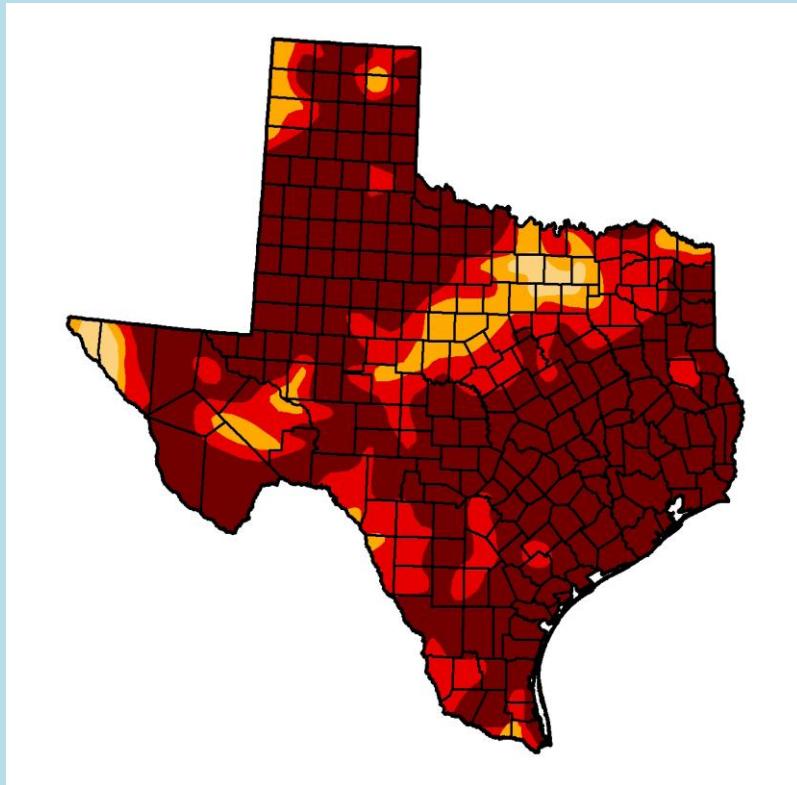


Traditional drought indicators may have limited utility for estuary impacts



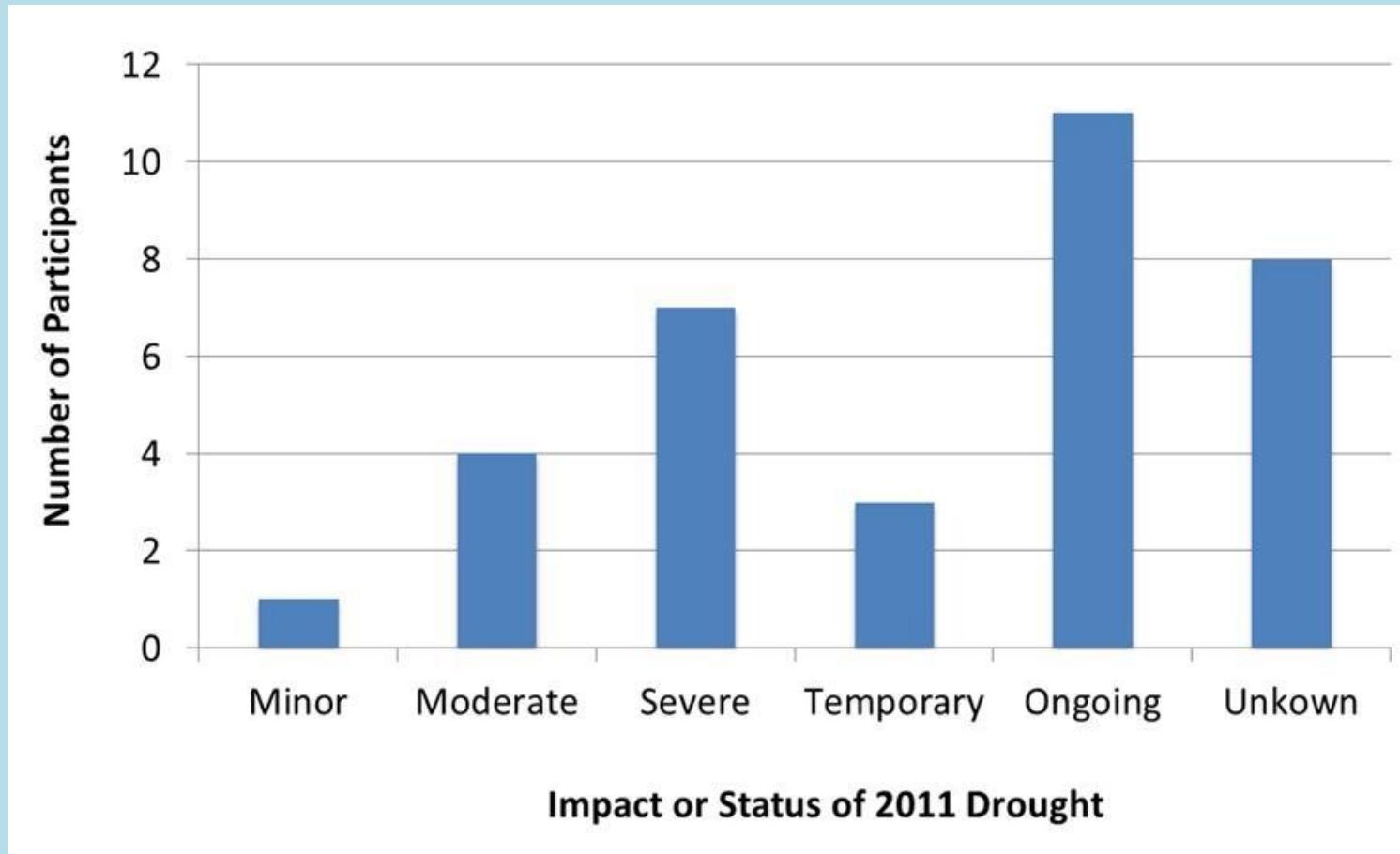
U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas on October 25, 2011
(Source: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>)

Some drought impacts
are pretty obvious.



Guadalupe River above Canyon Lake, July 2011

PRE-WORKSHOP SURVEY – ASSESSMENT OF 2011 DROUGHT FOR TEXAS ESTUARIES



A FEW INTERESTING ISSUES ARISING FROM SURVEY RESULTS

- Definition of “drought” when considering estuary impacts
- Significance of groundwater discharge as a component of freshwater inflows to estuaries
 - How has that contribution changed over time?
 - How does that affect our ability to model and predict salinity?
- Prioritization of long-term monitoring efforts as compared to short-term, drought-specific study or monitoring efforts
- Extent and significance of drought impacts on coastal marsh habitats
- Ensuring access to information about drought impacts
- Applying information about drought impacts in developing freshwater inflow recommendations