

Hydrologic Conditions – October 2022

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

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

During October, monthly precipitation totals averaged 2.3 inches, and 1.9 inches below normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (5.6 inches) and largest positive departure from normal quantities (1.1 inches) were recorded in Rockland County. The lowest precipitation amount (0.4 inches) was recorded in Yates County, and the largest negative departure from normal quantities (-4.0 inches) was recorded in Lewis County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 28 recorded normal levels, none recorded wet levels, 3 recorded dry levels, and 1 recorded very dry levels during October. The National Weather Service (NWS) flood stage was not exceeded at any of the index streamflow sites during October in New York State.

At the end of October, a Drought Watch designation, as issued by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), was in effect for seven counties in two of the nine drought regions (Long Island and Catskills).

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during October were about 0.7 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 7.2 percent less than the normal storage capacity of about 78.2 percent (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/reservoir-levels.page>).

Because the USGS Groundwater Watch application was discontinued in September 2022 (<https://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/>), the statistics that are used to evaluate end of month groundwater conditions were not readily available for October 2022. 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.

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