



Winter to be average, drought to persist, officials say

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JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

The Boston area can expect precipitation totals this winter to be roughly in line with historical averages.

By Matt Rocheleau

GLOBE STAFF OCTOBER 20, 2016

If you have your fingers crossed for a warm, snow-free winter, you may be out of luck. Then again, if you’re rooting for cold and boatloads of snow, you also may be in for disappointment.

Weather experts say they expect our region to experience a winter that’s, well, pretty normal.

A [seasonal forecast](#) issued Thursday by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Climate Prediction Center calls for temperatures in our area to be about average, and the same goes for precipitation.

That suggests the Boston area can expect snowfall totals to be roughly in line with historical averages.



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Boston normally gets about 33 inches of snow during meteorological winter — from December through February — and about another 10 inches in the weeks just before and after that stretch.

However, NOAA cautions that its seasonal temperature and precipitation outlooks are not necessarily indicators of what to expect in terms of snow.

The agency does not offer any official projections on seasonal snowfall totals, which tend to be heavily dependent on the strength and track of individual storms. Those are generally not predictable more than a week out.

“Regardless of the outlook, there is always some chance for extreme winter weather, so prepare now for what might come later this winter,” said a statement from Mike



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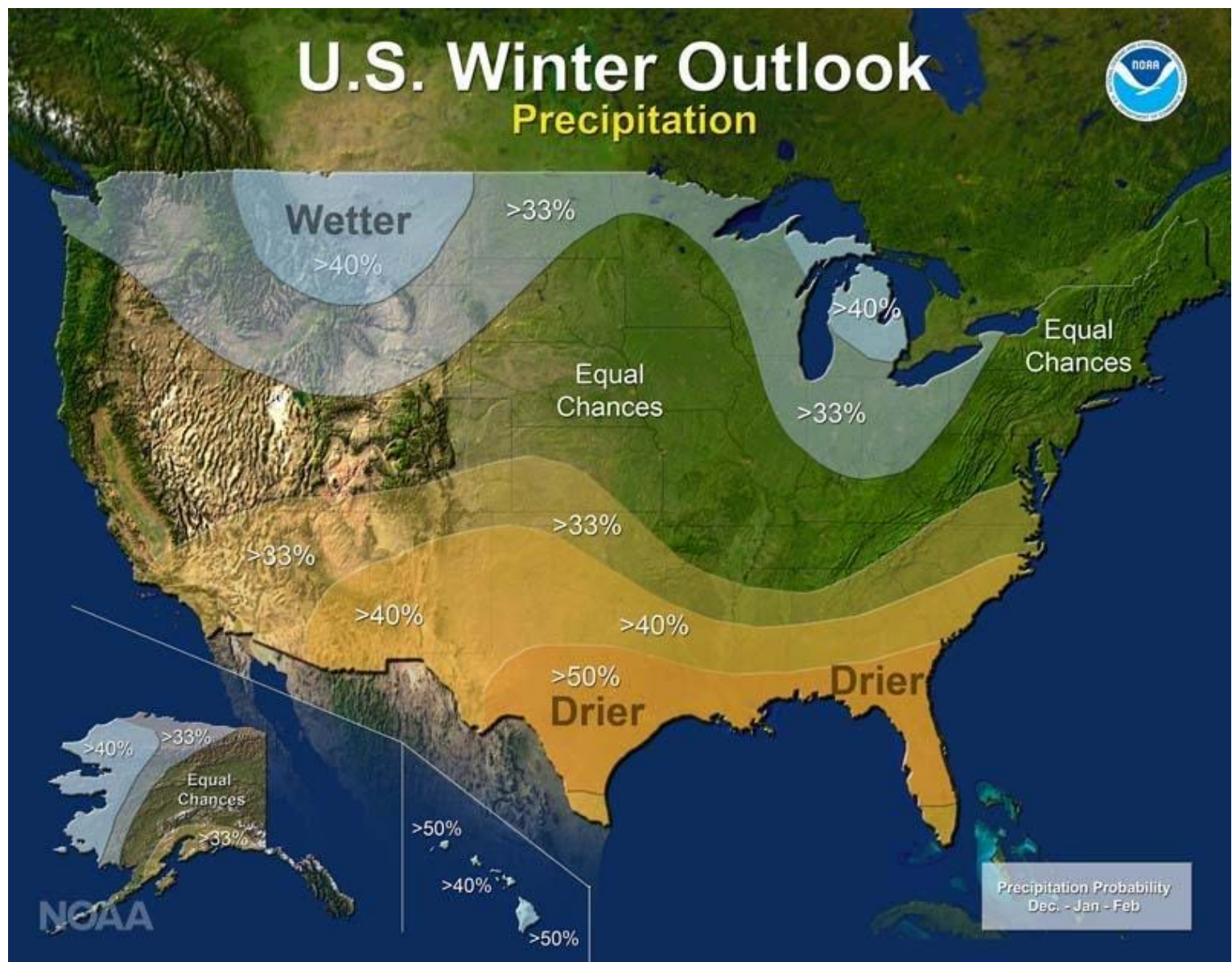
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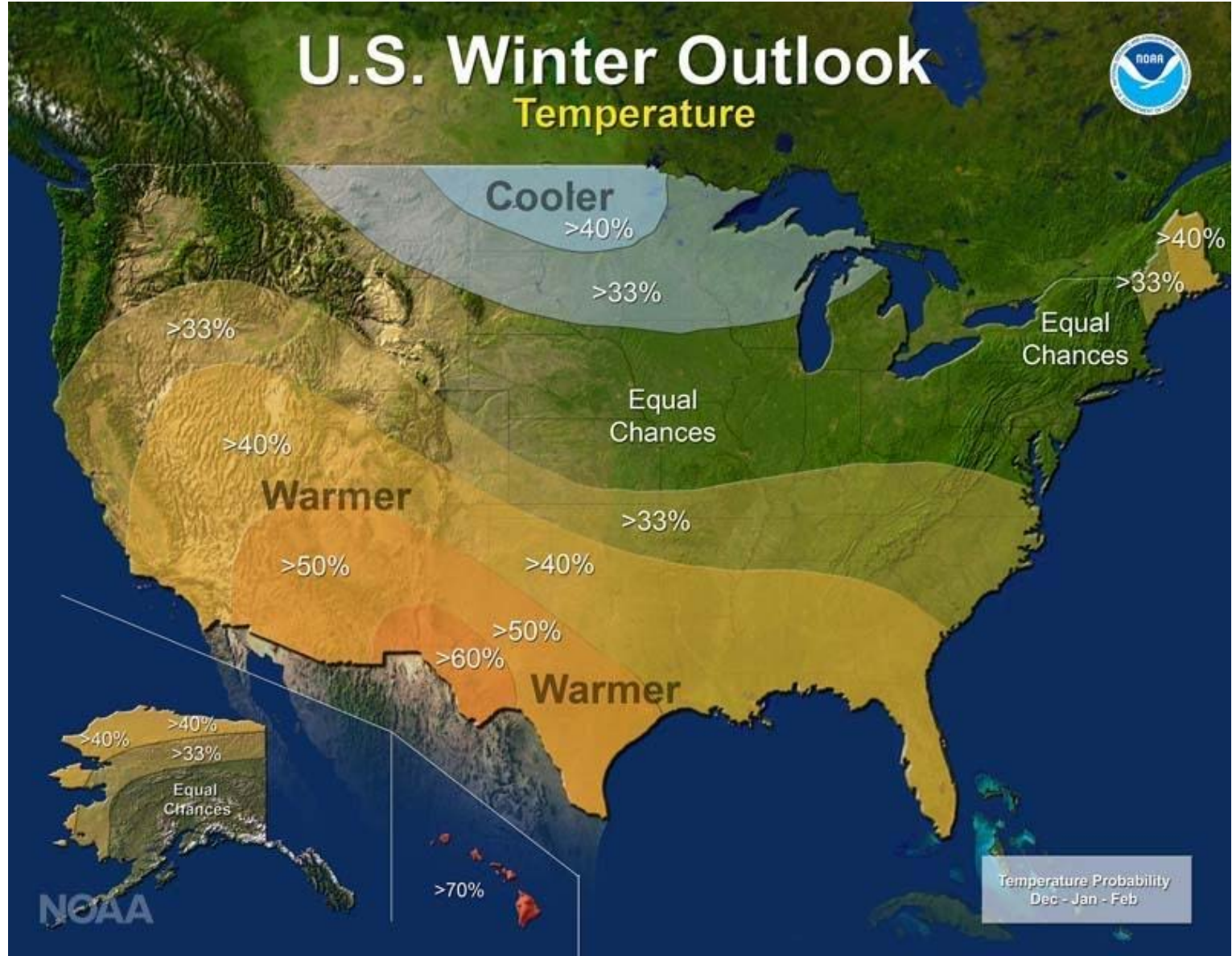
Halpert, deputy director of the Climate Prediction Center.

Meanwhile, the agency said to expect the [ongoing drought](#) in our region to persist through at least the end of January.

average,
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NOAA

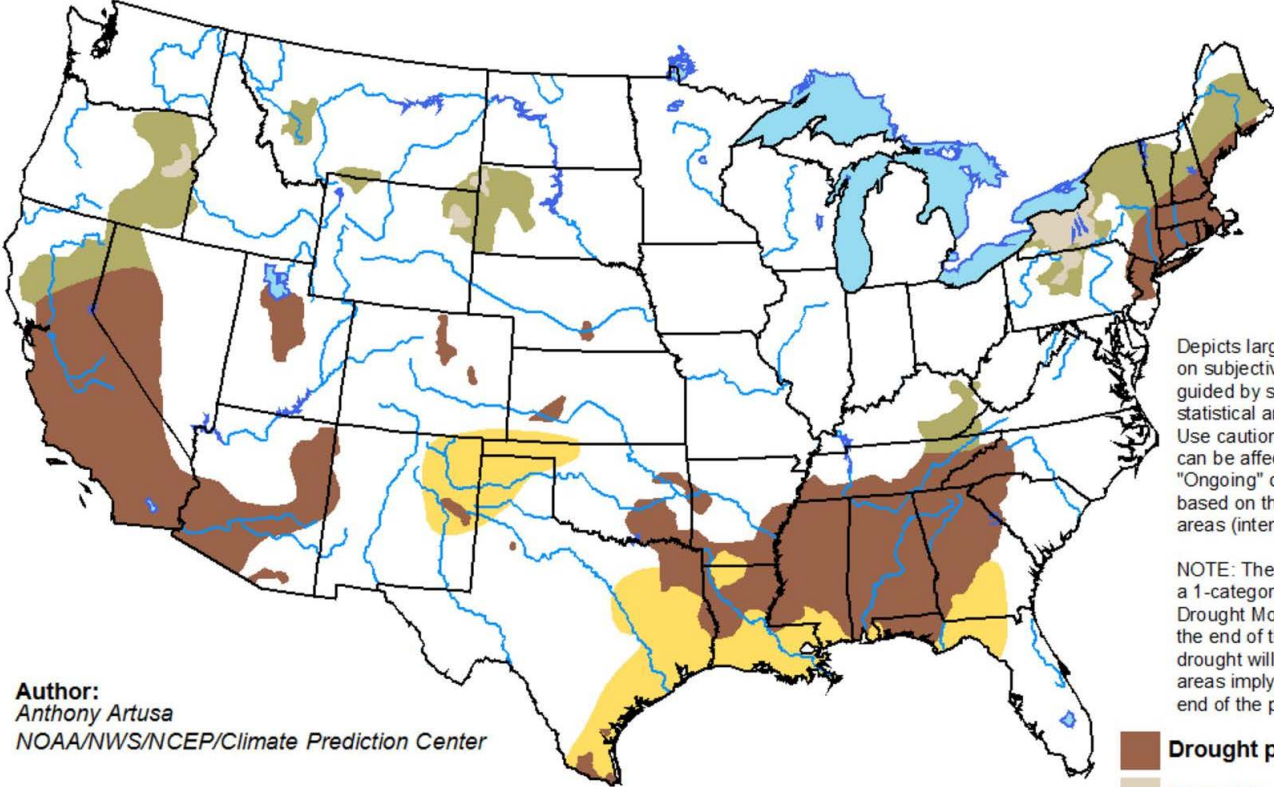


NOAA

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 20 - January 31, 2017
Released October 20, 2016



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

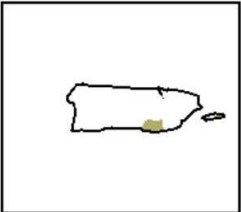
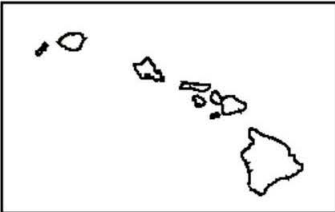
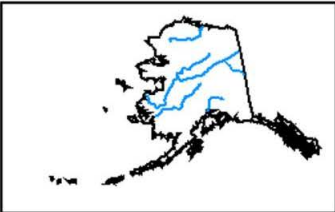
NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

Author:
Anthony Artusa
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



NOAA

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele)

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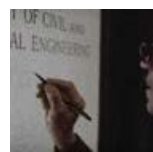
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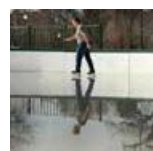
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If a name appears written in black letters on a professor’s office door at MIT, it’s more likely than not that Glenn Silva put it there. [MORE...](#)



With too few nurses for kids’ home care, parents push for action

The parents of severely ill children are hoping Beacon Hill will raise reimbursement rates for nurses who care for kids in their homes. [MORE...](#)



Another spring-like day before temperatures plummet

The unseasonable weather, which came on a damp day, matched a mark set on Jan. 12, 1975, and in 1913. [MORE...](#)

Double stabbing near Boston Common

Two men were stabbed on Tremont Street just before 4 p.m. Thursday, police said. [MORE...](#)



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Robert F. Kennedy took on some of the Kennedy Administration’s hardest tasks, ones that created dangerous foes, and after the assassination, RFK wondered if one of them had done it. [MORE...](#)



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Blackstone man sought in murder of his elderly father

Worcester District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. declined to say how Walter Armstrong, 83, was killed. [MORE...](#)



Naturopaths get their own licensing board in Mass.

Governor Charlie Baker signed into law a controversial bill that lincenses the alternative medicine practitioners. [MORE...](#)



Once a refugee, she welcomes newcomers at an uncertain time

Mary Truong, executive director of the state’s Office for Refugees and Immigrants, hopes her example will help others like her. [MORE...](#)



In Trump’s middle America, a sense of optimism

“I’m feeling good about America,” a small-business owner in Bellevue, Ohio, said. [MORE...](#)



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