

Hydrologic Conditions – May 2022

The Hydrologic Conditions Mapper for New York State has been updated for the month of May 2022 and can be accessed at:

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

During May, monthly precipitation totals averaged 2.9 inches, and 0.8 inches below normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (4.8 inches) was recorded in Rockland County and the largest positive departure from normal quantities (1.0 inches) was recorded in St. Lawrence County. The lowest precipitation amount (1.8 inches) was recorded in Steuben County and the largest negative departure from normal quantities (2.2 inches) was recorded in Greene County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 15 recorded normal levels, 2 recorded wet levels, 13 recorded dry levels, and 2 recorded very dry levels during May. The National Weather Service (NWS) flood stage was not exceeded at any streamflow sites during May in New York State.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) reported that all drought regions in New York State were in normal status at the end of May.

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during May were about 0.5 feet above long-term monthly average water levels (<https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/>).

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 95.7 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 3.7 percent less than the normal storage capacity of about 99.4 percent (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/reservoir-levels.page>).

Fifty-seven percent of the index groundwater wells with sufficient data for the month and period of record (93 in total) reported normal water levels for the month. Nineteen percent reported above-normal water levels, 15 percent reported low water levels, and 9 percent reported very-low water levels. Very-low water levels were mostly confined to the western half of the state; otherwise, there was no discernible strong geographical distribution of the wells that fell into the low, normal, and above normal classifications. Bedrock and water-table wells both had slightly lower percentages of wells reporting water levels in their respective above-normal ranges (21 and 19 percent, respectively) than percentages of wells reporting water levels in their respective below-normal ranges (26 and 20 percent, respectively).

Three of the 93 wells with sufficient data reported new record low monthly median levels for May. All of those wells have periods of record of 15 years or less. None of the 93 wells with sufficient data reported new record high monthly median levels for May.

Although the Hydrologic Conditions Mapper showed only three reporting wells with sufficient data on Long Island—two of which reported low water levels, and one of which reported normal water levels—the USGS Groundwater Watch (at <https://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/>) showed that many wells in Nassau and Suffolk Counties continued to indicate below-normal water levels at the end of May.

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 NYSDEC and the State Drought Management Task Force with evaluating regional conditions for determination of drought classifications.

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