NWS FORM E-5 (11-88) (PRES. by NWS Instruction 10-924)	**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE** NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA) **NWFO NEW ORLEANS/BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**
MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS		REPORT FOR: MONTH **MAY** YEAR **2005**
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 June 24, 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)

…Pleasant, but Dry Spring Weather Dominated the Lower Mississippi River Valley in May…

The month began with remnant showers and thunderstorms that produced local amounts over 1.0 inch at several locations on May 1st. The first week continued with pleasant weather, as high pressure dominated the Lower Mississippi River Valley. No significant rainfall developed over southeastern Louisiana or southern Mississippi through May 8th. Flooding began at the end of April and on May 1st in the heavy rainfall over coastal Mississippi. Floods occurred on the West Hobolochitto Creek at McNeil, the East Hobolochitto Creek at Caesar, the Wolf River at Gulfport, and the Biloxi River at Lyman. All of these floods ended by May 2nd.

From May 9th through May 15th, a series of frontal boundaries over southern Mississippi and southeastern Louisiana produced scattered thunderstorms. On May 13th, locally heavy rainfall in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes produced street flooding in Metairie and near Audubon Park. Doppler radar estimates of rain in Metairie were between 2 and 4 inches. Generally, areal average rainfall amounts were less than 0.25 inch at most locations for the week.

Less humid conditions persisted over the region until May 17th. Scattered thunderstorms developed over the Florida Parishes and by May 19th, locally heavy rainfall developed over extreme southeastern Louisiana and southwestern Mississippi. Several areas measured 1.0 to 2.5 inches. A "backdoor" cold front crossed the region by the 21st and produced modest showers in isolated locations over southeastern Louisiana and southwestern Mississippi. The Mississippi coastal counties remained dry.

Several boundaries passed over the Lower Mississippi Valley from May 23rd through May 29th. Localized heavy rainfall developed, along with periods of severe weather, especially on May 29th. Areal average rainfall amounts for east-central, southeastern and south-central Louisiana, as well as coastal Mississippi, were less than 0.50 inch. Heavier rain occurred over southwestern Mississippi, with localized rain totals over 1.0 inch for the week.

A stationary front draped across the central portion of Louisiana and southwest Mississippi by May 30th. As the front drifted to the coast by May 31st, thunderstorms occurred between New Orleans and Biloxi, Mississippi. Over the two-day period, widespread heavy rainfall developed, with the heaviest downpours over southeastern Louisiana. Several locations recorded one-day precipitation amounts in excess of 4.0 inches, including Galliano (6.50 inches), Donaldsonville (5.00 inches), Gulfport, Mississippi (4.95 inches), Grand Isle (4.69 inches), and Gonzales (4.59 inches). For coastal Mississippi, the greatest two-day maximums for this period were 6.94 inches at Waveland and 6.50 inches at Gulfport.

Drought Conditions:

The first two weeks May were short on rainfall for coastal and southwestern Mississippi and for southeastern Louisiana. By May 10th, much of southeastern Louisiana and all of southwest Mississippi had reached abnormally dry conditions. These conditions persisted through May 24th. Heavy rainfall at the end of the month helped to improve soil moisture over most of southwest Mississippi and southeastern Louisiana. Overall, from the beginning of March through May 29th, rain totals had been below normal for six consecutive weeks.

Products Issued For River Forecast Points: **FLW** Flood Warnings 9 **FLS** Flood Statements 14