

Dry spells and droughts in Poland, 1951-2006

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The aim of the presentation is to analyze if there are any changes in frequency and/or intensity of dry spells in Poland. In recent years precipitation some changes in seasonality of precipitation in Poland were observed, expressing in higher totals in winter and early spring and lower in summer. Together with shorter period with snow cover resulting in smaller water supply at the beginning of vegetation period from snow cover melting and higher temperatures it can cause a serious water deficit. It can exert significant impact on crops. According to 4th IPCC Report more frequent dry spells are probable to increase even in those place where the overall amount of precipitation is not projected to change significantly.

Daily precipitation totals from more than 20 stations in Poland were used to distinguish the dry spells and a few indices of dryness were calculated. The spatial and temporal variability of these indices on the area of Poland was analyzed and synoptic scale drivers for prolonged drought events were identified.