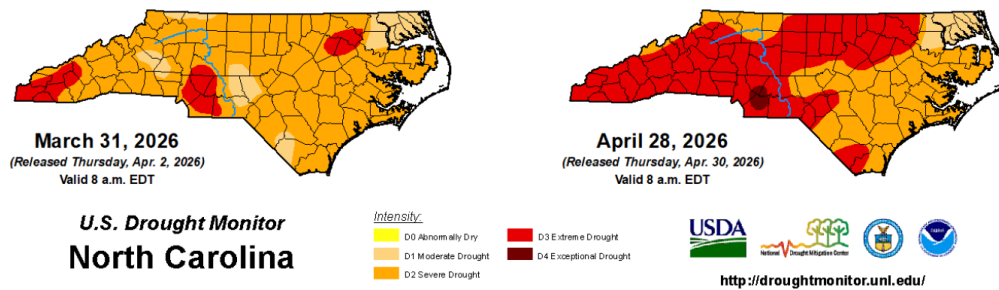


**Report to White Lake Town Board**  
**May 2026**  
Diane Lauritsen, Ph.D. LIMNOSCIENCES

Drought conditions continue to worsen, with low rainfall levels in April across the state. The NC Climate Office is a good resource:

<https://climate.ncsu.edu/blog/2026/05/an-anomalous-april-was-hot-and-dry-with-deepening-drought/>



US Drought Monitor maps from March 31, 2026, (left) and April 28, 2026, (right) for North Carolina.

As a result, lake levels (and water table levels) continue to decline. Looking forward, climatologists are predicting a “super” El Niño to start before the year’s end, producing more extreme weather than normal for this climate cycle.



Moderating boating activity to prevent stirring up the lake bottom **is the most helpful thing that can be done at White Lake**. Lakeshore cleanups have removed dried residue that washed ashore from last year, but the typical pattern is for that to begin buildup in May and continue to worsen as the summer progresses. It also increases the turbidity of the lake water.



Water clarity had improved substantially in April compared to February, with lower chlorophyll *a* levels (indicating less phytoplankton in the water). This trend is typical for White Lake—the best clarity is seen in the spring, if nutrient levels are lower.