

NWS Form E-5  
(04-2006)  
(PRES. BY NWS Instruction 10-924)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA)

**WFO Caribou, Maine**

**MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS**

REPORT FOR:  
MONTH                      YEAR  
**May                              2017**

TO: Hydrologic Information Center, W/OS31  
NOAA's National Weather Service  
1325 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

SIGNATURE  
**Maureen Hastings, HPM**

DATE

*When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions below the small box, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).*

An X inside this box indicates that no flooding occurred within this hydrologic service area.

**May 2017**

Wet conditions persisted through much of May, particularly through the first couple of weeks. All of Caribou's climate sites ended up with at least 1 inch of above normal rainfall; Bangor received 6.36 inches of rain through the month, which was 2.72 inches above normal. All this rain combined with April's snowmelt to keep rivers and lakes high. Lakes across northern and central Aroostook County, such as Portage Lake, Long Lake, and Soldier Pond, caused some minor flooding of camps and roadways. These high water levels continued for several days as lakes and ponds were slow to rise and slow to recede, but no significant damage was reported.

Most waterways crested around May 3; no mainstem rivers reached flood stage, but the Big Black River and Saint John River did exceed action stage. Thereafter, the main trend was for river levels to fall through the month, though there were a few minor rain events scattered through the month that caused some modest rises.

The most significant of the aforementioned rain events occurred on the 14<sup>th</sup>, when low pressure skirted up the East Coast, and then deepened as it spun in place over the Gulf of Maine. This resulted in a widespread soaking rain, particularly across portions of the Central Highlands down to the coast. Rainfall amounts of 1 to 2 inches were common, with over 2 inches falling across portions of coastal Hancock County. Rivers across Piscataquis, Penobscot, Hancock, and Washington Counties rose 2 to 3.5 feet, but they remained well within their banks.

Monthly-averaged stream flows and groundwater levels were not available at the time of this report.

**Precipitation Totals for Select Locations**  
All units inches

| Location    | Total Precip | Normal Precipitation | Departure from Normal | Snowfall | Normal Snowfall | Departure from Normal Snowfall | Greatest Snow Depth |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Frenchville | 4.78         | 3.04                 | +1.74                 |          |                 |                                |                     |
| Caribou     | 4.37         | 3.33                 | +1.04                 |          |                 |                                |                     |
| Houlton     | 4.91         | 3.30                 | +1.61                 |          |                 |                                |                     |
| Millinocket | 4.96         | 3.35                 | +1.62                 |          |                 |                                |                     |
| Bangor      | 6.36         | 3.64                 | +2.72                 |          |                 |                                |                     |

\*Millinocket snowfall measured at wastewater treatment plant, not the ASOS site

### Stream Flows for Selected Rivers

| River                               | Normal Flow (cfs) | Monthly Mean Flow (cfs) | Monthly Mean Precip (in) | Percentile Class | Drainage (mi <sup>2</sup> ) | Years of Record |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| St. John River at Ninemile Bridge   |                   |                         |                          |                  | 1341                        | 67              |
| St. John River at Fort Kent         |                   |                         |                          |                  | 5665                        | 91              |
| Aroostook River at Washburn         |                   |                         |                          |                  | 1654                        | 87              |
| Narraguagus River at Cherryfield    |                   |                         |                          |                  | 227                         | 69              |
| E Br Penobscot River at Grindstone  |                   |                         |                          |                  | 837                         | 115             |
| Mattawamkeag nr Mattawamkeag        |                   |                         |                          |                  | 1418                        | 83              |
| Piscataquis River nr Dover-Foxcroft |                   |                         |                          |                  | 298                         | 115             |

### Groundwater Levels

| Station        | Normal Range (ft) | Mean Water Level Below Land-sfc Datum (ft) | Departure from Month-end Median (ft) | Percentile Class | Years of Record |
|----------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| McFarland Hill |                   |  |                                      |                  | 13              |
| Crooked Road   |                   |  |                                      |                  | 13              |
| Hadley Lakes   |                   |  |                                      |                  | 30              |
| Kenduskeag     |                   |  |                                      |                  | 37              |
| Calais         |                   |  |                                      |                  | 16              |
| Millinocket    |                   |  |                                      |                  | 22              |
| Clayton Lake   |                   |  |                                      |                  | 37              |
| Fort Kent      |                   |  |                                      |                  | 38              |

| Flow or Water Level | Percentile Range                      | Explanation  |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Record Low          | 0 <sup>th</sup>                       | The monthly mean streamflow or median water level during this month is the lowest ever recorded during the period of record for this site.   |
| Very Low            | 0 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup>   | The monthly mean streamflow or median water level during this month is less than the 10 <sup>th</sup> percentile when compared to all of the months during the period of record for this site.                     |
| Low                 | 10 <sup>th</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup>  | The monthly mean streamflow or median water level during this month is between the 10 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> percentiles when compared to all of the months during the period of record for this site. |
| Normal              | 25 <sup>th</sup> to 75 <sup>th</sup>  | The monthly mean streamflow or median water level during this month is between the 25 <sup>th</sup> and 75 <sup>th</sup> percentiles when compared to all of the months during the period of record for this site. |
| High                | 75 <sup>th</sup> to 90 <sup>th</sup>  | The monthly mean streamflow or median water level during this month is between the 75 <sup>th</sup> and 90 <sup>th</sup> percentiles when compared to all of the months during the period of record for this site. |
| Very High           | 90 <sup>th</sup> to 100 <sup>th</sup> | The monthly mean streamflow or median water level during this month is greater than the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile when compared to all of the months during the period of record for this site.                  |
| Record High         | 100 <sup>th</sup>                     | The monthly mean streamflow or median water level during this month is the highest ever recorded during the period of record for this site.  |

**Non-Routine Hydrologic Products  
May 2017  
WFO Caribou, ME**

| PIL    | TIME (UTC) | Date   | Description   |
|--------|------------|--------|---|
| FFACAR | 0138       | 5/1/17 | Continue Flood Watch for Aroostook, N and Central Piscataquis, N Somerset, and N Penobscot Counties |
| FFACAR | 0713       | 5/1/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FFACAR | 1234       | 5/1/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FFACAR | 1947       | 5/1/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FFACAR | 2221       | 5/1/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FFACAR | 0138       | 5/2/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FFACAR | 0713       | 5/2/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FFACAR | 1356       | 5/2/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FFACAR | 2106       | 5/2/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FLSCAR | 1242       | 5/3/17 | Flood Advisory for NE Aroostook County  |
| FLSCAR | 1914       | 5/3/17 | Continue Flood Advisory   |
| FLSCAR | 0127       | 5/4/17 | Continue Flood Advisory   |
| FLSCAR | 0922       | 5/4/17 | Continue Flood Advisory   |
| FFACAR | 1926       | 5/4/17 | Issue Flood Watch for Hancock and Washington Counties   |
| FLSCAR | 2007       | 5/4/17 | Continue Flood Advisory   |
| FFACAR | 0758       | 5/5/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FLSCAR | 1249       | 5/5/17 | Re-issue/extend Flood Advisory for N Aroostook County   |
| FFACAR | 1441       | 5/5/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FFACAR | 1926       | 5/5/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FFACAR | 1939       | 5/5/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FLSCAR | 2103       | 5/5/17 | Re-issue/extend Flood Advisory for N Aroostook County   |
| FLSCAR | 2326       | 5/5/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FFACAR | 0753       | 5/6/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FFACAR | 1523       | 5/6/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FLSCAR | 1916       | 5/6/17 | Continue Flood Advisory   |
| FFACAR | 1937       | 5/6/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FFACAR | 1941       | 5/6/17 | Continue Flood Watch  |
| FFACAR | 0411       | 5/7/17 | Expire Flood Watch  |
| FLSCAR | 1347       | 5/7/17 | Continue Flood Advisory   |
| FLSCAR | 1927       | 5/7/17 | Cancel Flood Advisory   |

