

## Hydrologic Conditions – May 2018

The Hydrologic Conditions Mapper for New York State has been updated for the month of May 2018 and can be accessed at:

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

During May, monthly precipitation totals averaged 2.6 inches, and 0.5 inches above normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (4.4 inches) was recorded in Sullivan County, while the largest positive departure from normal quantities (0.4 inches) was recorded in Tioga County. The lowest precipitation amount (1.6 inches) was recorded in Washington County, while the largest negative departure from normal quantities (-2.4 inches) was recorded in Lewis County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 27 recorded normal levels. Four of the index streamflow sites recorded wet levels, and 1 recorded dry levels. The East Branch Ausable River, in Essex County, briefly exceeded minor flood stage on May 5. Three stations on Lake Champlain also briefly exceeded minor flood stage on two or three days from May 4, thru May 10. A Drought Watch designation, as issued by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), has continued in effect for Nassau and Suffolk Counties since July 2016.

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during May were about 0.8 foot above long-term monthly average water levels. (<https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/dashboard/GLWLD.html>).

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 99.3 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 1 percent more than the normal storage capacity of about 97.9 percent ([http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/drinking\\_water/maplevels\\_wide.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/drinking_water/maplevels_wide.shtml)).

Sixty-seven percent of the index groundwater wells reported normal water levels for the month. Twenty-five percent reported above-normal water levels and 8 percent reported low-to-very-low water levels. There was no discernible geographical distribution of wells that fell into a particular classification; rather, wells in all conditions were scattered across the State, with the exception of no dry to very dry wells in the northern part of the state. Bedrock wells recorded a slightly lesser percentage (21 percent) of wells with water levels in their respective above-normal ranges compared to water-table wells (28 percent). However, about 8 percent of bedrock wells and water-table wells had water levels in their respective below-normal ranges.

Of the 89 reporting wells, 2 wells reported new record high monthly median levels and 1 reported new record low monthly median levels for May; all 3 of these wells have periods of record less than 13 years. Although the Hydrologic Conditions Mapper showed only 3 reporting wells with sufficient data on Long Island—one of which reported below-normal water levels—the USGS Groundwater Watch (at <https://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/>) showed that many wells in Nassau and Suffolk Counties continue to indicate below-normal water levels at the end of May. However, most wells did show a continued recovery from the low levels reached last fall.

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 assist the NYSDEC and the State Drought Management Task Force to evaluate regional conditions for determination of drought classifications.

Chris L. Gazoorian, Acting Surface-Water Specialist, New York Water Science Center  
Phone: 518-285-5615 Email: [cgazoori@usgs.gov](mailto:cgazoori@usgs.gov)