

Appendix 1. Drought in Connecticut in 2022

Flows were at or above normal in April but began decreasing in May 2022 when 7 of the 11 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) streamgages experienced below normal conditions. Flow at most streamgages increased slightly in June but returned to below normal to much below normal conditions through July and August (fig. 3A). The 2022 low streamflow conditions are comparable with, and in many cases, dropped below conditions recorded in the 2020 drought, for example, at the Little River near Hanover, Conn. (01123000) USGS streamgage (fig. 1.1). Streamflows across the State reached their lowest values at the end of August or beginning of September, when streamflows quickly increased and fluctuated around normal to above normal conditions through September.

Most groundwater monitoring wells indicated normal to above normal water levels in April but steadily declined to below 25-year normal levels during the summer months (fig. 3B). In April, water levels in 17 of 19 wells were normal or above normal for the month, but by August, 15 of the 19 wells had water levels that were below normal (for example, at the CT-SC 22 Scotland [414240072033201] USGS monitoring well in Scotland, Conn.; fig. 1.2), and 4 wells had groundwater levels that were a 25-year low for August (fig. 3B). In September, water levels in some wells in Connecticut recovered, with only 9 of the 16 wells indicating below normal conditions.

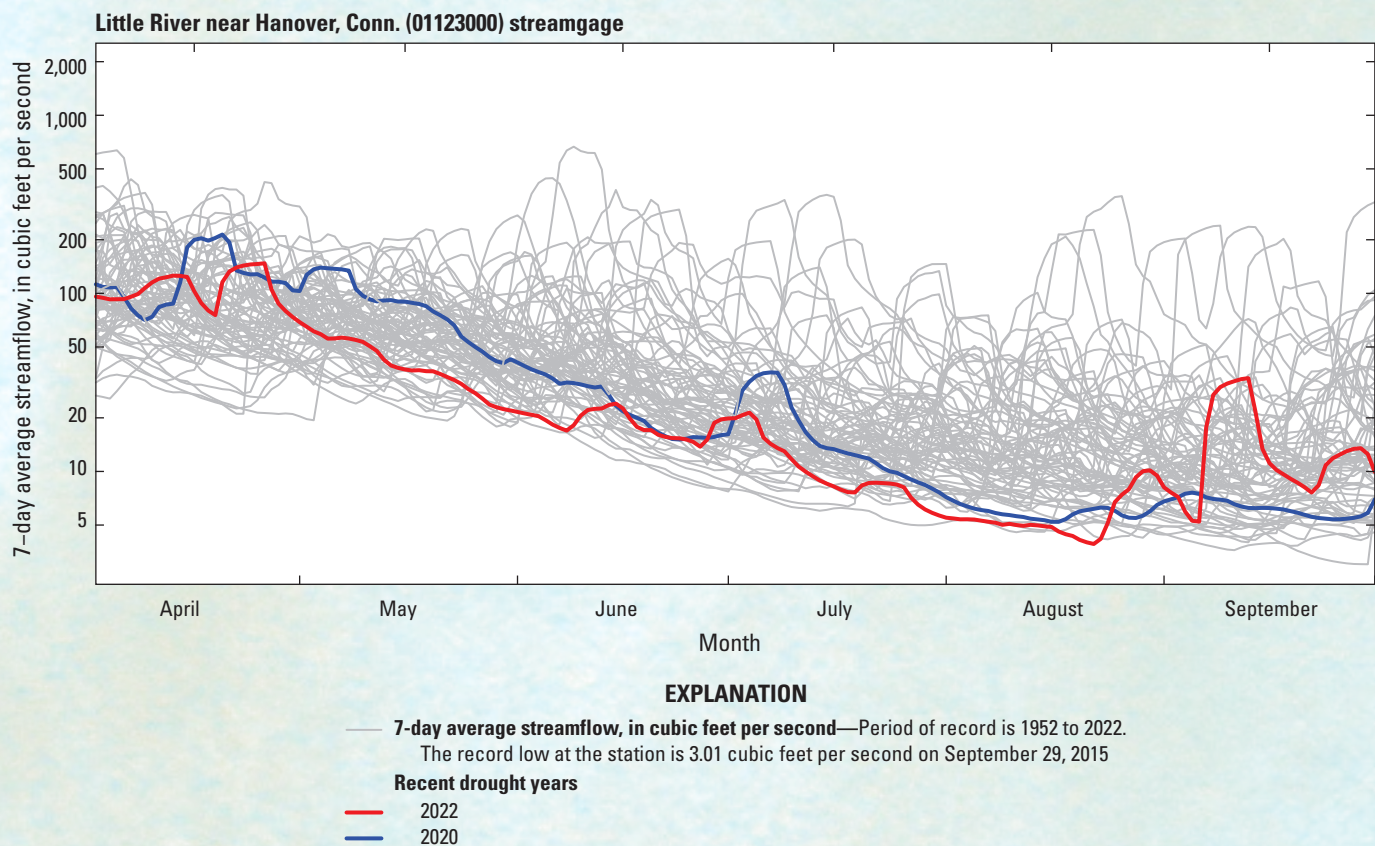


Figure 1.1. Graph showing the moving average 7-day flows at the Little River near Hanover, Conn. (01123000) U.S. Geological streamgage for April through September for the streamgage period of record.

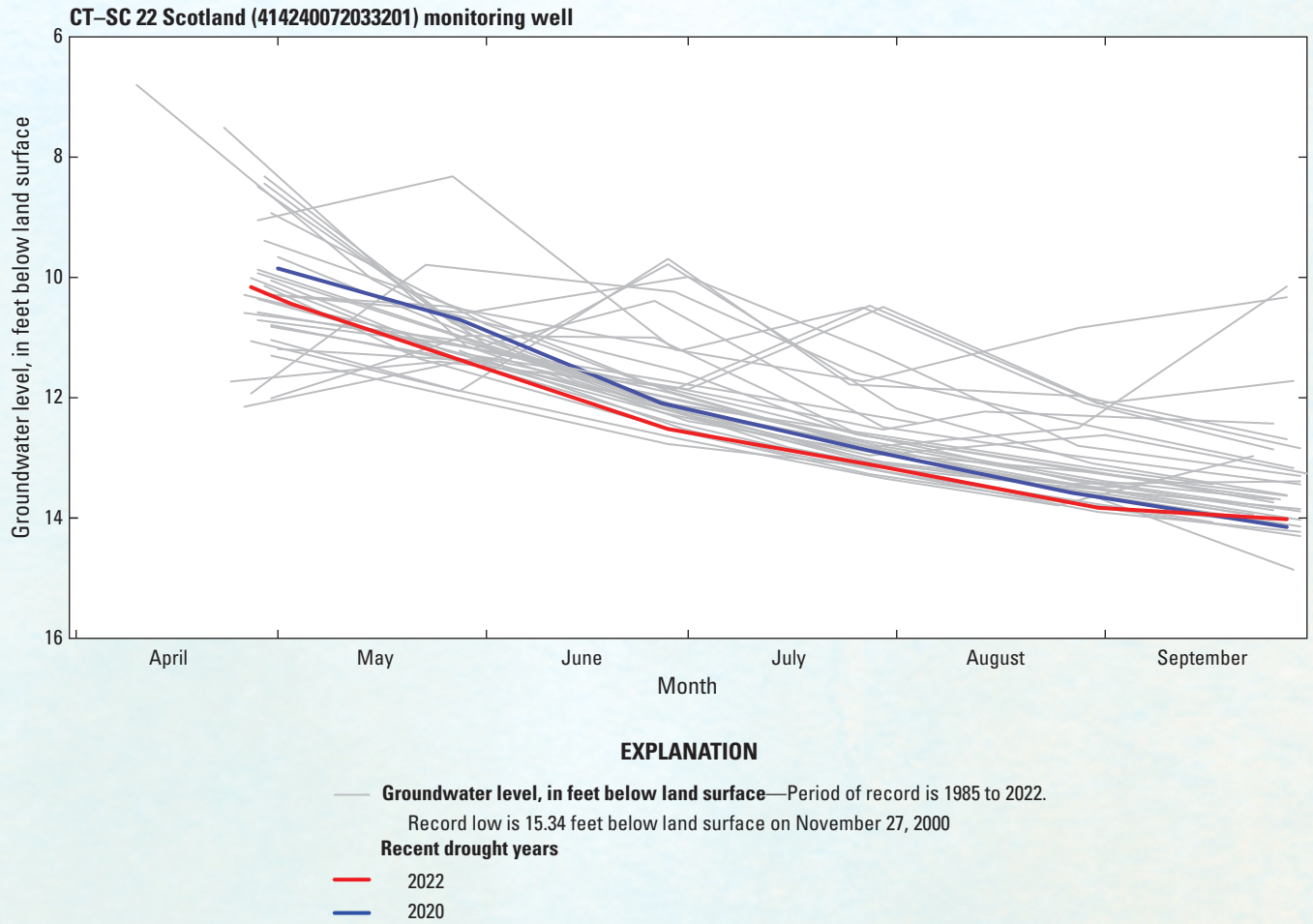


Figure 1.2. Graph showing monthly groundwater levels at the CT-SC 22 Scotland (414240072033201) monitoring well in Scotland, Conn., for April through September for the well's period of record.