

<b>NWS FORM E-5</b> (11-88) (PRES. by NWS Instruction 10-924)	<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b> NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA)	
		<b>NWFO NEW ORLEANS/BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA</b>	
<b>MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS</b>		REPORT FOR:	
		MONTH <b>MARCH</b>	YEAR <b>2005</b>
TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2 NOAA / National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283		SIGNATURE Paul S. Trotter, Meteorologist-In-Charge	
		DATE	APRIL 15, 2005

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

**...Mixed Bag of Weather for March 2005...**

Typical of early-spring weather patterns, March presented a mixed bag of weather over southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi. A series of strong cold fronts moved across the region during early March. Through March 15<sup>th</sup>, periods of heavy rainfall occurred over the region. However, no significant flooding developed.

The Atchafalaya River remained above its 4-foot flood stage at Morgan City, Louisiana until mid March. The flood event started on December 8<sup>th</sup> and the river crested at 6.9 feet in early February. Flooding ended early on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The river rose above its flood stage and dropped below flood stage three more times from the afternoon of March 17<sup>th</sup> through March 20<sup>th</sup>.

All flooding was minor.

A continental air mass enveloped southeastern Louisiana and south Mississippi on March 15<sup>th</sup>, as storm cyclogenesis began in the Gulf of Mexico later that day and continued into March 16<sup>th</sup>. The heaviest rainfall of the month developed with this storm system. Several locations in southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi recorded over 2.00 inches March 16<sup>th</sup>. The greatest rainfall amounts reported were: Terrytown (New Orleans West Bank) with 3.85 inches; LSU Citrus Research Station with 3.72 inches; Donaldsonville with 3.62 inches; and Houma with 3.10 inches.

By March 21<sup>st</sup>, the weather pattern was changing as an overrunning rainfall event, behind another frontal boundary, ended. High pressure, warm temperatures, and fair weather dominated the area through March 25<sup>th</sup>. The next cold front crossed Louisiana and south Mississippi on March 26<sup>th</sup>, with periods of heavy rainfall and isolated severe weather. High pressure returned on March 27<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday. The last cold front in March produced severe weather and brief periods of heavy rain, as it crossed the area by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

With rainfall over southeastern Louisiana and upstream in Mississippi, minor flooding developed on the Pearl River at Bogalusa on March 24<sup>th</sup> and at Pearl River on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Flooding continued at both locations into April.

For the entire month of March, the heaviest rain generally occurred over southeastern Louisiana, where the areal average rainfall was 5.12 inches. Aside from the 12.39 inches measured at Many 9WSW in west central-Louisiana, the greatest rainfall amounts measured in Louisiana during the month were: Houma with 7.45 inches; Galliano with 7.29 inches; and LSU Citrus Research Station with 7.02 inches. Many locations in metropolitan New Orleans had amounts over 6.0 inches.

Over coastal Mississippi, rainfall totals were estimated to be over 10.0 inches at several locations, primarily in Jackson County and Pearl River County.

**Products Issued For River Forecast Points:**

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