Hydrologic Conditions – May 2023

The Hydrologic Conditions Mapper for New York State has been updated for the month of May 2023 and can be accessed at:

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

During May, monthly precipitation totals averaged 1.2 inches, and 2.5 inches below normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (2.1 inches) was recorded in Suffolk County, and the smallest negative departure from normal quantities (-1.4 inches) was recorded in Monroe County. The lowest precipitation amount (0.5 inches) was recorded in Montgomery County, and the largest negative departure from normal quantities (-3.6 inches) was recorded in Rockland County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 26 recorded normal levels, 3 recorded wet levels, 3 recorded dry levels, and none recorded very dry levels during May. As a result of heavy rainfall from April 30 – May 1, National Weather Service (NWS) minor flood stages were exceeded at 2 of the 32 index streamflow sites: Susquehanna River at Conklin, NY (01503000) and Chenango River near Chenango Forks, NY (01512500).

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 1.1 feet above long-term monthly average water levels (https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/).

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 96.1 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 3.4 percent less than the normal storage capacity of about 99.5 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 May 2023 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.

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