

## Hydrologic Conditions – July 2018

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

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

During July, monthly precipitation totals averaged 5.0 inches, and 1.0 inches above normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (9.7 inches) was recorded in Greene County and the largest positive departure from normal quantities (5.8 inches) was recorded in Chemung County. The lowest precipitation amount (2.0 inches) and the largest negative departure from normal quantities was recorded in Clinton County,

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 20 recorded normal levels. Nine of the index streamflow sites recorded wet levels, and 3 recorded dry or very dry levels. One of the 32 stations (01420500 – Beaver Kill at Cooks Falls, NY) exceeded National Weather Service minor flood stage for only a few hours during July. 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 July were about 0.2 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 94.8 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 8 percent more than the normal storage capacity of about 86.7 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)).

Fifty-seven percent of the index groundwater wells reported normal water levels for the month. Four percent reported above-normal water levels and 39 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. Bedrock wells recorded a slightly greater percentage (41 percent) of wells with water levels in their respective below-normal ranges compared to water-table wells (38 percent). However, about 9 percent of bedrock wells and only 2 percent of water-table wells had water levels in their respective above-normal ranges.

Of the 90 reporting wells, 4 reported new record low monthly median levels for July; all 4 of these wells have periods of record less than 14 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 July.

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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