



# Great Lakes Climate Change Hydrologic Impact Assessment IJC Lake Ontario—St. Lawrence River Regulation Study

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Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance  
Stormwater Conference 2007  
and  
University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute  
Wisconsin Coastal Management Program  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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Green Bay, Wisconsin

# Climate Data



## Climate Changes

"Base Case" Scenario (Historical)

Extract Differences for Each Month of Year

Extract Ratios for Each Month of Year

Apply Ratios & Differences to Base Case



## Modeling Procedure

- Arbitrary Initial Conditions

- Estimate "Steady-State" Conditions

  - repeat 52-yr simulation

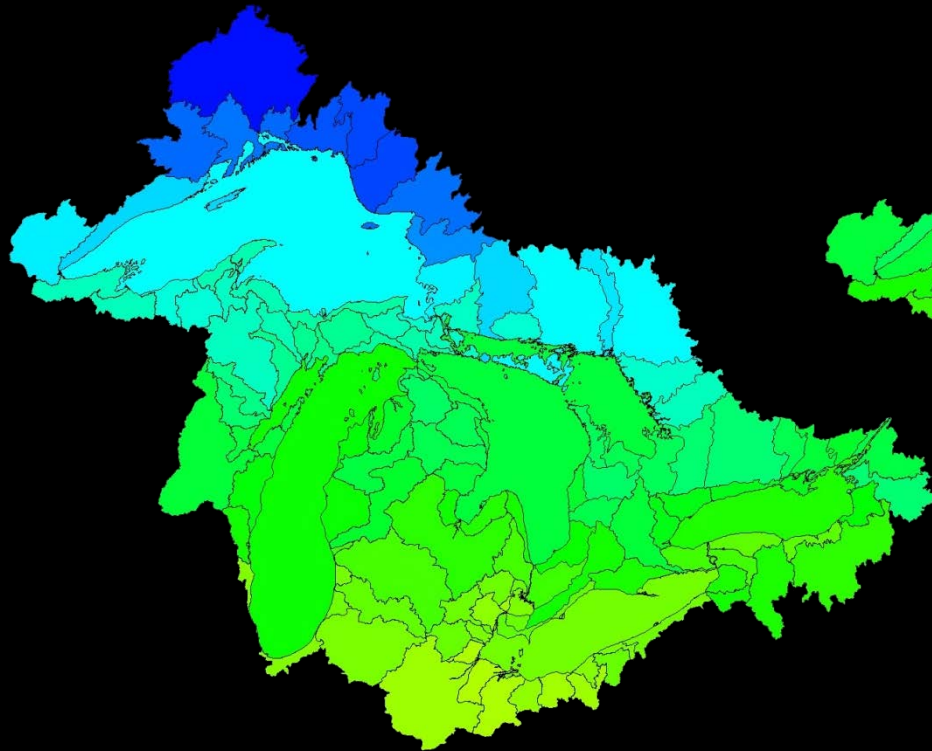
- Simulate for All Scenarios (Including Base Case)

  - 121 watersheds and 7 lakes

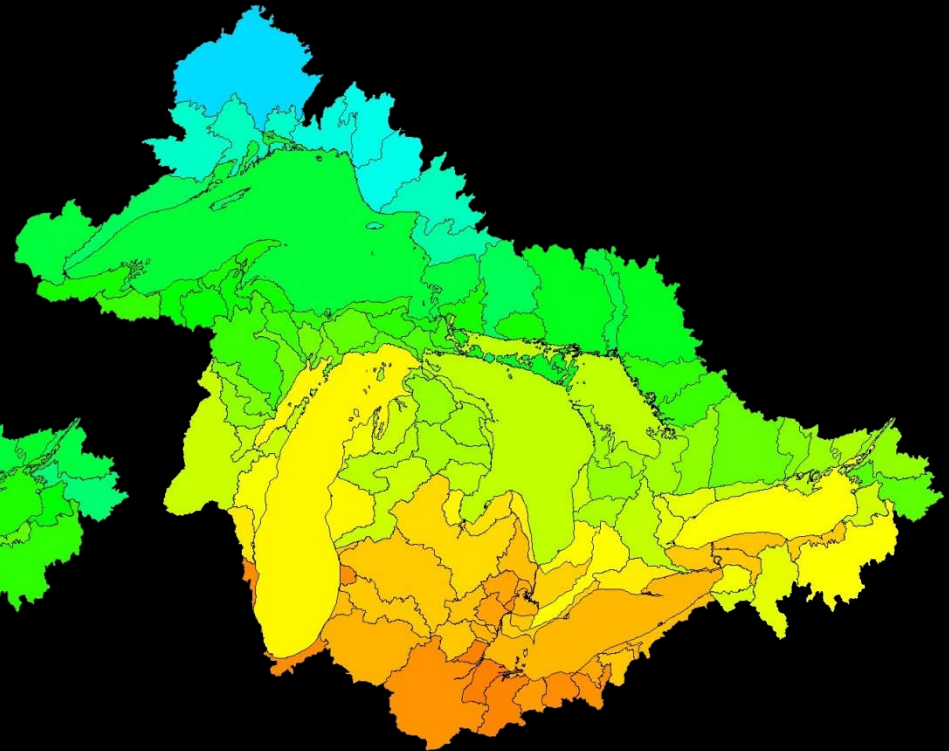
- Interpret Differences As Hydrology Impacts

# Climate Scenarios (Average Air Temperature, 0–15°C)

Base Case

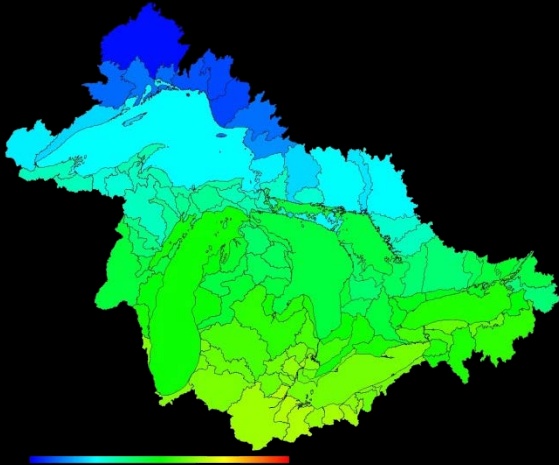


Canadian GCM 2, warm & dry

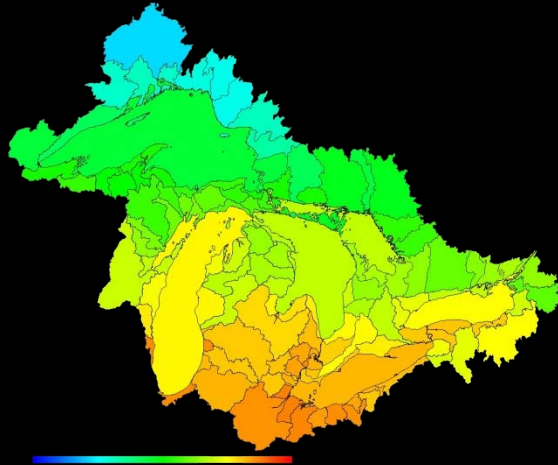


# Climate Scenarios (Average Air Temperature, 0–15°C)

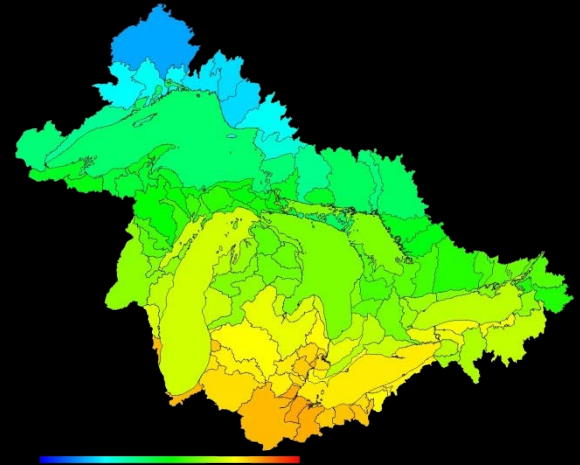
Base Case



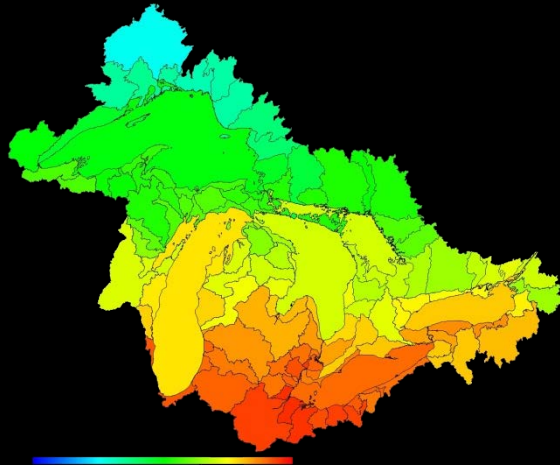
Warm & Dry



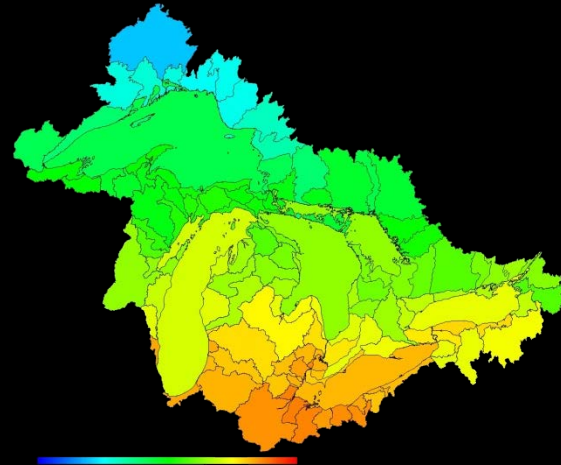
Cool & Dry



Warm & Wet

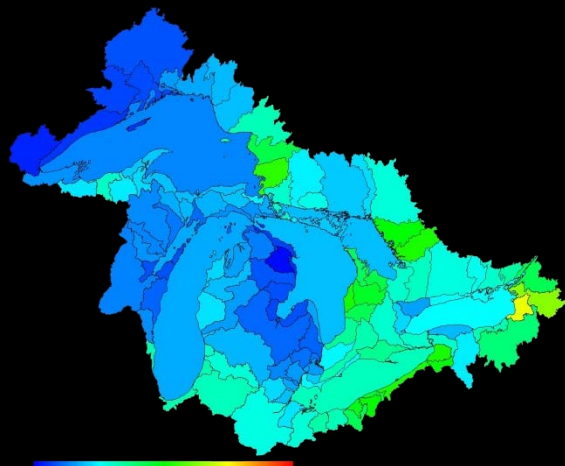


Cool & Wet

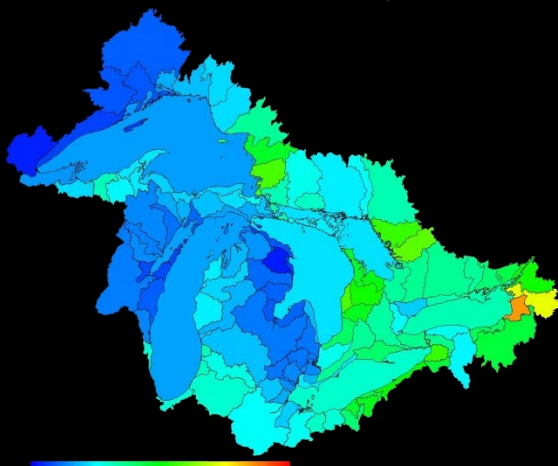


# Climate Scenarios (Average Annual Precipitation, 0.7—1.4 m)

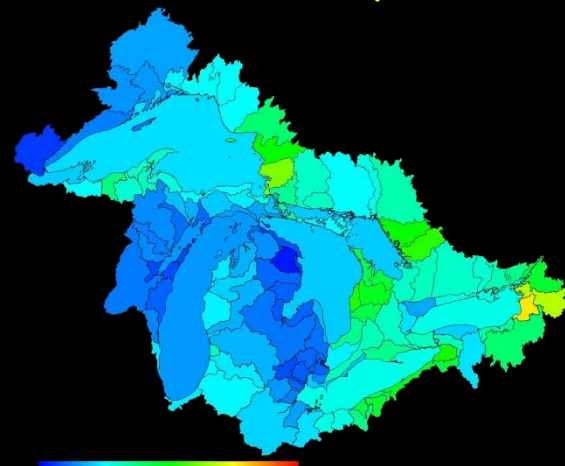
Base Case



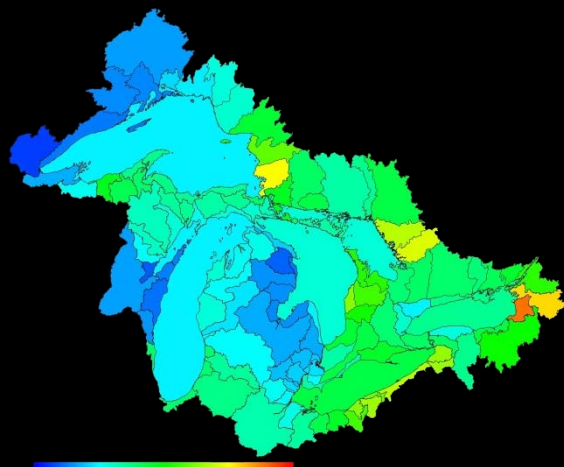
Warm & Dry



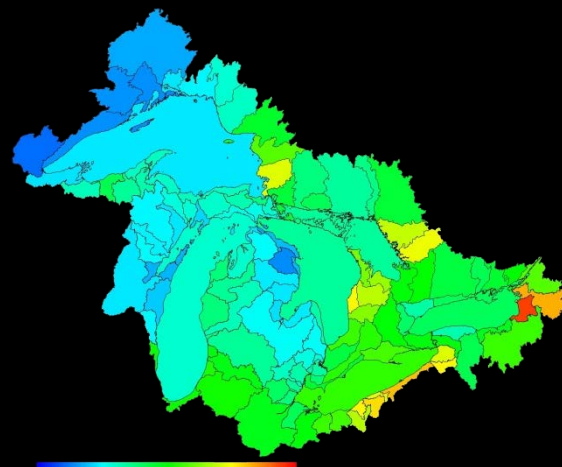
Cool & Dry



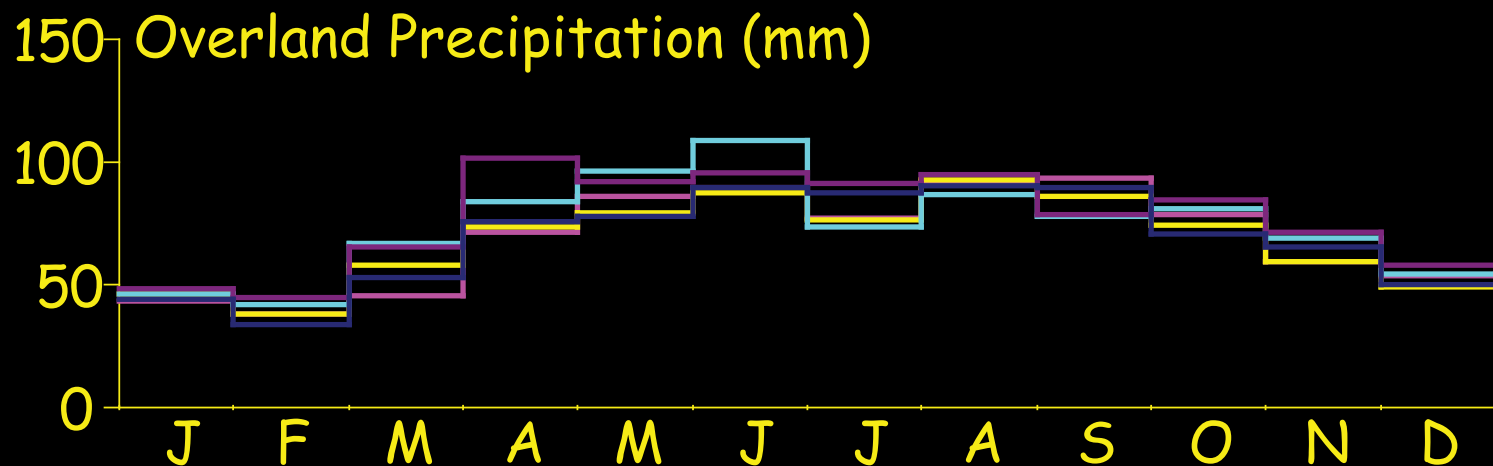
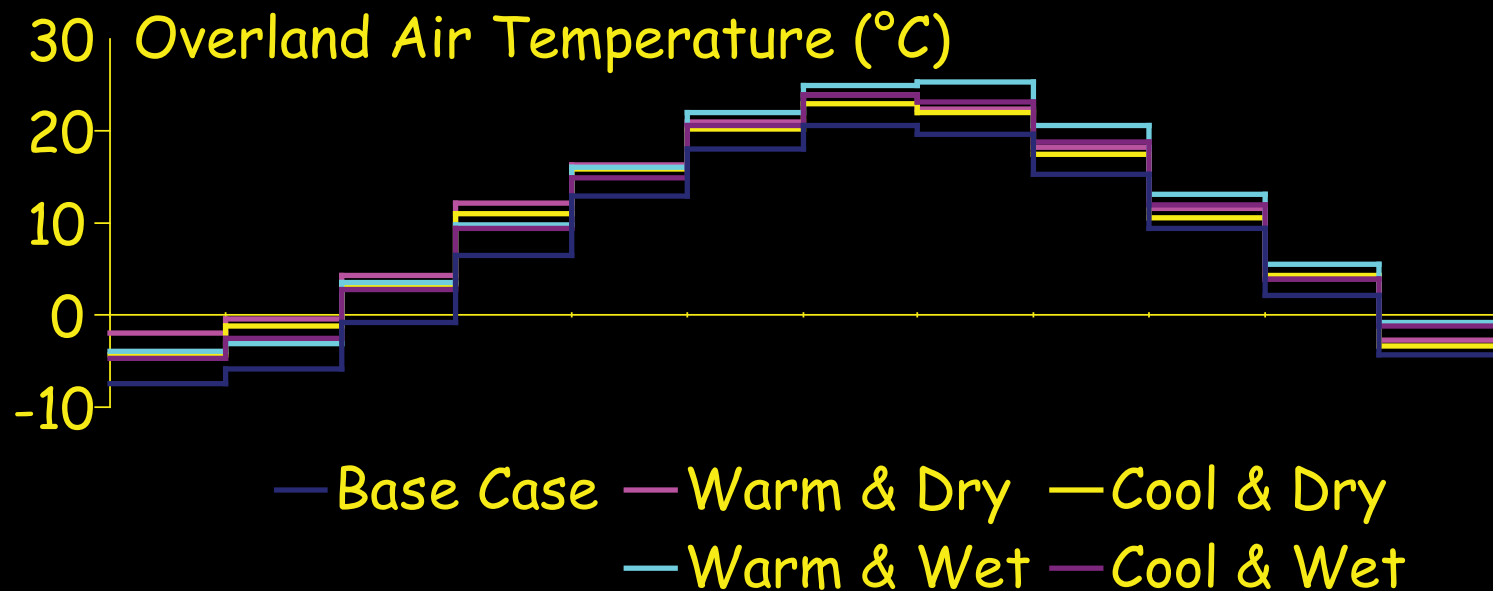
Warm & Wet



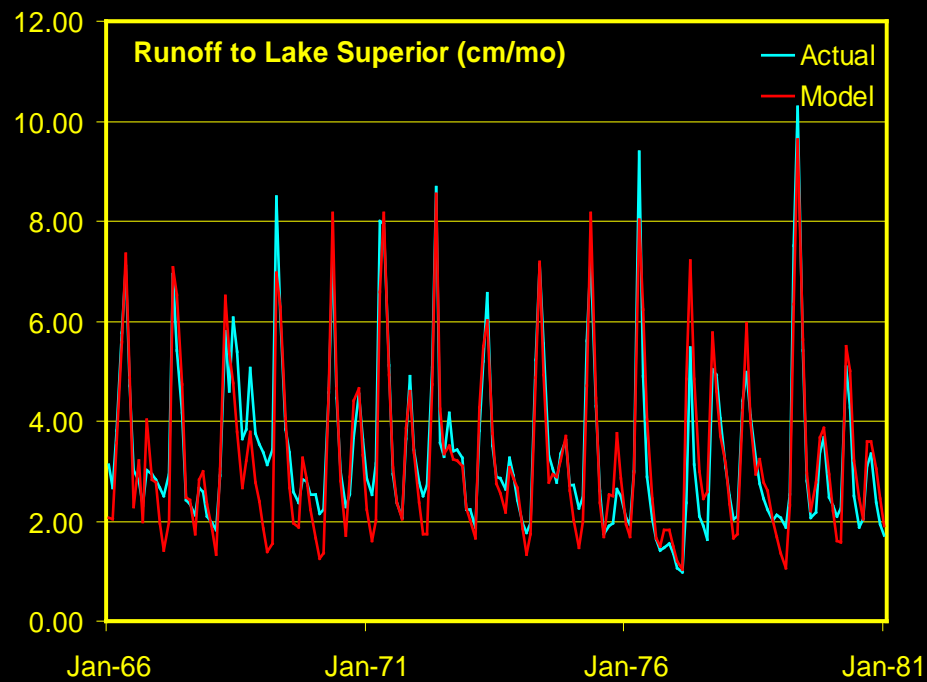
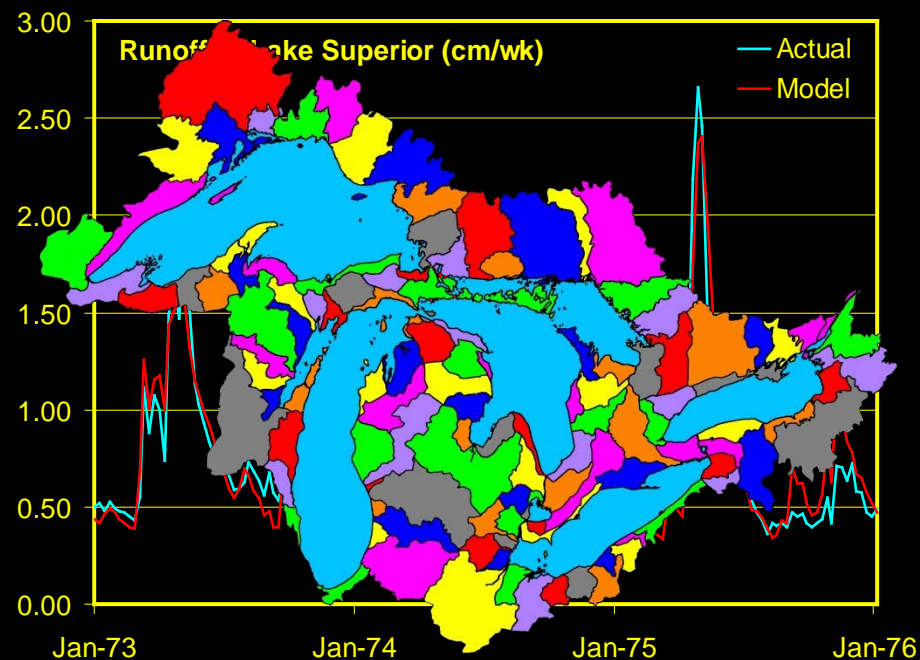
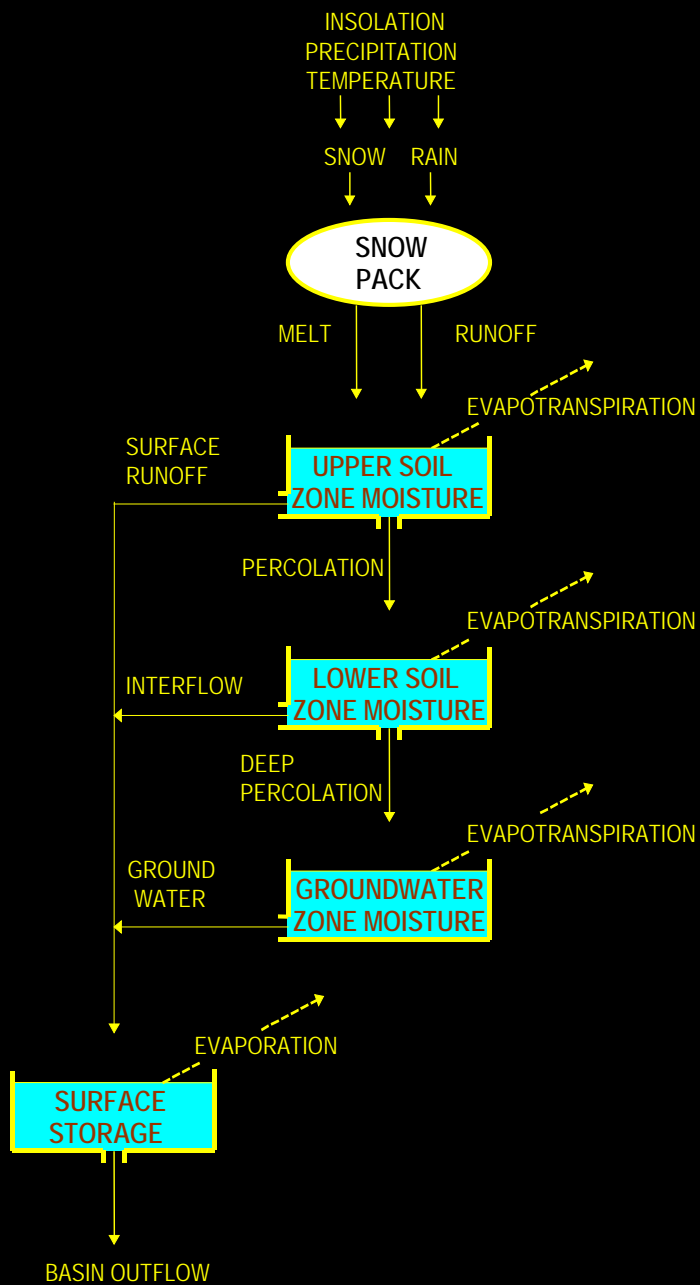
Cool & Wet



# Climate Scenarios (Michigan Seasonal Meteorology)





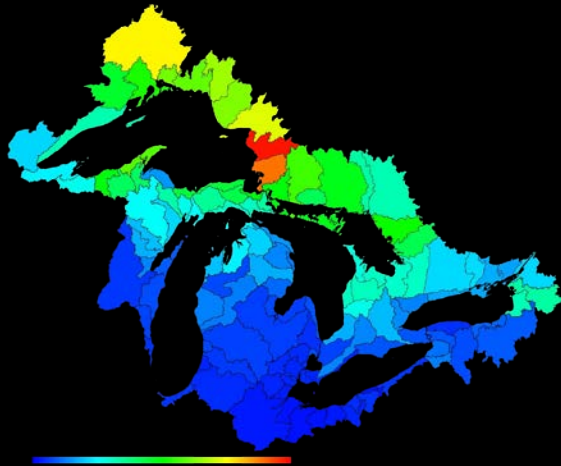




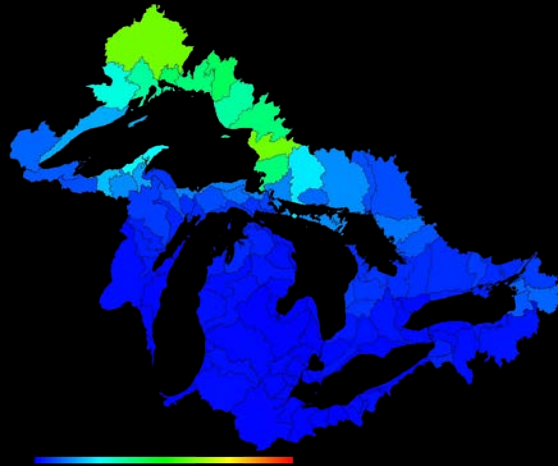


# Basin Response (Average Snow Water Moisture, 0—9 cm)

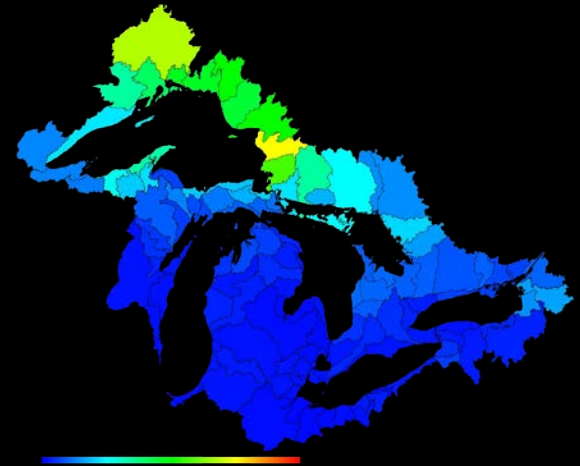
Base Case



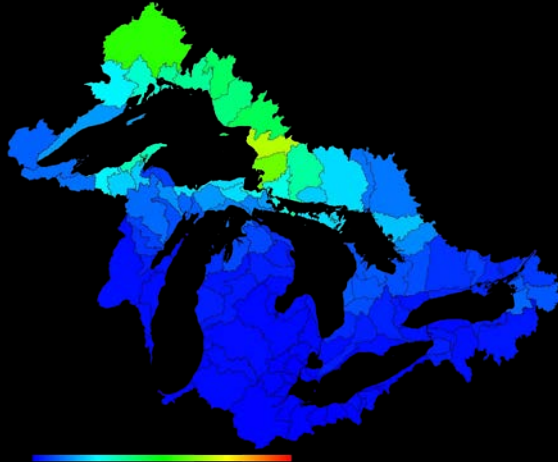
Warm & Dry



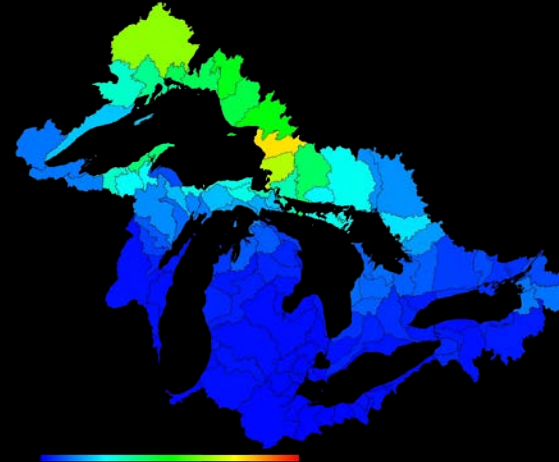
Cool & Dry



Warm & Wet

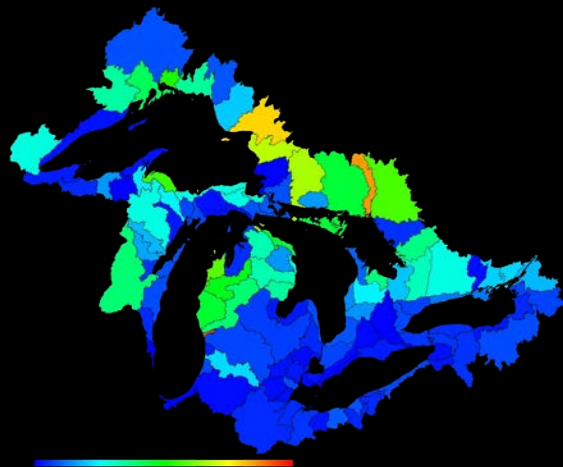


Cool & Wet

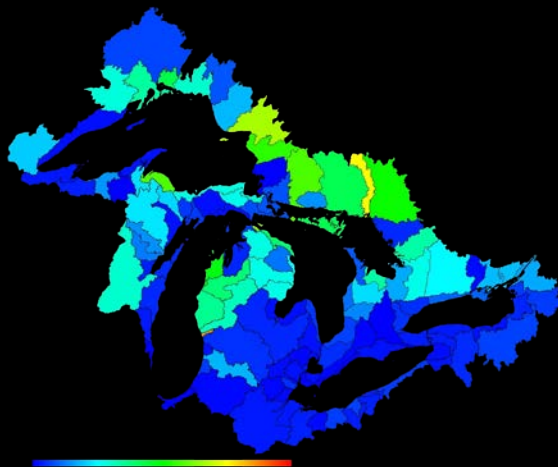


# Basin Response (Average Soil Moisture, 0—1.7 m)

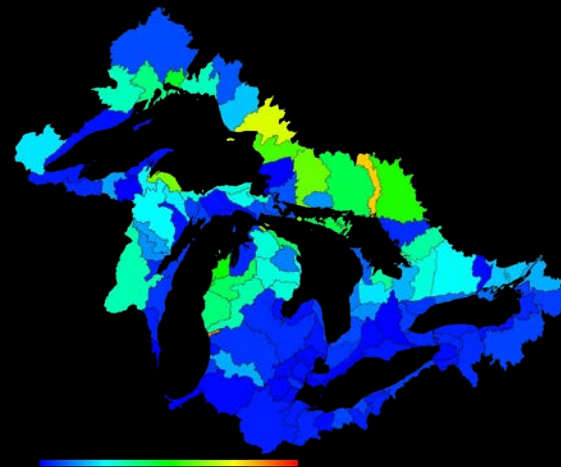
Base Case



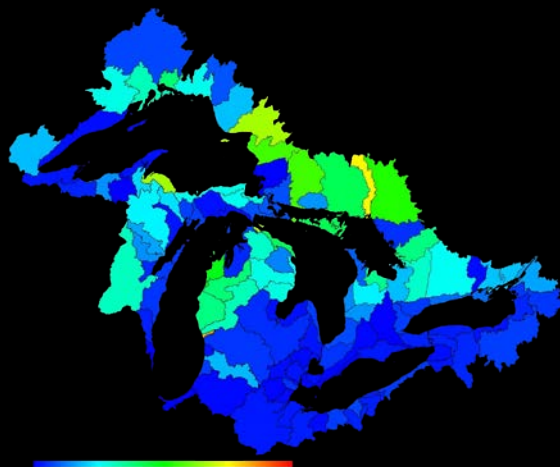
Warm & Dry



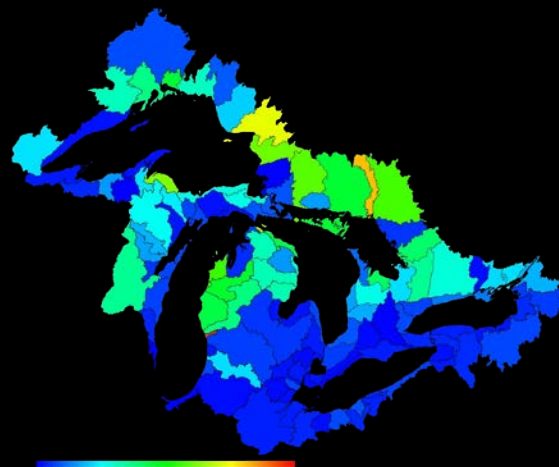
Cool & Dry



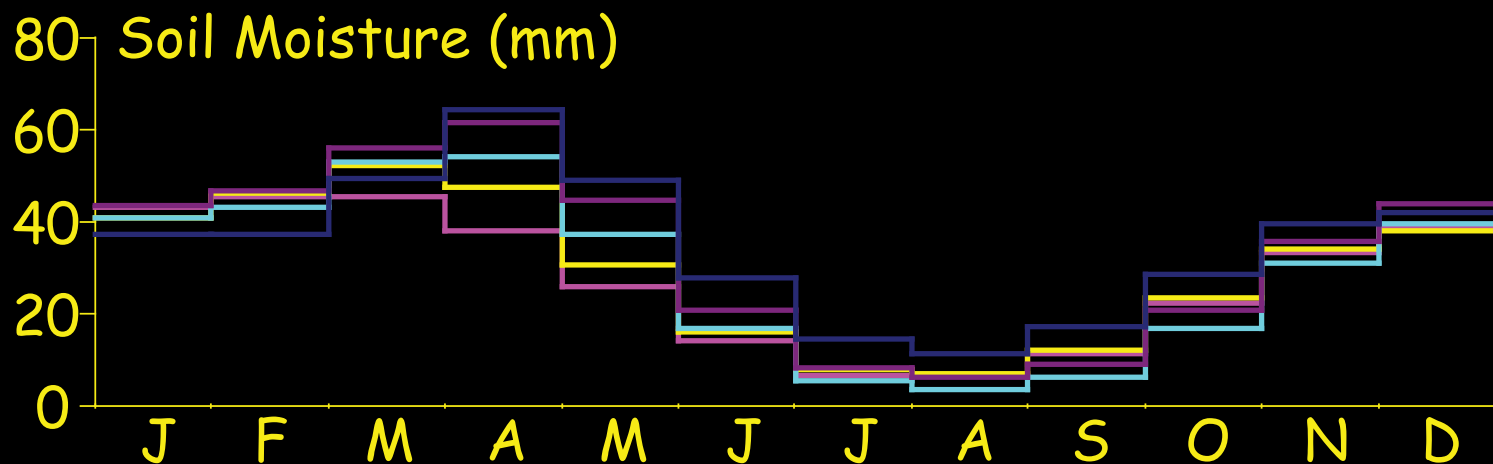
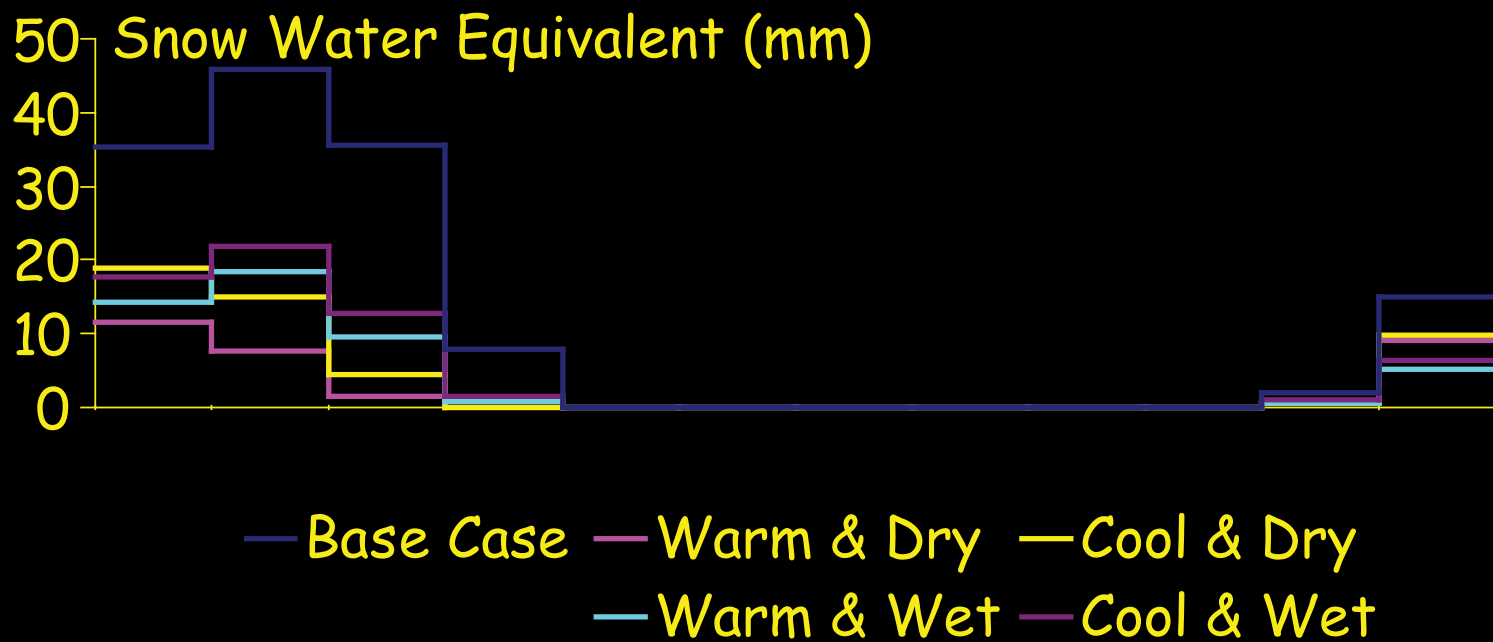
Warm & Wet



Cool & Wet



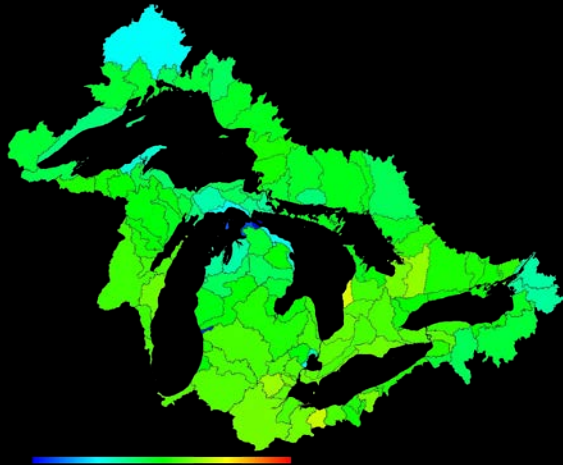
# Basin Response (Michigan Seasonal Storages)



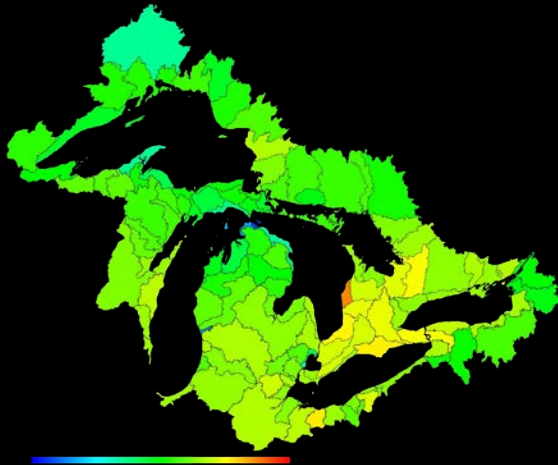


# Basin Response (Average Ann. Evapotranspiration, 0.1–0.9 m)

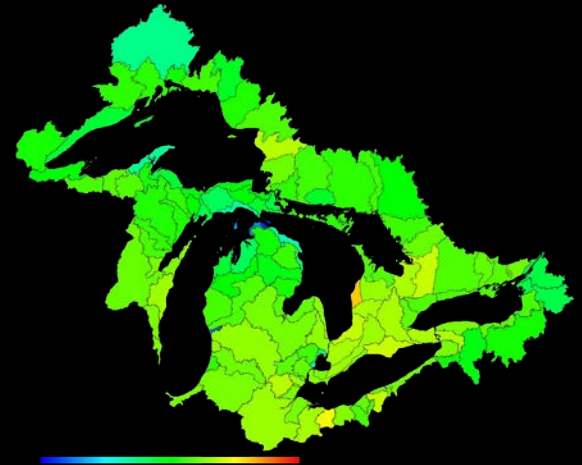
Base Case



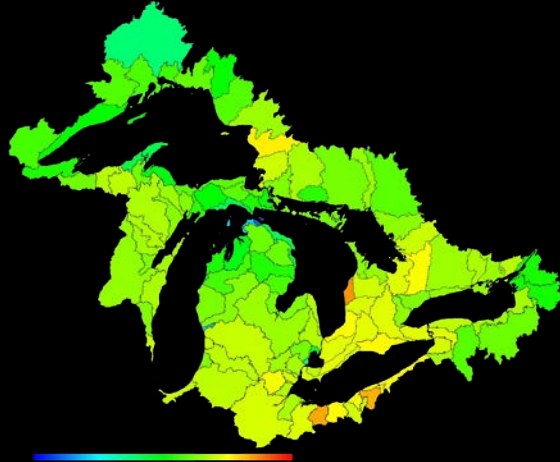
Warm & Dry



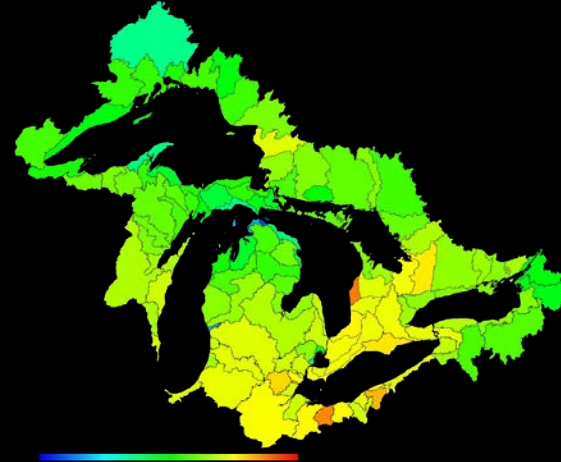
Cool & Dry



Warm & Wet

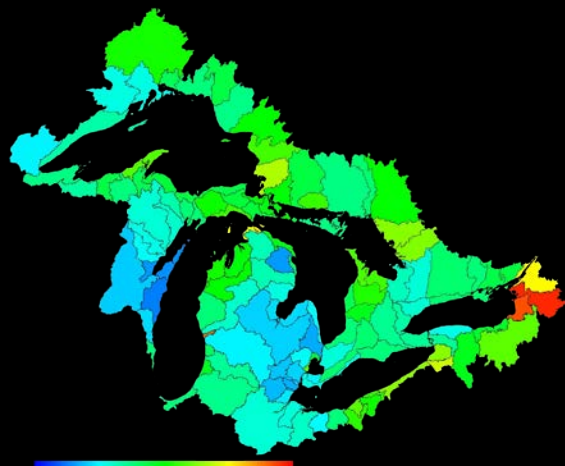


Cool & Wet

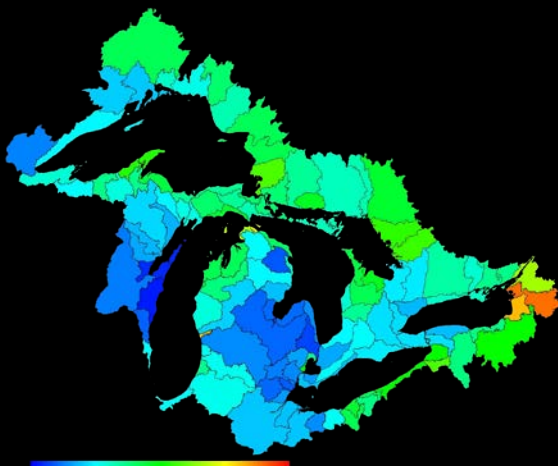


# Basin Response (Average Annual Runoff, 0.1—0.8 m)

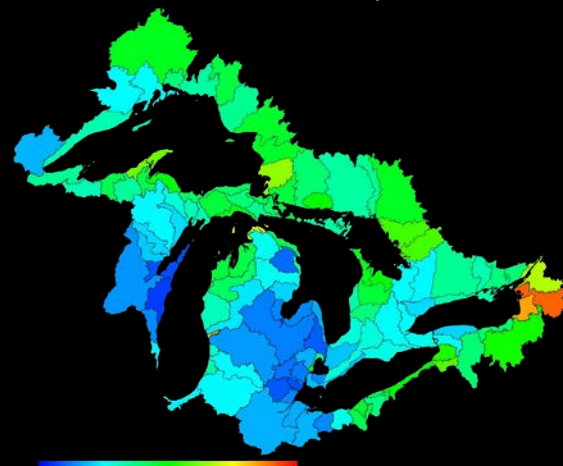
Base Case



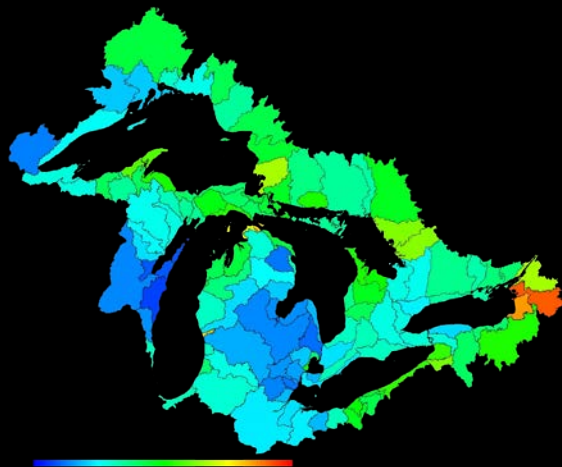
Warm & Dry



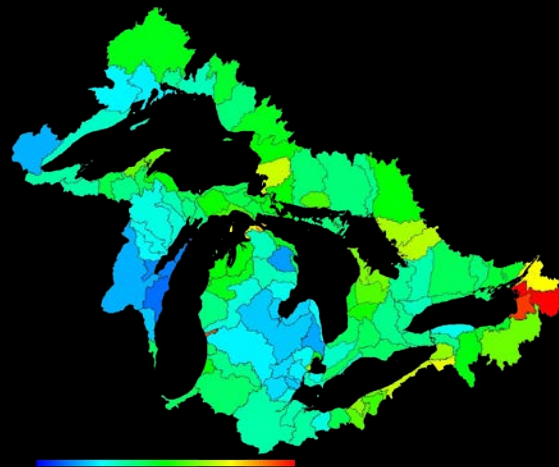
Cool & Dry



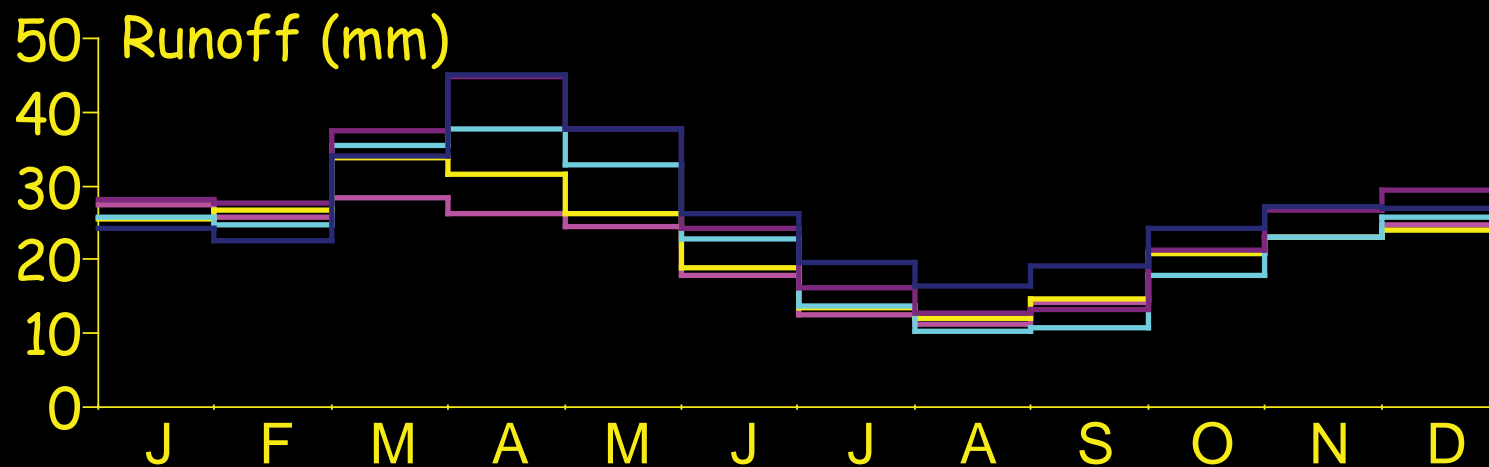
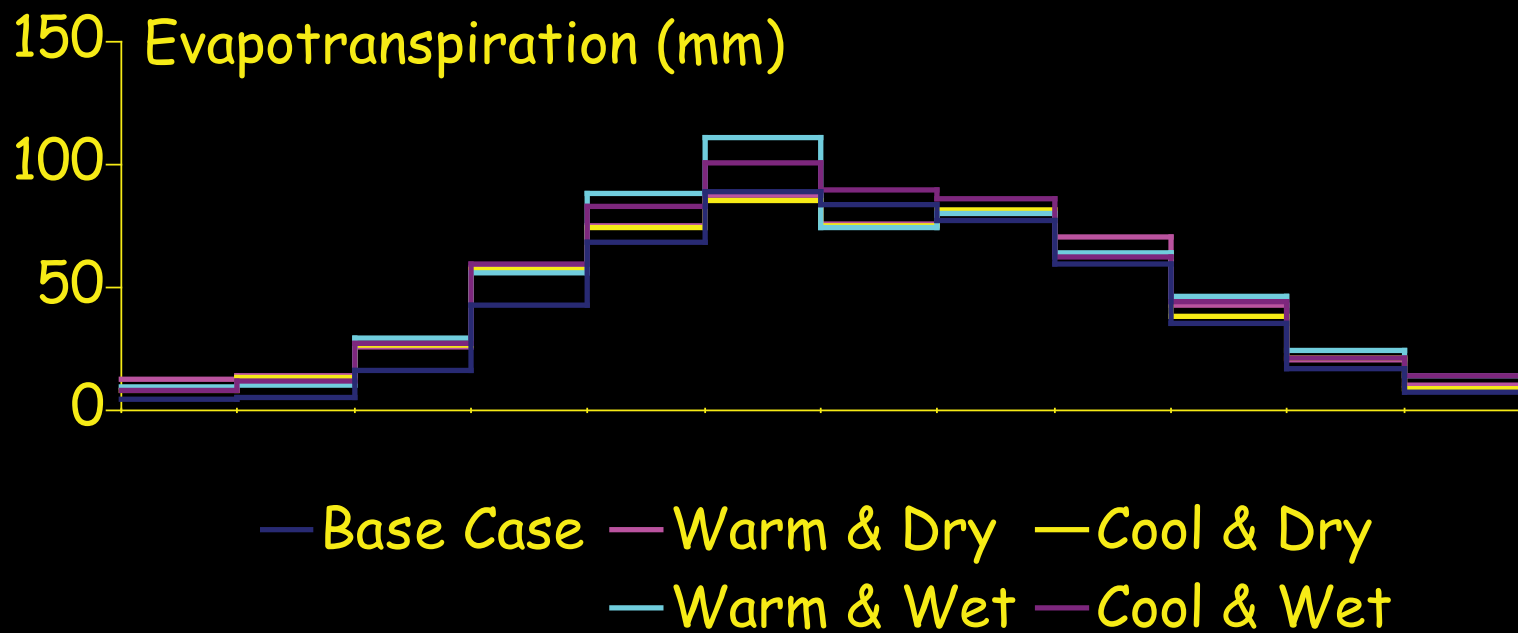
Warm & Wet



Cool & Wet



# Basin Response (Michigan Seasonal Flows)

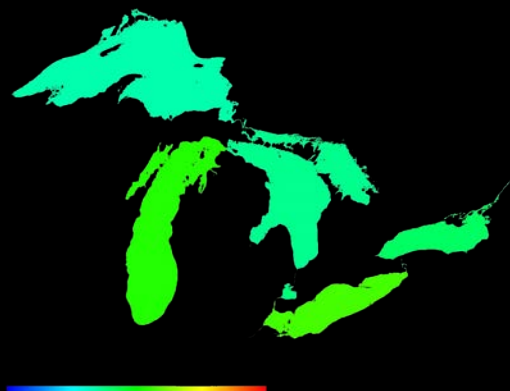




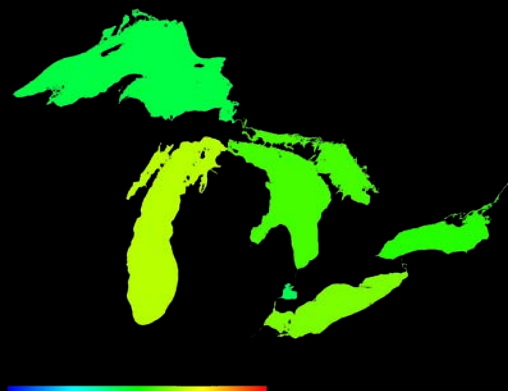


# Climate Scenarios (Average Cloud Cover, 50—70%)

Base Case



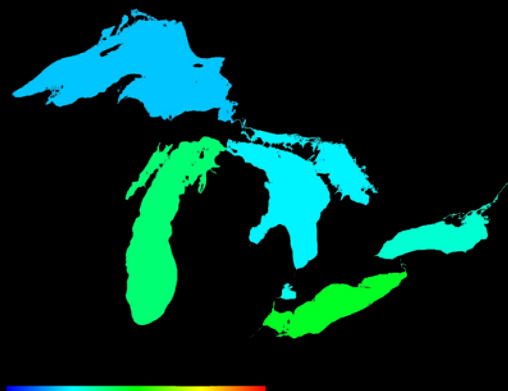
Warm & Dry



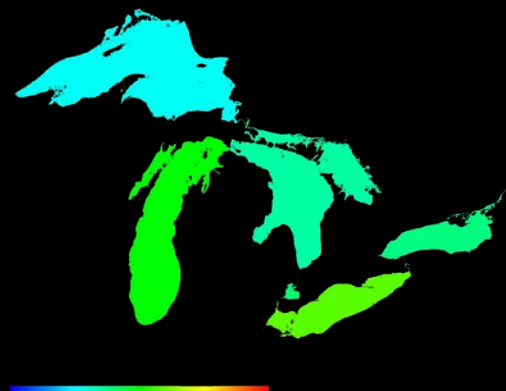
Cool & Dry



Warm & Wet



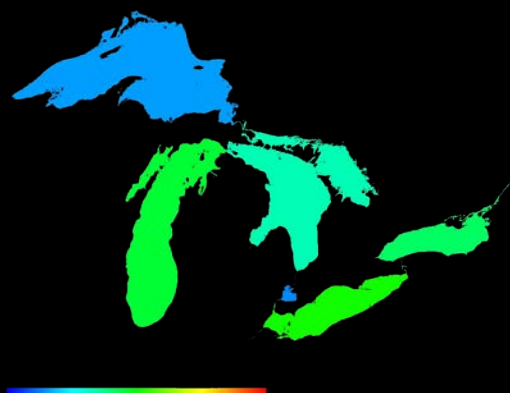
Cool & Wet



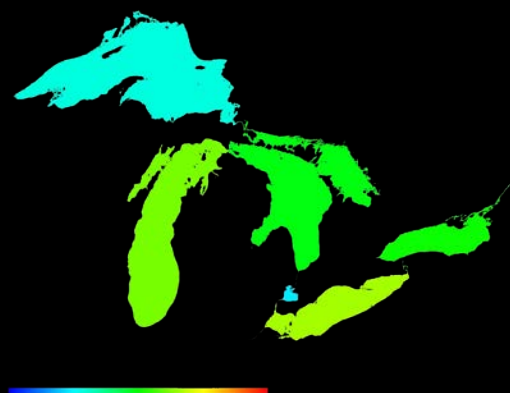


# Climate Scenarios (Average Wind Speed, 5–7 m/s)

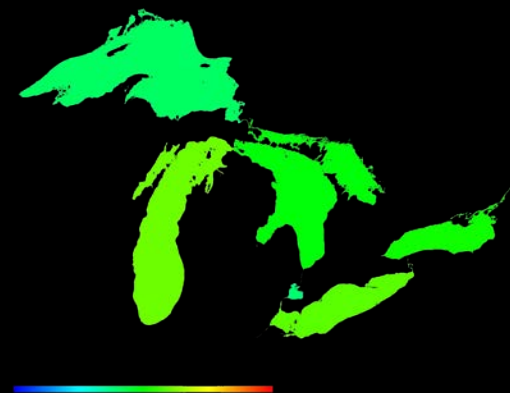
Base Case



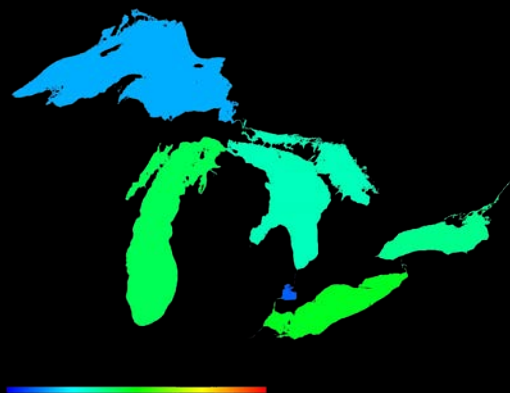
Warm & Dry



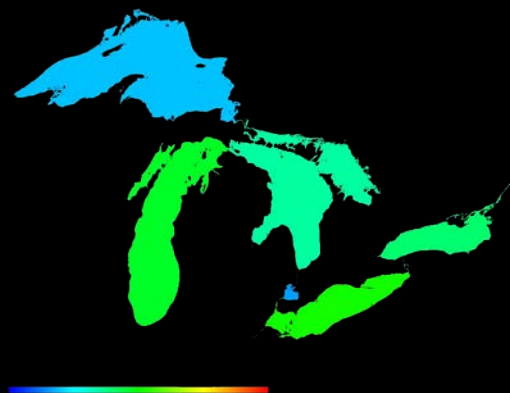
Cool & Dry



Warm & Wet

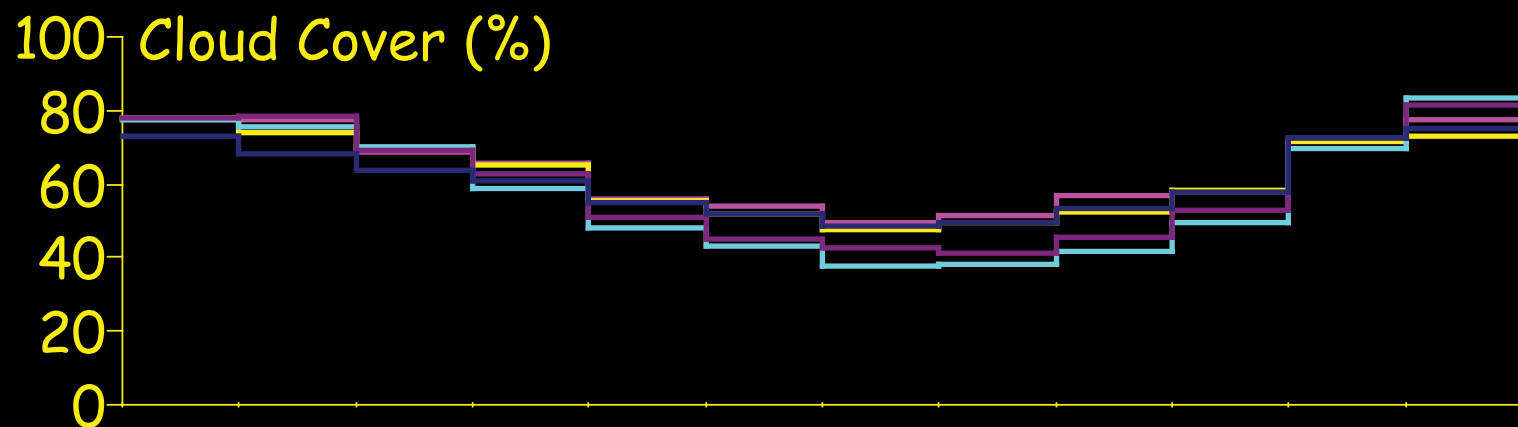


Cool & Wet



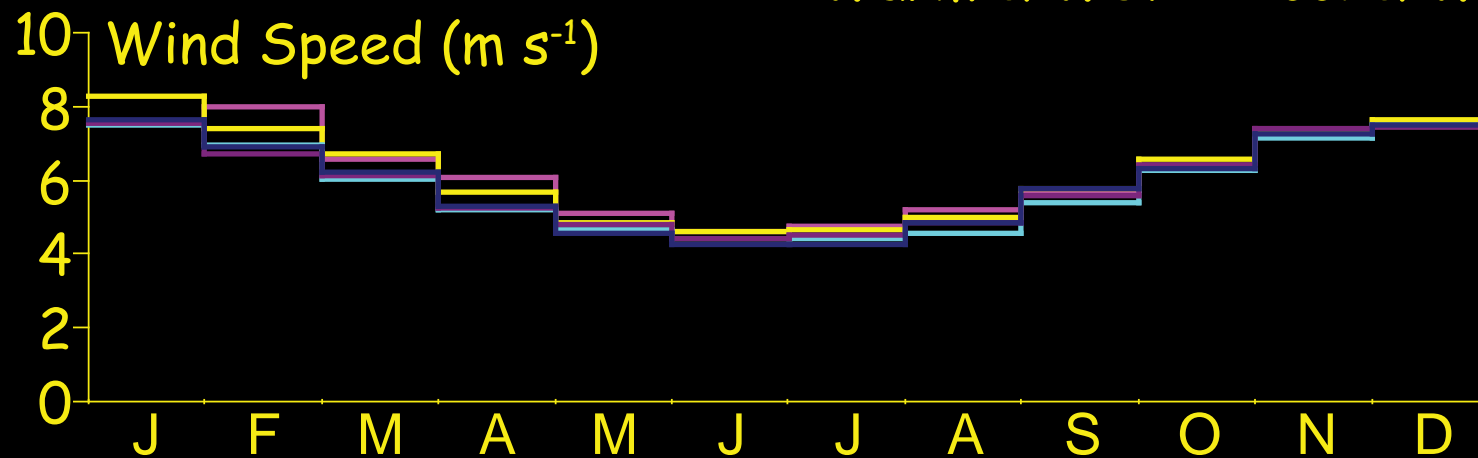
# Lake Response (Michigan Seasonal Meteorology)

Cloud Cover (%)



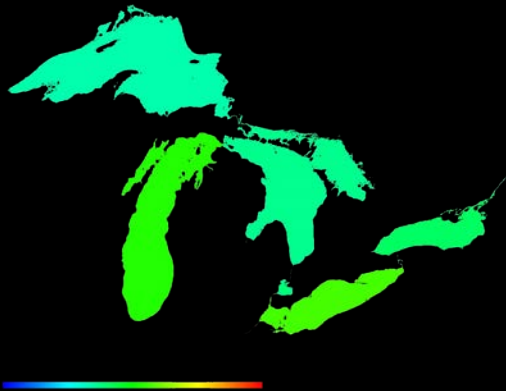
— Base Case — Warm & Dry — Cool & Dry  
— Warm & Wet — Cool & Wet

Wind Speed ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ )

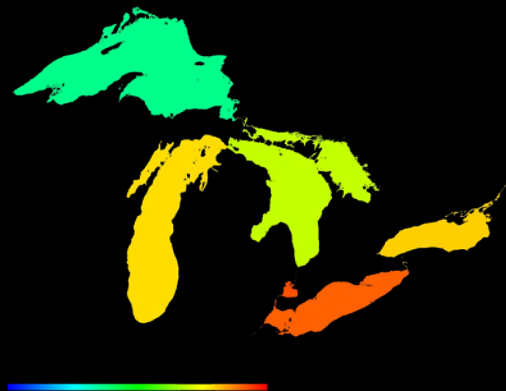


# Climate Scenarios (Average Air Temperature, 3–14°C)

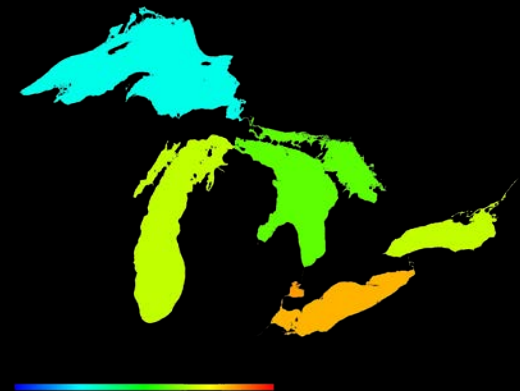
Base Case



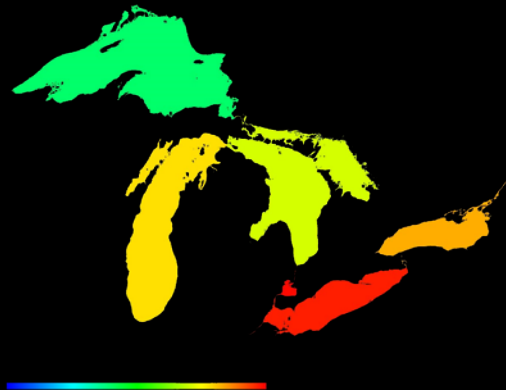
Warm & Dry



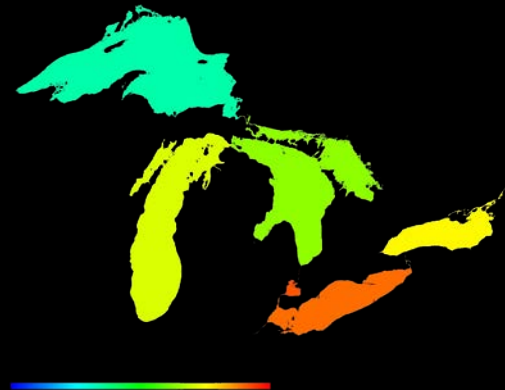
Cool & Dry



Warm & Wet

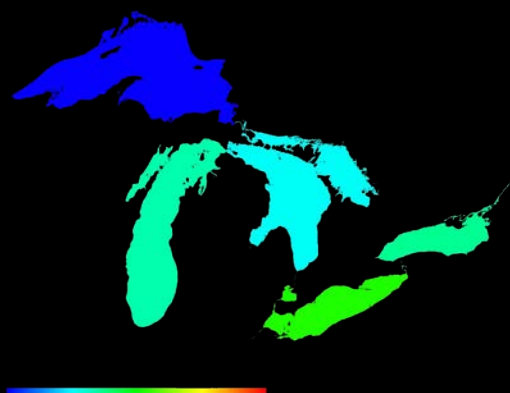


Cool & Wet



# Climate Scenarios (Average Absolute Humidity, 7–14 mb)

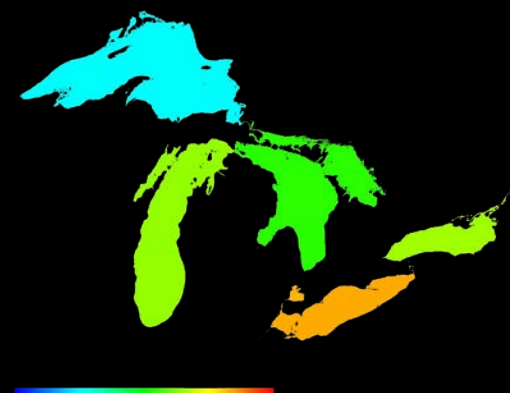
Base Case



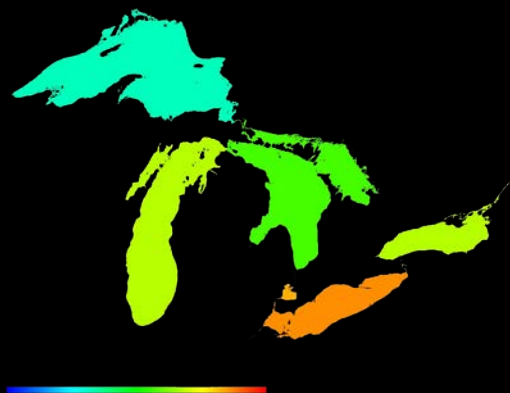
Warm & Dry



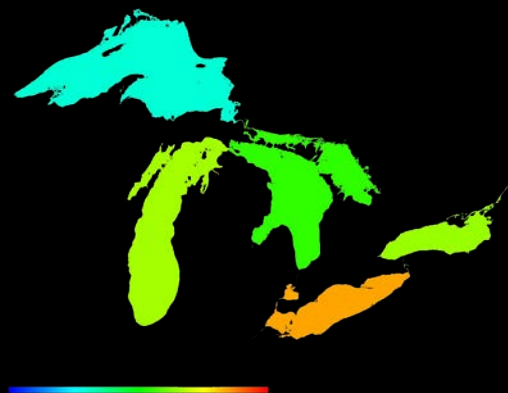
Cool & Dry



Warm & Wet

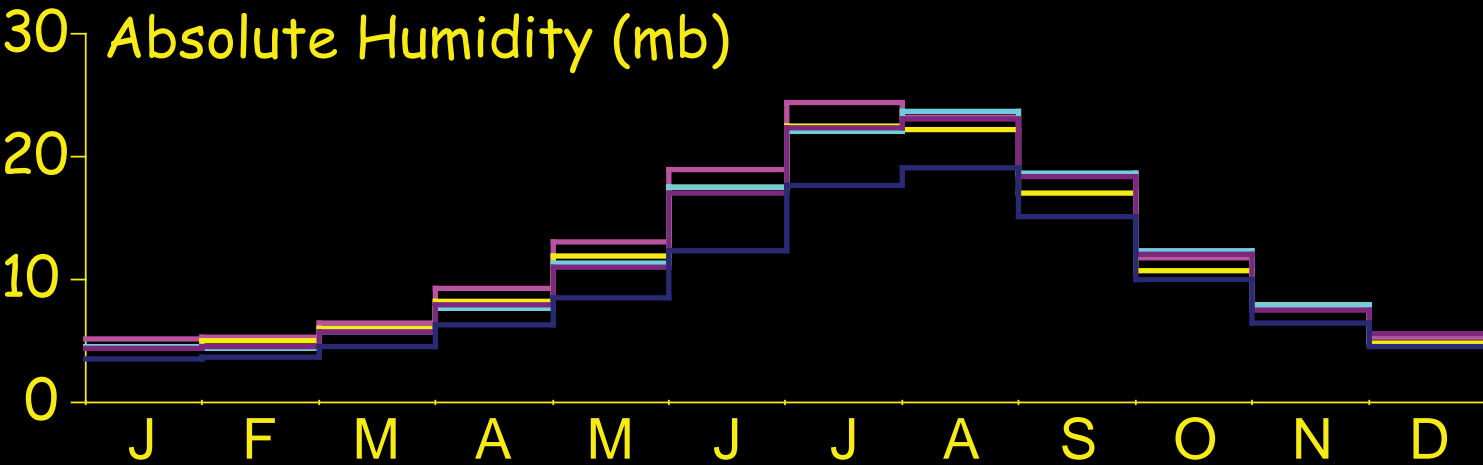
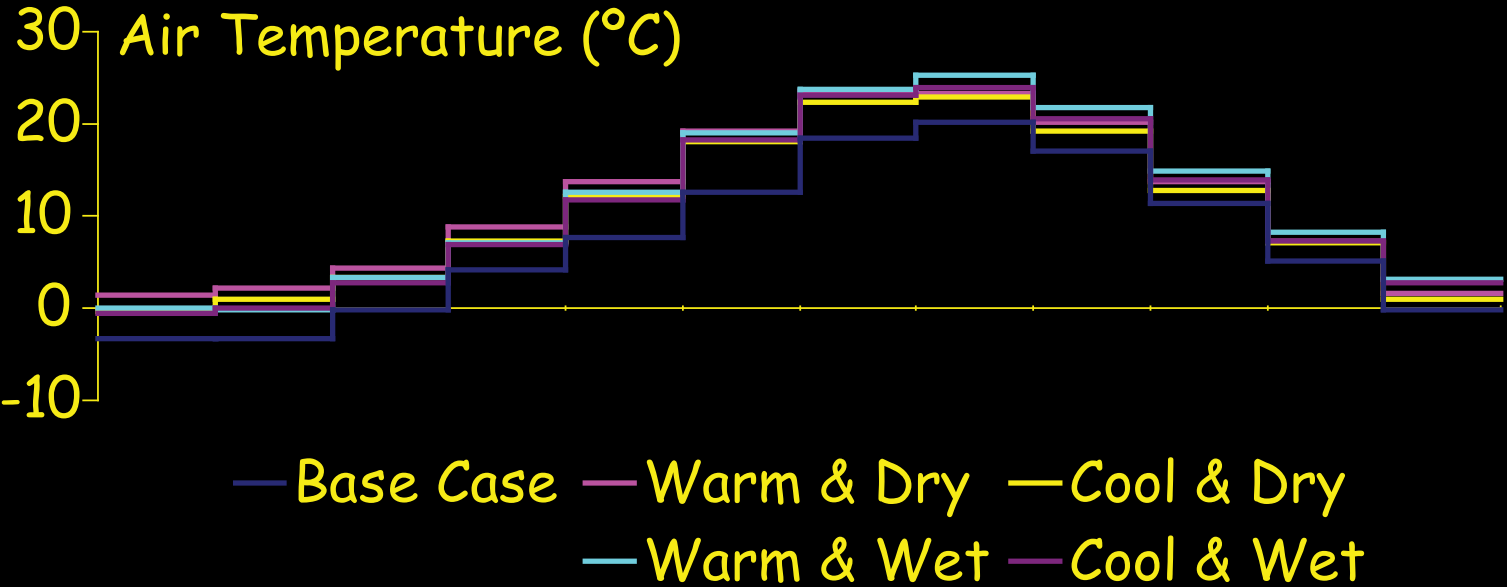


Cool & Wet

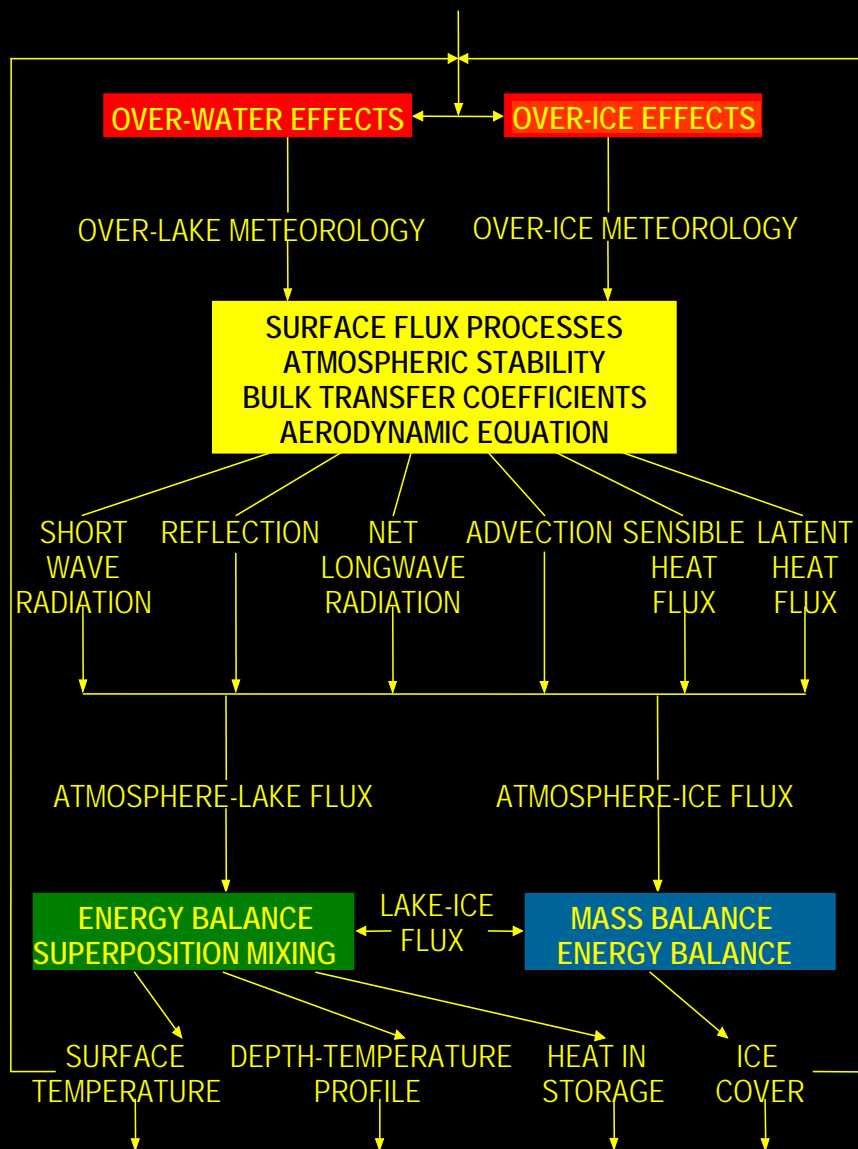




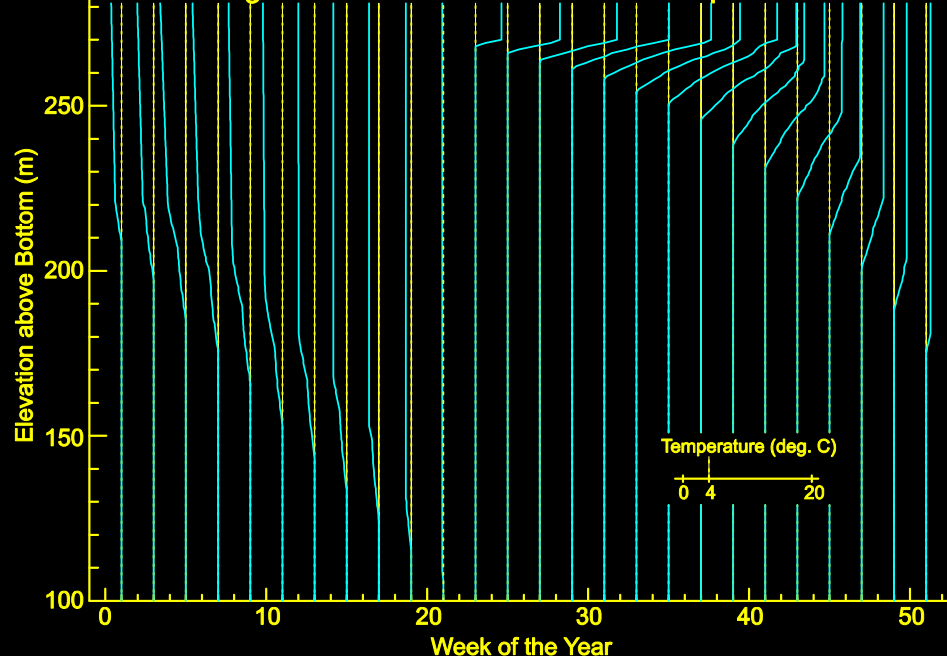
# Climate Scenarios (Michigan Seasonal Meteorology)



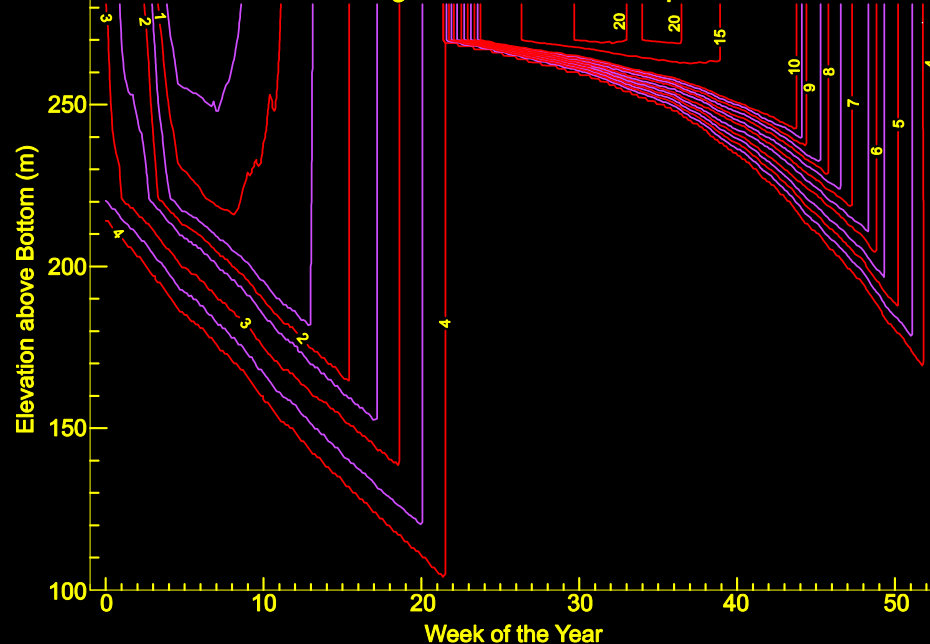
AIR TEMPERATURE, WIND SPEED, HUMIDITY, PRECIPITATION, CLOUD COVER



Lake Michigan End-of-Week 1961 Water Temperature Profiles

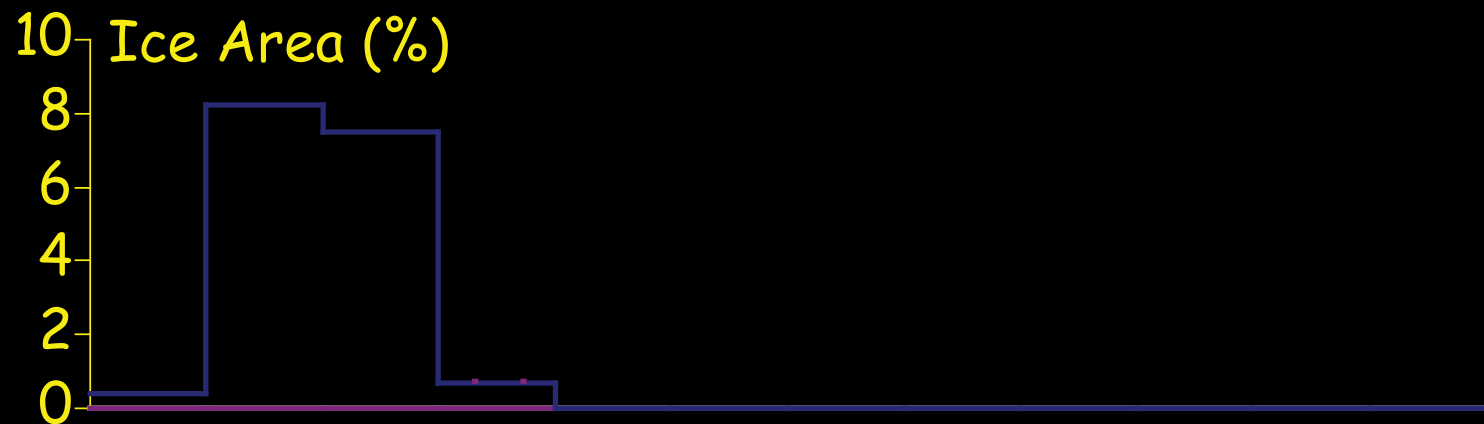


Lake Michigan 1961 Water Temperature

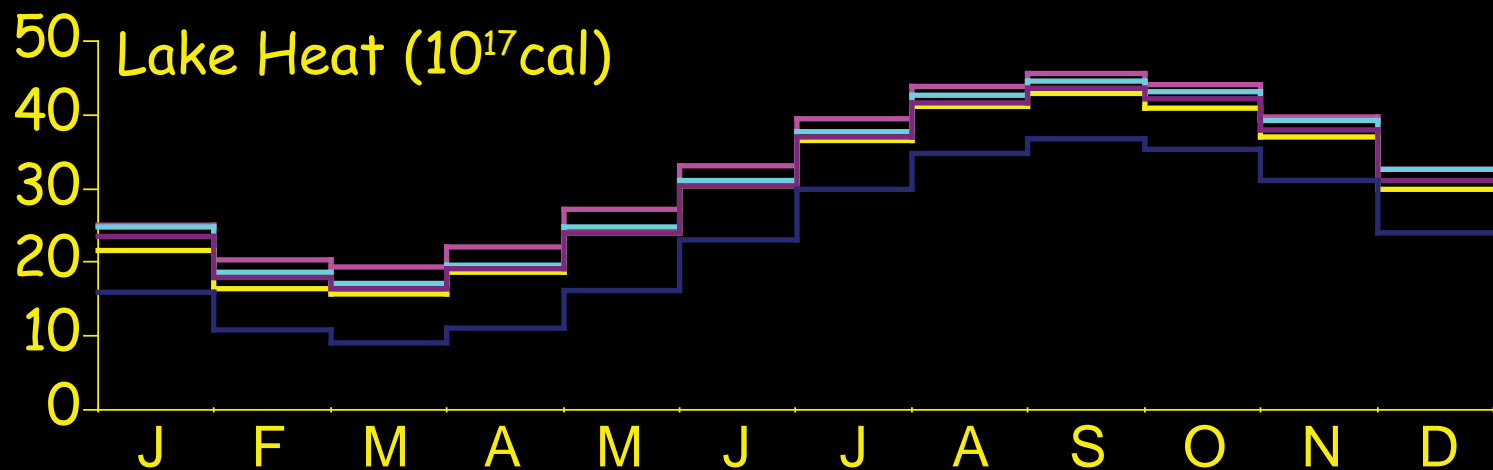




# Lake Response (Michigan Seasonal Heat Storages)

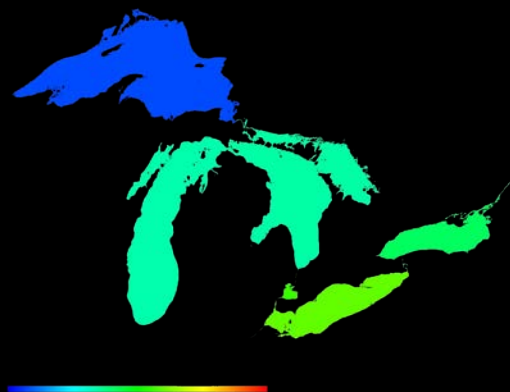


— Base Case — Warm & Dry — Cool & Dry  
— Warm & Wet — Cool & Wet

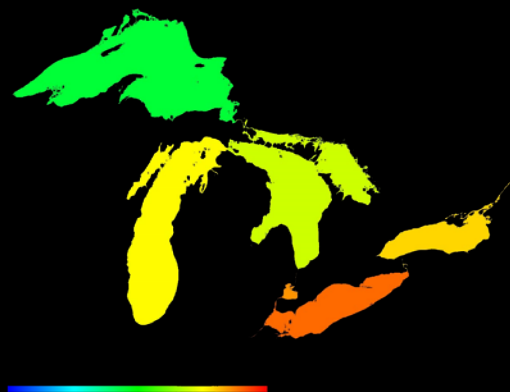


# Lake Response (Average Surface Temperature, 5–15°C)

Base Case



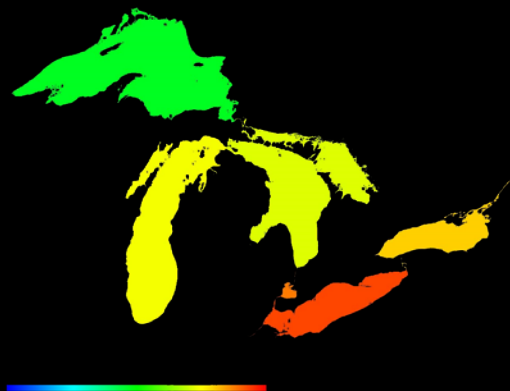
Warm & Dry



Cool & Dry



Warm & Wet

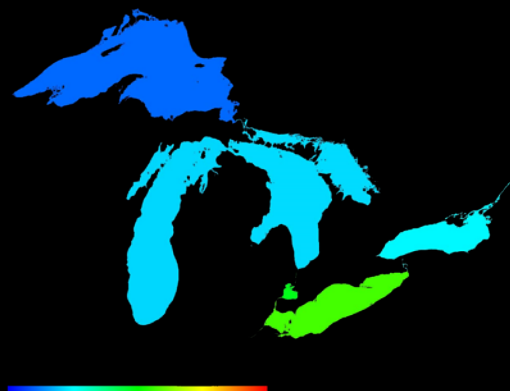


Cool & Wet

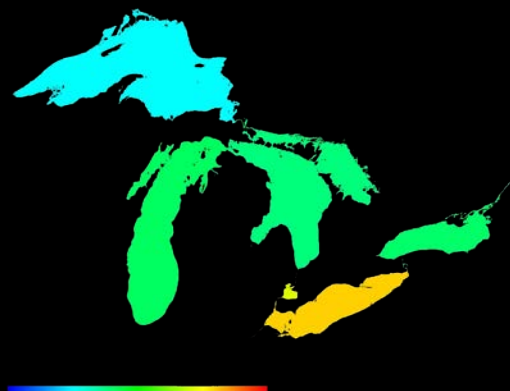


# Lake Response (Average Annual Evaporation, 0.5–1.2 m)

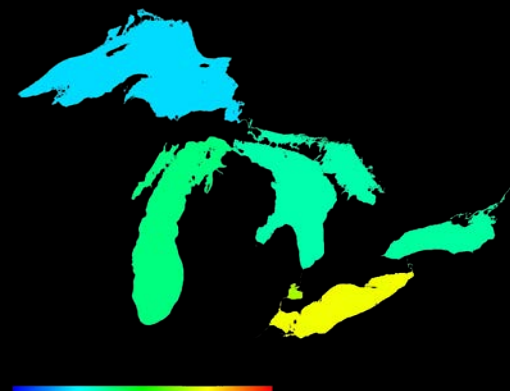
Base Case



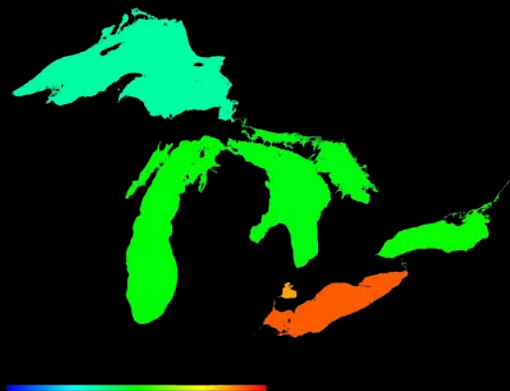
Warm & Dry



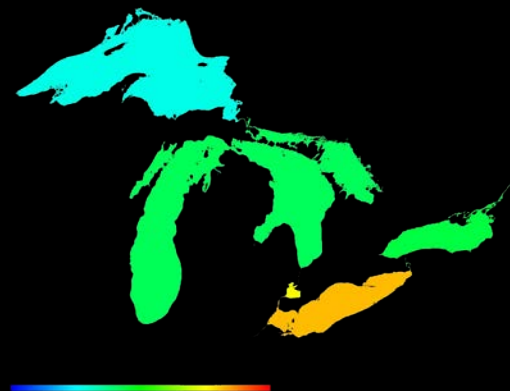
Cool & Dry



Warm & Wet

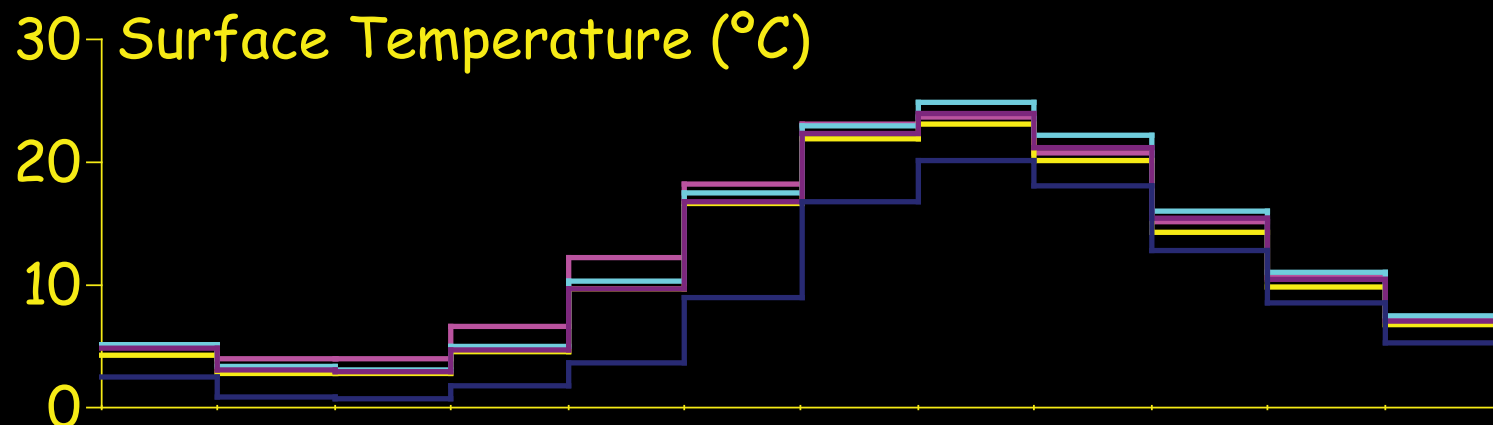


Cool & Wet



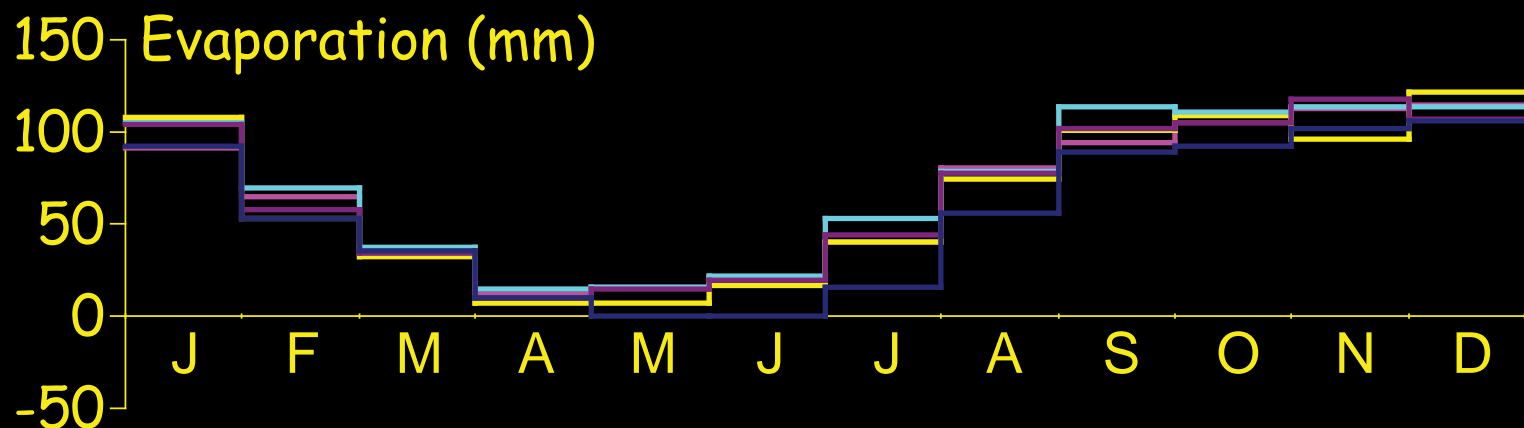
# Lake Response (Michigan Seasonal Thermodynamics)

Surface Temperature (°C)



— Base Case — Warm & Dry — Cool & Dry  
— Warm & Wet — Cool & Wet

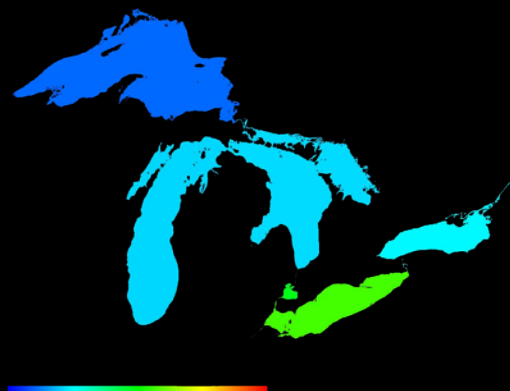
Evaporation (mm)



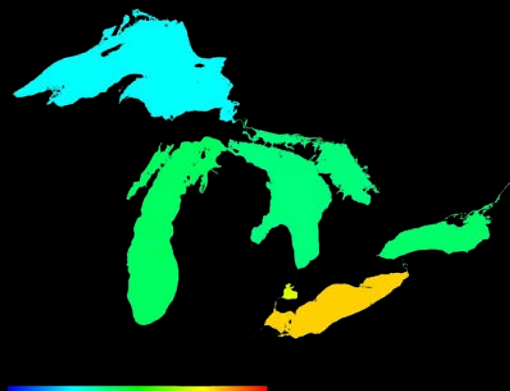


# Lake Response (Average Annual Evaporation, 0.5–1.2 m)

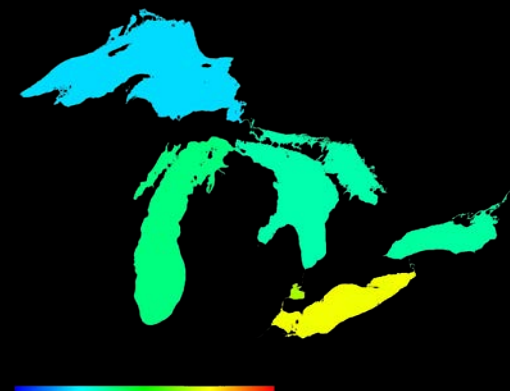
Base Case



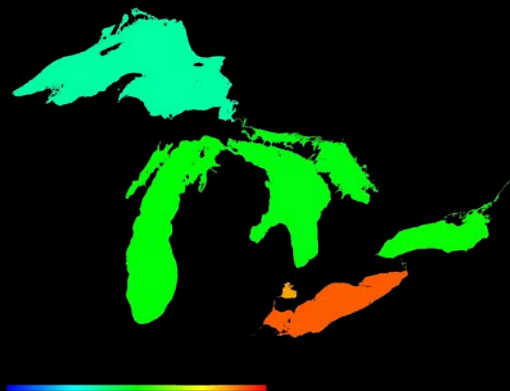
Warm & Dry



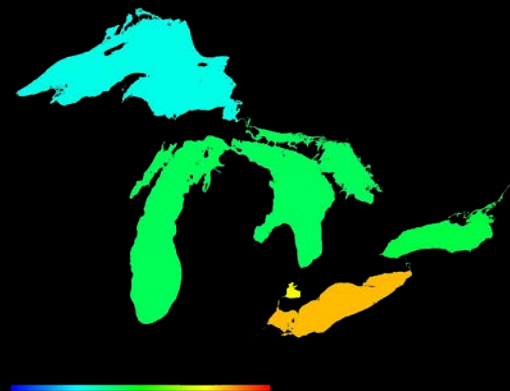
Cool & Dry



Warm & Wet

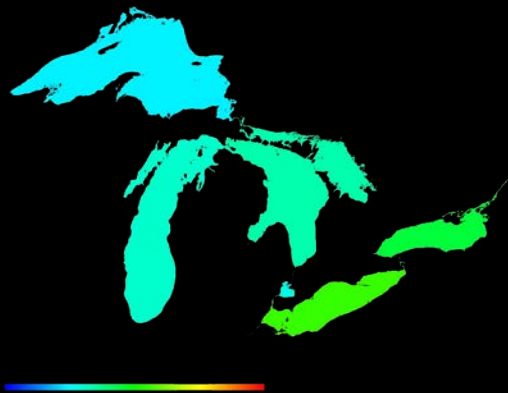


Cool & Wet

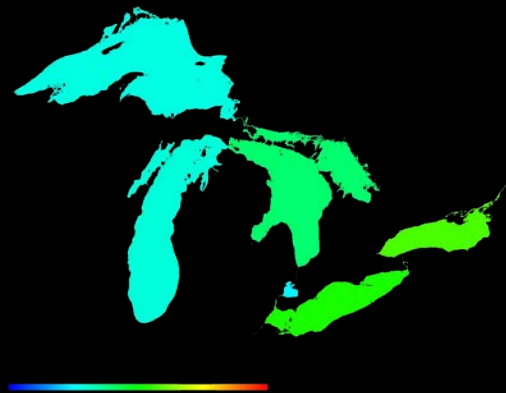


# Lake Response (Average Annual Precipitation, 0.7—1.1 m)

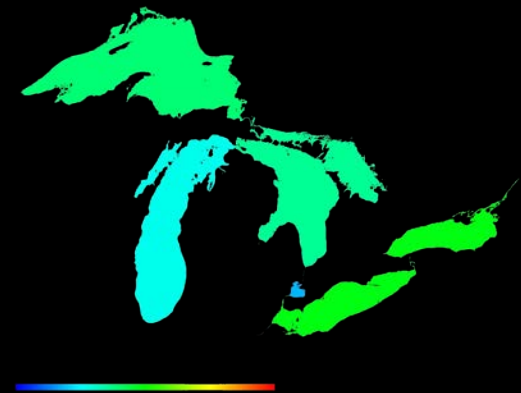
Base Case



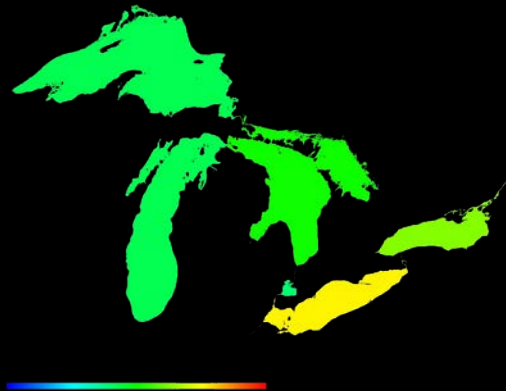
Warm & Dry



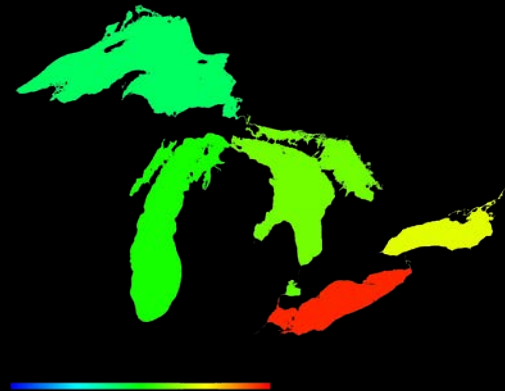
Cool & Dry



Warm & Wet



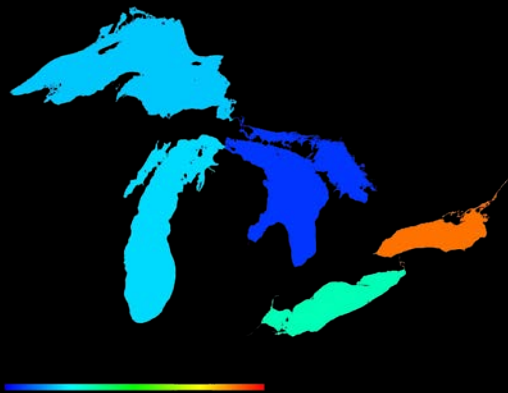
Cool & Wet



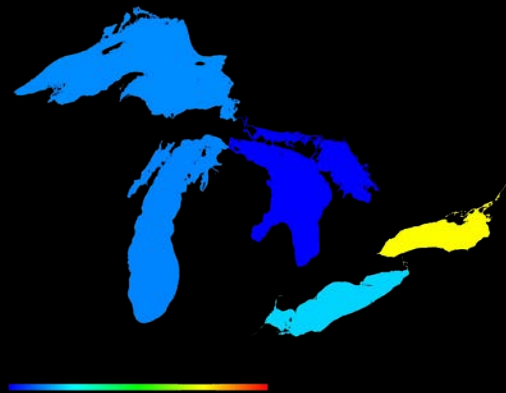


# Climate Scenarios (Average Annual Runoff, 0.3—1.9 m)

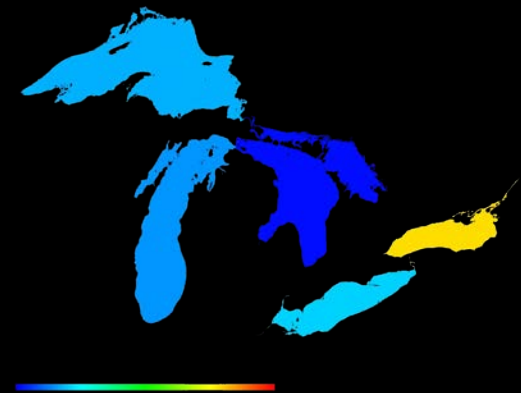
Base Case



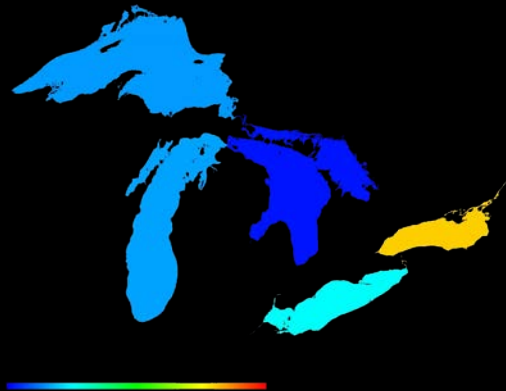
Warm & Dry



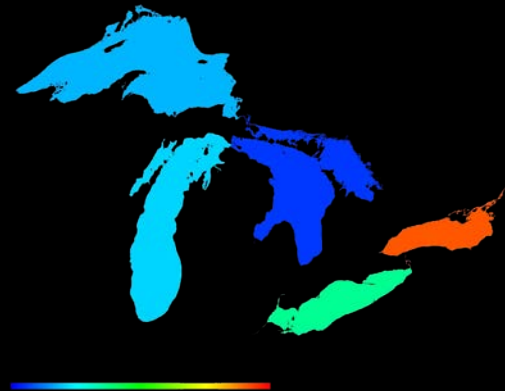
Cool & Dry



Warm & Wet

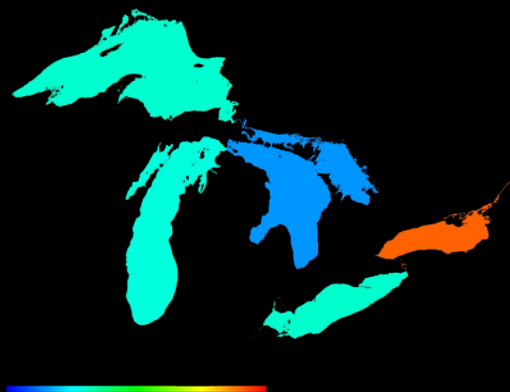


Cool & Wet

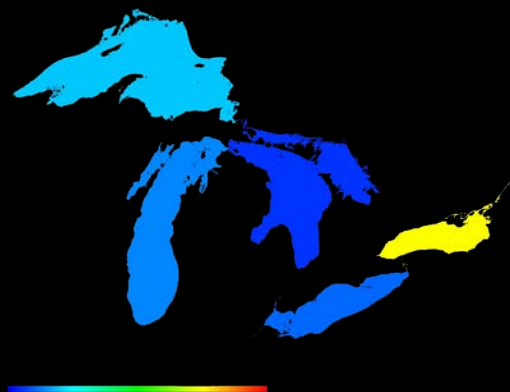


# Climate Scenarios (Average Annual NBS, 0.3—2.1 m)

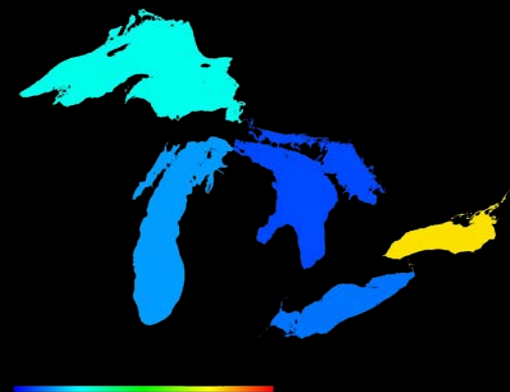
Base Case



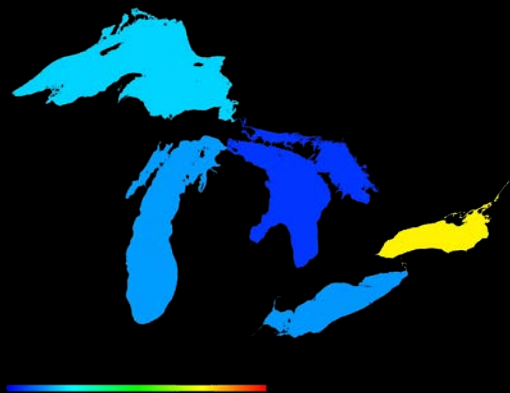
Warm & Dry



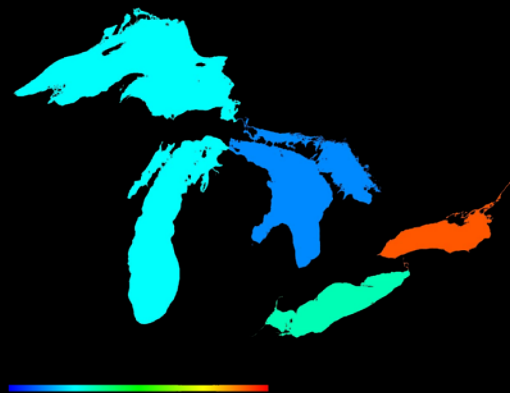
Cool & Dry



Warm & Wet

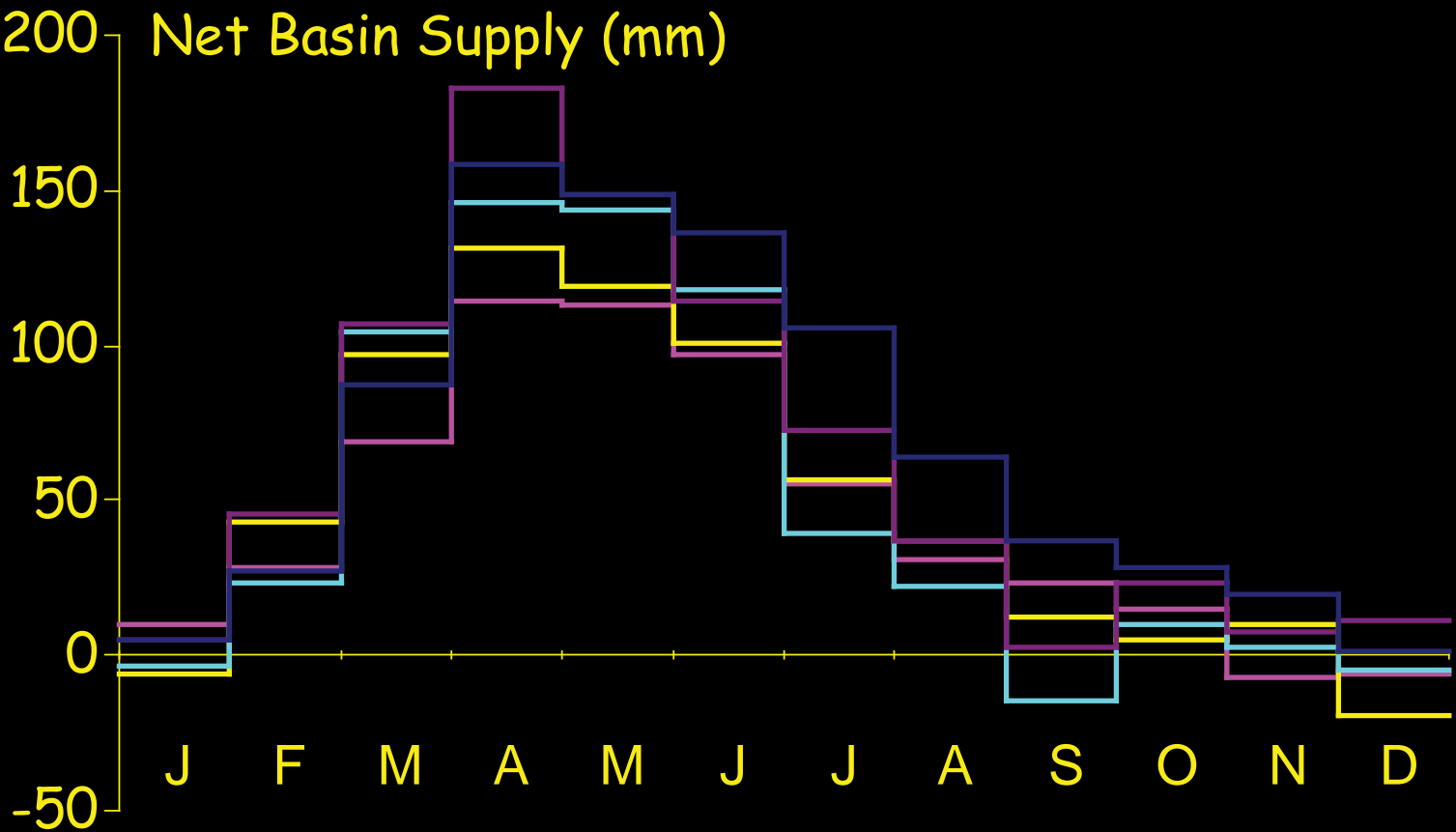


Cool & Wet





# Lake Response (Michigan Seasonal Net Basin Supplies)



— Base Case — Warm & Dry — Cool & Dry  
— Warm & Wet — Cool & Wet



## Summary

### Higher Air Temperatures

- Higher Evapotranspiration and Lower Runoff

- Earlier Runoff Peaks

- Reduced Soil Moisture

### Higher Water Temperatures

- More Heat In Deep Lakes

- Diminished Mixing

- Reduced Ice Formation

- Increased Lake Evaporation

### Net Supplies Drop

- For Northern and Mid-Latitude Lakes, All Climates

- For Southern Lakes, Except Cool & Wet Scenario