

Water levels on Italy's Lake Garda drop to 15-year low

August 16 2022



An aerial view shows how low the waters are off the peninsula of Sirmione on Lake Garda.

The pedalos lie far from the water's edge and the flat stone slabs around the Sirmione peninsula are exposed after drought reduced the level of Italy's Lake Garda to a 15-year low.

Italy's largest lake, a major tourist destination nestled among mountains

in the north of the country, is suffering like many others from months without rain.

"We are currently at 30 centimetres (12 inches) above the (benchmark) hydrographic level," compared to an average for this time of year of between 80 and 100, said Gianluca Ginepro, head of Garda Unico, which promotes the lake.

It is the lowest since 2007, when levels dropped to 9.9 cm, according to official data.

"It's a situation to keep an eye on, even if from the point of view of using the lake—like wind surfing, sailing—there is no problem," Ginepro told AFP.

Tourism was holding up well, he said, although operators of trips across the lake had switched from hydrofoils to catamarans.

He also said that "the possibility of providing [water](#) for agriculture has dropped".

Farmers have also been hit by a lack of water in the River Po, which stretches across northern Italy and is suffering its worst drought for 70 years.

But the issue goes beyond Italy, with land across Europe parched by a lack of rainfall and sweltering temperatures, driven by [climate change](#).

Several other European countries, as well as reporting record temperatures during recent heatwaves, have also reported low levels of water in rivers.



The water level is the lowest since 2007.



Garda is Italy's largest lake and a major tourist destination.



Despite the low water levels, tourism is holding up well, say officials.

© 2022 AFP

Citation: Water levels on Italy's Lake Garda drop to 15-year low (2022, August 16) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2022-08-italy-lake-garda-year.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.