

Hydrologic Conditions – May 2021

The Hydrologic Conditions Mapper for New York State has been updated for the month of May 2021 and can be accessed at:

<http://ny.water.usgs.gov/projects/eom/>

During May, monthly precipitation totals averaged 3.1 inches, and 0.6 inches below normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (5.7 inches) and the largest positive departure from normal quantities (1.7 inches) were recorded in Columbia County. The lowest precipitation amount (0.8 inches) was recorded in St. Lawrence County, while the largest negative departure from normal quantities (-2.7 inches) was recorded in Franklin County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 23 recorded normal levels. Four of the index streamflow sites recorded wet levels, 4 recorded dry levels, and 1 recorded very dry levels. None of the 32 stations exceeded National Weather Service flood stage during May.

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during May were about 1.0 foot below long-term monthly average water levels (<https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/>).

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 98.0 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 0.2 percent more than the normal storage capacity of about 97.8 percent (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/reservoir-levels.page>).

Fifty-eight percent of the index groundwater wells with sufficient data for the month and period of record (92 in total) reported normal water levels for the month. Thirteen percent reported above-normal water levels and 29 percent reported low to very-low water levels. There was no discernible strong geographical distribution of wells that fell into wet, normal or dry classifications; however, very dry wells were mostly confined to the western and central parts of the State. Bedrock wells recorded a slightly greater percentage (34 percent) of wells with water levels in their respective below-normal ranges compared to water-table wells (27 percent). However, both bedrock and water-table wells had similar percentages of wells reporting water levels in their respective above-normal ranges (11 percent and 14 percent, respectively).

Of the 92 wells with sufficient data, 8 reported new record low monthly median levels for May; all 8 wells have periods of record of 19 years or less. One of the 92 wells reported a new record high monthly median level; that well has records dating back to 2003.

Exceedance percentages shown on the Hydrologic Conditions Mapper are calculated for individual USGS sites. This information, along with additional information from other Federal, State, and local agencies, assists the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the State Drought Management Task Force with evaluating regional conditions for determination of drought classifications.

Alex Graziano, Hydrologist, New York Water Science Center

Phone: 518-527-5843

Email: agraziano@usgs.gov