Hydrologic Conditions – June 2021

The Hydrologic Conditions Mapper for New York State has been updated for the month of June 2021 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 (5.4 inches) and the largest positive departure from normal quantities (1.3 inches) were recorded in Washington County. The lowest precipitation amount (1.6 inches) and largest negative departure from normal quantities (-2.6 inches) were recorded in Suffolk County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 21 recorded normal levels. None of the index streamflow sites recorded wet levels, 4 recorded dry levels, and 7 recorded very dry levels. None of the 32 stations exceeded National Weather Service flood stage during June.

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during June were about 1.2 feet below long-term monthly average water levels (https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/).

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 94.6 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 0.2 percent more than the normal storage capacity of about 94.4 percent (https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/reservoir-levels.page).

Fifty-six 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. Eight percent reported above-normal water levels and 36 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 confined to the western, northern and central parts of the State. Bedrock wells recorded a greater percentage (46 percent) of wells with water levels in their respective below-normal ranges compared to water-table wells (30 percent). However, both bedrock and water-table wells had similar percentages of wells reporting water levels in their respective above-normal ranges (9 percent and 7 percent, respectively).

Of the 92 wells with sufficient data, 10 reported new record low monthly median levels for June, and 9 of those 10 wells have periods of record of 18 years or less. The one other well that reported a new record low monthly median level, a bedrock well located in St. Lawrence county, has a continuous period of record dating back to October 2004, but the complete period of record also includes June 1958 to November 1964 and November 1985 to August 1995.

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.

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