

Hydrologic Conditions – August 2022

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

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

During August, monthly precipitation totals averaged 3.4 inches, and 0.5 inches below normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (6.6 inches) and largest positive departure from normal quantities (2.4 inches) were recorded in Oneida County. The lowest precipitation amount (0.9 inches) and largest negative departure from normal quantities (-3.6 inches) were recorded in Rockland County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 15 recorded normal levels, two recorded wet levels, 10 recorded dry levels, and 5 recorded very dry levels during August. The National Weather Service (NWS) flood stage was not exceeded at any of the index streamflow sites during August in New York State.

At the end of August, a Drought Watch designation, as issued by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), was in effect for all of the counties in six of the nine drought regions (Long Island, Catskills, Susquehanna, Mohawk/Upper Hudson, Finger Lakes, and Southern Tier) and for the western counties in the Great Lakes drought region.

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

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 71.0 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 11.3 percent less than the normal storage capacity of about 82.3 percent (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/reservoir-levels.page>).

The statistics that are used to evaluate end of month groundwater conditions were not readily available for August 2022 because the USGS Groundwater Watch application was discontinued in September 2022 (<https://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/>). An effort to address the discontinuation of Groundwater Watch is in progress at the New York Water Science Center.

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.

Alex Graziano, Hydrologist, New York Water Science Center

Phone: 518-527-5843

Email: agraziano@usgs.gov