

Hydrologic Conditions – June 2018

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

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

During June, monthly precipitation totals averaged 3.3 inches, and 0.8 inches below normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (5.2 inches) and the largest positive departure from normal quantities (0.4 inches) were recorded in Clinton County. The lowest precipitation amount (1.7 inches) was recorded in Niagara County, while the largest negative departure from normal quantities (-2.1 inches) was recorded in Hamilton County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 20 recorded normal levels. One of the index streamflow sites recorded wet levels, and 11 recorded dry levels. None of the 32 stations exceeded National Weather Service flood stage during June. 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 June were about 0.6 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 92.2 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 0.4 percent more than the normal storage capacity of about 91.8 percent (http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/drinking_water/maplevels_wide.shtml).

Seventy percent of the index groundwater wells reported normal water levels for the month. Five percent reported above-normal water levels and 25 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 central part of the State. Bedrock wells recorded a slightly lesser percentage (7 percent) of wells with water levels in their respective below-normal ranges compared to water-table wells (11 percent). However, about 5 percent of bedrock wells and water-table wells had water levels in their respective above-normal ranges.

Of the 89 reporting wells, 4 reported new record low monthly median levels for June; all 4 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 June.

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.

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