



LAKE HARTWELL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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NOAA / ACOE October 2025 Weather Forecast Summary

- Approximately each quarter NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, provides a long-range forecast for the Corps of Engineers in our Savannah region that manage ALL the lakes in this region. A number of our LHA board members are provided with an opportunity to listen to these forecasts via webcasts.
- The latest meeting was October 16, 2025.
- Dryer and warmer conditions are forecast between now and March for the Savannah River basin, which includes Lake Hartwell and all the lakes in the chain down to Savannah harbor.
- The two main lakes in this region, Hartwell and Thurmond, are currently just below drought stage and it is somewhat probable that they will enter Drought Stage 1 over the next few weeks to months.
- NOAA has many models and graphics that support these forecasts briefly verbalized during the call.
- The Corps will release a press statement if and when Lake Hartwell enters Drought Stage 1.
- The next NOAA forecast will most likely be sometime in March 2026.

Three LHA comments based on this forecast:

1. Lake Hartwell depends on the spring rains to move the lake level back up from winter pool to summer pool (a 4 feet elevation increase typically). So, a dry forecast is concerning.
2. Boaters should be aware of shoals and other areas that are typically safe to cross when the water is at or near full pool, approximately 4 feet higher than the current level as of this writing.
3. The Corps DOES take these forecasts into consideration when evaluating decisions on changing our lake level and other lakes within the basin, as well as many other considerations.



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2025-26
Issued: November 20, 2025

