreation and related businesses.
- **Agriculture:** Yields of [most crops](#) including [potatoes](#), [pumpkins](#), [corn](#), and [apples](#) were reduced, with [apple losses](#) estimated to be around \$14 million CAD (\$10 million USD) in Maine. The wild blueberry harvest was **significantly below average**, with [yields reduced](#) by as much as 70% in the Maritimes and [officials in Maine](#) estimating an **economic loss** of around \$42 million CAD (\$30 million USD). With [limited pasture growth](#) and notably reduced yields of [hay](#) and [silage crops](#), some farmers [dug into winter reserves](#) or purchased supplemental feed for livestock. On Christmas tree farms, [saplings](#) and [mature trees](#) died. Hauling water and irrigating crops took time away from other farm work.
- **Wildfires:** There was an **increased risk of wildfires**, with [multiple igniting](#) across the region. For instance, a wildfire in Nova Scotia led to the [evacuation of over 300 homes](#) and burned 288 ha (1 sq. mi.). **Burn bans** were in place across [P.E.I.](#) and [Nova Scotia](#) through late September, at [P.E.I. National Park](#) through early October, and in [Annapolis County, N.S.](#) until mid-October, with daily burn restrictions [extended](#) until October 31 in Nova Scotia. A [statewide burn ban](#) was enacted for about a month in New Hampshire, where a U.S. Forest Service firefighting helicopter was [temporarily stationed](#). With some [water sources dried up](#), rural firefighters had to [search for alternate water supplies](#) at times, slowing response times.
- **Nature:** The fall foliage season was [early](#), muted, and shorter than usual in many areas, with leaves on drought-stressed trees in Maine falling [weeks earlier than usual](#). Similar conditions were experienced in parts of the Maritimes. In Maine, dry conditions were tied to [reduced moose hunting success rates](#) and decreased nectar production in some plants, with [honeybees producing less honey](#).



North American Drought Monitor as of October 31, 2025, showing peak drought conditions.



Reduced water levels in September in Surry, NH, (above source: [CMOR](#)) and Dickey, ME (below source: [USGS](#))



## Regional Impacts – September–November 2025

### Autumn Conditions

There were a **limited number of storms** in September, with Nova Scotia and P.E.I. having no cloud-to-ground lightning strokes, their **lowest number on record**. However, provinces surrounding the Maritimes saw an above average to record high number of lightning strokes in September and October, so storms did not impact eastern Canada uniformly. Canada is on track to have its lowest annual number of lightning strokes, which aligns with the **record low number** for New Brunswick and five lowest for Nova Scotia and P.E.I.



Beach erosion in Massachusetts during a mid-October storm.

Source: [MyCoast MA](#)

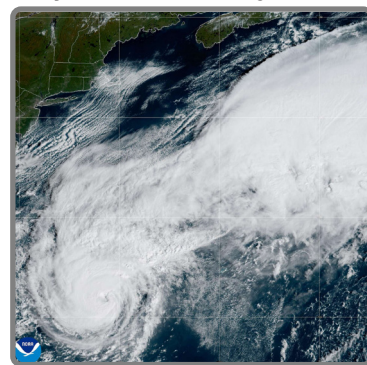
Two notable storms affected the region in October. From October 12 to 13, a **nor'easter** produced [rough seas](#) and some erosion in coastal New England, as well as wind gusts of up to 80 km/h (50 mph) and rainfall totals of up to 152 mm (6 in.) in southeastern Massachusetts, easing drought conditions there. Other storm impacts included [power outages and transit issues](#). From October 30 to 31, a storm, enhanced by moisture from Hurricane Melissa, brought **much-needed rain** to the region, with [storm totals](#) reaching up to 83 mm (3.27 in.). Wind gusts of up to 97 km/h (60 mph) accompanied the storm, with a Les Suêtes wind gust of 132 km/h (82 mph). The wet and windy conditions caused **some Halloween events to be rescheduled** in [New England](#) and the [Maritimes](#).

Several storm systems affected the region in November. For instance, a storm from November 10–11 brought as much as 109 mm (4 in.) of rain to the Maritimes and as much as 51 mm (2 in.) of rain to New England, **helping alleviate drought conditions**. Gusty winds of up to 80 km/h (50 mph) led to some power outages along Nova Scotia's Atlantic coast, with a Les Suêtes wind gust of 140 km/h (87 mph). On November 28, snow squalls **disrupted Thanksgiving holiday travel** in New England, with [dozens of accidents](#) in New Hampshire.

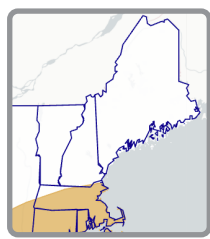
### Hurricane Season

The 2025 Atlantic hurricane season wrapped up with 13 named storms, five of which became hurricanes, including four major hurricanes. An average season produces 14 named storms, seven of which become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes. It was the **first season in a decade that a hurricane did not strike the U.S.** Three hurricanes formed in September, with two—Humberto and Imelda—producing [rough surf and rip currents](#) along the [Gulf of Maine coastline](#) into early October. There were four named storms in October, with Hurricane Melissa feeding [additional moisture](#) into the Halloween storm mentioned above. There were no named storms in November.

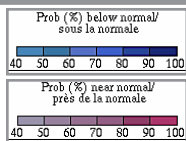
Right: Humberto and Imelda off the U.S. East Coast on October 1.



## Regional Outlook – Winter 2025–26



CPC temperature map (above left) produced November 20. ECCC temperature map (above right) produced November 30.



### Temperature and Precipitation

For **December–February**, [NOAA's Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\)](#) favors **above-normal temperatures** for eastern Massachusetts, driven by long-term trends with a background La Niña state. Meanwhile, [Environment and Climate Change Canada \(ECCC\)](#) favors below-normal temperatures for southern Nova Scotia and near-normal temperatures for P.E.I., a sliver of eastern New Brunswick, and parts of eastern and northern Nova Scotia including Cape Breton. **Equal chances** of below-, near-, or above-normal temperatures were forecast for the rest of the region including Maine, New Hampshire, western Nova Scotia, and most of New Brunswick. For **precipitation**, the entire region falls into the **equal chances** category. For more information on CPC's winter outlooks and ENSO, see the Northeast Regional Climate Center's [November 2025 webinar recording](#).

### Gulf of Maine Partners

[Northeast Regional Climate Center](#)

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[Environment and Climate Change Canada](#)

[Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, Climate Network](#)

[Massachusetts Climate Maps and Data Center](#)

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### ENSO

La Niña conditions continued to be present in the equatorial Pacific Ocean in November. According to NOAA's [Climate Prediction Center](#), there's a 54% chance that **weak La Niña conditions** will continue through winter 2025–26, with a 68% chance of **ENSO-neutral conditions** in January–March 2026.

