

Hydrologic Conditions – September 2018

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

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

During September, monthly precipitation totals averaged 5.2 inches, and 1.1 inches above normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (9.5 inches) was recorded in Ulster County, while the largest positive departure from normal quantities (5.2 inches) were recorded in Chemung County. The lowest precipitation amount (2.6 inches), and the largest negative departure from normal quantities (-1.4 inches) was recorded in Jefferson County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 7 recorded normal levels. Twenty of the index streamflow sites recorded wet levels, 4 recorded dry levels, and 1 recorded very dry levels. During September, 1 station (01302020 – Bronx River at NY Botanical Garden at Bronx, NY) exceeded National Weather Service major flood stage, 2 stations (01511500 – Tioughnioga River at Itaska, NY and 01514000 – Owego Creek near Owego, NY) exceeded National Weather Service moderate flood stage, and 4 station (01387450 – Mahwah River near Suffern, NY, 01507000 – Chenango River at Greene, NY, 01512500 – Chenango River near Chenango Forks, NY, and 01515000 – Susquehanna River near Waverly, NY) exceeded National Weather Service minor flood stage. 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 September were about 0.03 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 95.0 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 19.3 percent more than the normal storage capacity of about 75.7 percent (http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/drinking_water/maplevels_wide.shtml).

Forty-two percent of the index groundwater wells reported normal water levels for the month. Thirty-four percent reported above-normal water levels and 24 percent reported low to very-low water levels. Many of the dry and very dry wells were mostly confined to the northern part of the State and Long Island, while many of the wet wells were confined to the central and southern parts of the State. Bedrock wells recorded a slightly greater percentage (29 percent) of wells with water levels in their respective below-normal ranges compared to water-table wells (20 percent). However, bedrock wells also reported a greater percentage (44 percent) of wells reporting water levels in their respective above-normal ranges than water-table wells (27 percent).

Of the 90 reporting wells, 1, with a period of record less than 16 years, reported a new record low monthly median level for September. Four of the 90 reporting wells reported new record high monthly median levels; one of which has records dating back to 1985. Although the Hydrologic Conditions Mapper showed only 3 reporting wells with sufficient data on Long Island—all 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 September.

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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