



Gulf of Maine Significant Events – June–August 2026

Summer was **hotter and drier** than normal for most areas, tying as the **hottest summer** on record for Saint John, N.B., and ranking among the five hottest for multiple sites including Boston, MA; Concord, NH; Fredericton, N.B.; and Halifax, N.S. **Drought conditions** improved in areas like southern New Hampshire, which became **free of severe drought** for the first time in nearly a year, but deteriorated in areas like Maine, which saw **drought-related impacts** to water resources, agriculture, and wildfires. Several notable severe weather events affected the region, with P.E.I. having its **first tornado since August 2007**. There were multiple days with **hazy skies and reduced air quality** due to smoke moving through the region from wildfires burning in other parts of Canada.

June

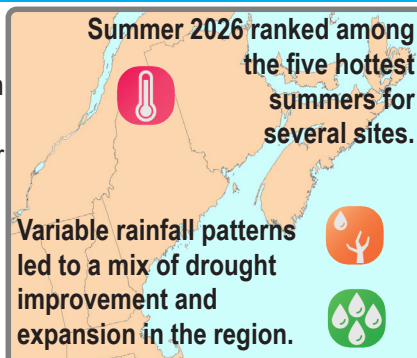
In parts of the Maritimes, June started with **below-freezing temperatures and patchy frost**. The month averaged out to be near normal for most of the Maritimes, with Bas-Caraquet, N.B., tying its **seventh-coolest June**. However, June was hotter than normal for New England, ranking among the **10 hottest Junes** on record for Boston, MA; Concord, NH; and Portland, ME. Precipitation during June varied, with Massachusetts and Nova Scotia being **much drier than normal** but northern Maine and parts of New Hampshire being **quite wet**.

July

July started with a period of **unusually hot and humid weather**. Several sites in the region had one of their 10 hottest July days. Boston, MA, had back-to-back days with a high of at least 38°C (100°F), tying its **longest such streak**. Caribou, ME, had a low of 22°C (71°F), tying its **all-time hottest low temperature**. Lows at a few other New England sites ranked among their 10 all-time hottest. Average temperatures for the full month were near or above normal in the region. There were variable amounts of precipitation during July. Much of the region was drier than normal, with Portland, ME, having its **second-driest July** on record. However, Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire, and western Nova Scotia, were wetter than normal, with Yarmouth, N.S., having its **fourth-wettest July**. Cloud-to-ground lightning stroke totals in New Brunswick were the **lowest on record for July** since records began in 2002.

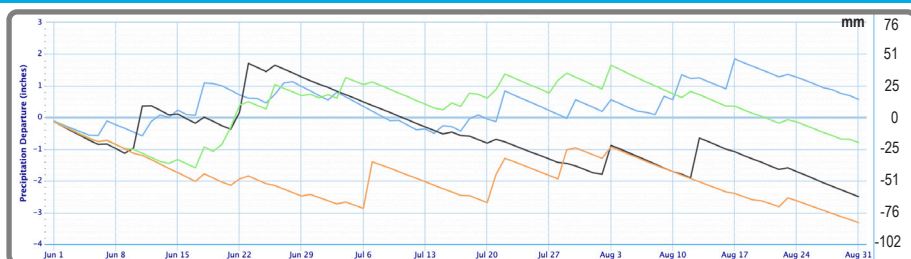
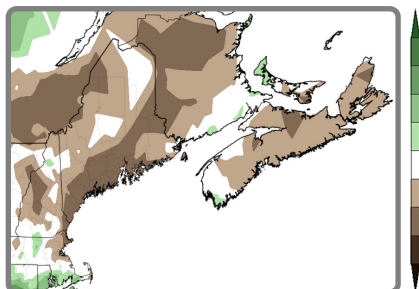
August

Temperatures were **unusually hot**, **particularly in the Maritimes**, from August 5 to 10. The highest temperatures were near 35°C (95°F), with the humidity making it feel as hot as 40°C (104°F) or more. Due in part to the heat event, August was up to 2°C (4°F) hotter than normal. It was the **hottest August on record** for Halifax, N.S., and among the 10 hottest Augusts for several other sites including Boston, MA; Fredericton, N.B.; and Summerside, P.E.I. August also featured **more warm nights than normal**. For instance, Boston had 11 days with a low at or above 21°C (70°F), tying as its fifth-greatest number for August. Meanwhile, Charlottetown, P.E.I., had nine days with a low over 18°C (64°F), more than three times its average of 2.8 such days. August precipitation amounts varied. New England and parts of the Maritimes (like western Nova Scotia) were drier than normal, with Boston having its **seventh-driest August**. However, other parts of the Maritimes (like southeastern New Brunswick and western P.E.I.) were much wetter.



Regional Climate Overview – June–August 2026

Precipitation Summer Percent of Normal



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

*Precipitation normal based on 1991–2020 data.

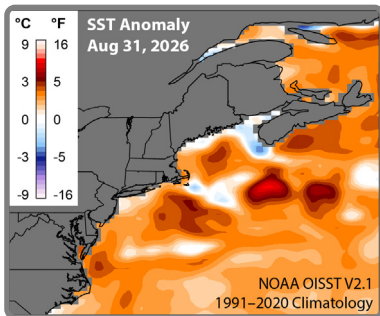
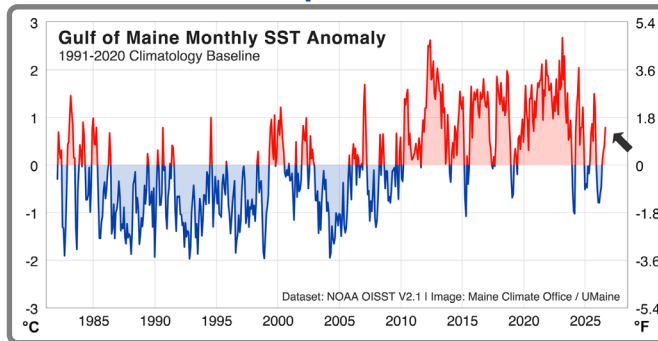
Summer precipitation (accumulated from June to August) ranged from 50% of normal to 125% of normal. **June** precipitation ranged from 25% of normal in eastern Massachusetts to 150% of normal in northern Maine and parts of New Hampshire. **July** precipitation ranged from less than 25% of normal in coastal Maine to over 200% of normal in southeastern Massachusetts. It was the **second-driest July** for Portland, ME, but the **fourth wettest** for Yarmouth, N.S. **August** precipitation ranged from 25% of normal in eastern Massachusetts to 200% of normal in southeastern New Brunswick and western P.E.I. Boston, MA, had its **seventh-driest August**.

Regional Climate Overview – June–August 2026

Summer monthly mean sea surface temperature (SST) averaged across the Gulf of Maine was **above the 1991–2020 climatological mean** during June, July, and August.

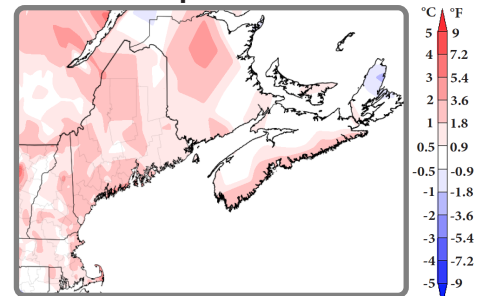
The chart shows all monthly SST anomalies from January 1982 to August 2026, estimated from NOAA OISST version 2.1. The arrow on the right of the chart points to the June–August values.

Sea Surface Temperature



The map at left shows preliminary data for August 31. **Warm SST anomalies** are found in parts of the Gulf of Maine shaded orange and red, while shades of blue and purple indicate **cool anomalies**. Daily OISST data for the Gulf of Maine are available from the [Maine Climate Office](#).

Temperature Summer Departure from Normal



Summer temperatures (averaged over June, July, and August) were up to 2°C (4°F) above normal for most areas. This summer tied as **record hot** for Saint John, N.B., and was among the five hottest for a few other sites. **June** was up to 2°C (4°F) above normal, particularly in New England. It tied as the **seventh-coolest** June for Bas-Caraquet, N.B., but was among the **10 hottest** for a few New England sites. **July** was up to 2°C (4°F) above normal, mostly in New England. **August** was up to 2°C (4°F) above normal. August was **record hot** for Halifax, N.S., and among the 10 hottest for some other sites. *Normals based on 1991–2020 data.

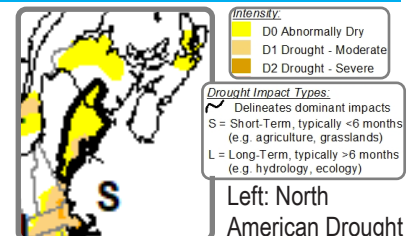
Regional Impacts – June–August 2026

Summer Conditions

Drought: During summer, drought and abnormal dryness **contracted** in much of Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire, southern and eastern New Brunswick, western and central P.E.I., and Nova Scotia. However, conditions **intensified** in southeastern Massachusetts, parts of New Hampshire, much of Maine, northern and western New Brunswick, and eastern P.E.I. Streamflow and/or groundwater levels were record or near-record low in parts of New England, particularly Maine where rural firefighting operations were impeded and some wells and small streams dried up. A few water suppliers had mandatory restrictions. In Maine, some crops experienced moisture stress, were stunted, or had reduced yields. Dry conditions made fighting wildfires more difficult and allowed fires to grow rapidly.

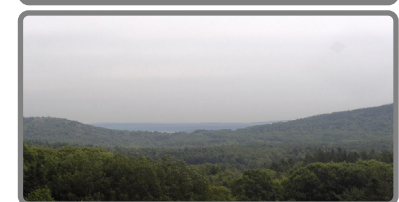
Heat: Temperatures were unusually hot from July 1 to 4. The hottest temperatures exceeded 31°C (88°F), ranking among the **10 hottest temperatures for July** at a few locations including Boston, MA; Portland, ME; Saint John, N.B.; and Western Head, N.S. In fact, Boston tied its **longest streak of days** with a high of at least 38°C (100°F) at two days, with one of those days ranking as its ninth all-time hottest temperature. With the humidity, it felt as hot as 45°C (113°F) at times. The hottest low temperatures ranged from 21°C to 28°C (70°F to 82°F). Caribou, ME, tied its **all-time hottest low temperature** of 22°C (71°F), while lows at sites like Boston, Portland, and Concord, NH, ranked among their 10 all-time hottest. Portland had back-to-back days with a low of at least 22°C (72°F), tying its **longest such streak**. In New England, the heat strained the electric grid, disrupted rail service, caused Fourth of July events to be cancelled or delayed, shifted firefighting operations, and was linked to dozens of people seeking heat-related medical care. However, some companies and restaurants saw increased business.

Wildfire Smoke: During the early July heat event, **smoke from wildfires** burning in Labrador and Quebec was transported into the Gulf of Maine region, reducing air quality and lowering visibility. Another round of wildfire smoke, this time from northwestern Ontario and northern Minnesota, moved through the region in mid-July. The smoke led to poor air quality, created hazy skies, lowered high temperatures, and limited severe weather.



Monitor as of July 31. Below: Reduced pond water levels in northern Maine in late August.

Credit: CMOR/James



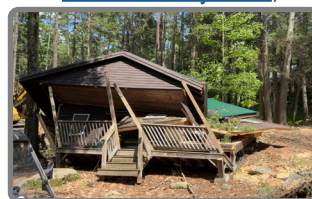
Acadia National Park, ME, without haze on July 11 (top) and with haze on July 14 (bottom). Credit: [NPS](#)

Regional Impacts – June–August 2026

Summer Conditions Continued

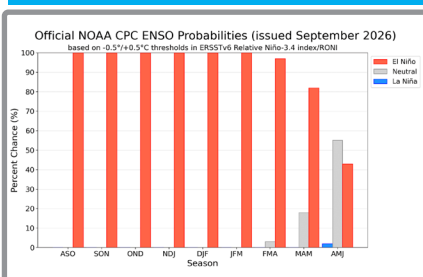
Severe Weather: There were several notable severe weather and flash flood events during summer.

- **June 10–11:** [Flash flooding](#) from up to 140 mm (5.50 in.) of rain in Carroll County, NH, [damaged dozens of roads](#) and trapped residents. Costs were estimated to be over [\\$3 million U.S. dollars](#).
- **June 18:** **Straight-line winds** of up to 160 km/h (100 mph) in central New Hampshire [downed thousands of trees](#), which fell on and damaged vehicles, buildings, and docks. There were a few minor storm-related injuries.
- **June 26:** A rare **EF-0 tornado** [touched down](#) near Petitcodiac, N.B., with damage confined to a few trees.
- **July 14–16:** Hailstones as large as golf balls smashed windows, dented farm equipment, and [shredded leaves](#) in New Hampshire, with [Sullivan County](#) seeing [some of its largest hail on record](#).
- **July 28–31:** Locally heavy rain led to hazardous road conditions and [street flooding](#) in the region. Louisbourg, N.S., saw 46 mm (1.80 in.) of rain in one hour, making it a **100-year storm event**. Parts of New Hampshire saw over 102 mm (4 in.) of rain in a day.
- **August 13:** [Unusually strong](#) thunderstorm wind gusts of [up to 121 km/h \(75 mph\)](#) in the Portland, ME, area [downed many trees](#), damaging buildings and vehicles and knocking out power, including at the airport.
- **August 22–24:** Parts of Cape Breton, N.S., saw [flash flooding](#) from up to 142 mm (5.59 in.) of rain. [Over 100 homes](#) had flood damage in Eskasoni, with rainfall rates of up to 40 mm (1.50 in.) per hour.
- **August 26:** In P.E.I., a rare **EF-0 tornado** [damaged trees](#) in Little Harbour and storm damage [closed part of the hospital](#) in Charlottetown. Waterspouts were seen in eastern P.E.I. and Cape Breton, N.S.
- **August 28:** **Downburst winds** of up to 130 km/h (81 mph) [damaged roofs and trees](#) in Summerside, P.E.I.



Wind damage in New Hampshire in mid-June. Credit: NWS GYX

Regional Outlook – Autumn 2026



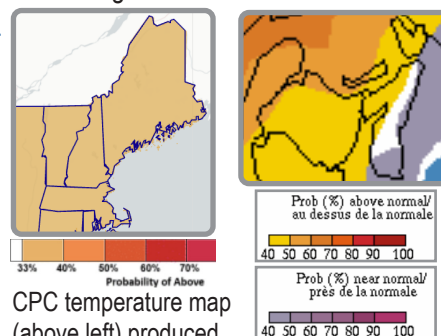
ENSO

El Niño conditions continued to strengthen in the equatorial Pacific Ocean as of early September. According to NOAA's [Climate Prediction Center](#), there's "a greater than 90% chance of a very strong event" during fall and winter, with "a 75% chance of a historic event that would exceed the strength of previous El Niño events dating back to 1950." To learn more about this year's El Niño, see the [NRCC's July webinar](#) and [register for the November webinar](#).

Temperature and Precipitation

For **September–November**, [NOAA's Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\)](#) and [Environment and Climate Change Canada \(ECCC\)](#) favor **above-normal temperatures** for most of the Gulf of Maine region, with **near-normal temperatures** expected for parts of Nova Scotia. [CPC notes](#) that despite the strength of this El Niño, temperature impacts tend to be muted during the fall, with the greatest impacts emerging during winter. In New England, the temperature outlook was driven by long-term trends and current model forecasts.

CPC favors **below-normal precipitation** for most of New England. ECCC favors **equal chances** of below-, near-, or above-normal precipitation for much of the Maritimes and **above-normal precipitation** for western Nova Scotia.



CPC temperature map (above left) produced August 20. ECCC temperature map (above right) produced August 31.

Gulf of Maine Partners

[Northeast Regional Climate Center](#)

[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)

[Environment and Climate Change Canada](#)

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

[Massachusetts Climate Maps and Data Center](#)
[Maine Climate Office](#)

To receive this publication every quarter:
www.gulfofmaine.org/public/climate-network
and
climatatlantique-climateatlantic@ec.gc.ca

	Updated 2026 Atlantic Season Outlook	1991-2020 Average Season
Number of Named Storms	7-13	14
Number of Hurricanes	2-6	7
Number of Major Hurricanes	0-2	3

Atlantic Hurricane Season

NOAA's [updated 2026 Atlantic hurricane season outlook](#) favors a **below-normal season**. This is tied to El Niño conditions, which increases

wind shear and limits tropical storm formation and strengthening. As of September 1, there had been five named storms, with none becoming hurricanes, which was **below the long-term average** of [six named storms](#) and two hurricanes including one major hurricane. There were no impacts from the storms in the Gulf of Maine region. The Northeast Regional Climate Center's [August webinar](#) focused on the updated hurricane outlook. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from **June 1 through November 30**, peaking from mid-August to late October.