

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 APRIL YEAR 2006		SIGNATURE Paul S. Trotter, Meteorologist-In-Charge
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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)

...RELATIVELY DRY CONDITIONS PERSIST FOR MOST OF APRIL...

March 2006 was the driest on record for Baton Rouge and several other locales in southeastern Louisiana. Dry weather continued in April. Though several weak cold fronts pushed across southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi, through April 16th, areal average rainfall amounts were less than 0.10 inch. Strong thunderstorms on April 21st and 22nd yielded areal average rainfall amounts of 0.10 to 0.31 inch over the region.

Heavy rain during the last week of April helped to ease the dryness over the region. The first frontal boundary produced rain amounts of more than 0.5 inch at several locations from April 25th through 27th. On April 29th and 30th, another system produced widespread rain amounts of 1.0 to 3.0 inches and isolated amounts over 5.0 inches. Flash floods developed over St. Tammany and East Baton Rouge Parishes, flooding several homes and roadways. The greatest reported totals for the week ending April 30th were 8.52 inches at Louisiana State University (LSU) Ben Hur Farm; 7.28 inches at Baton Rouge Airport (BTR); 6.48 inches at LSU in Baton Rouge; and 6.42 inches at Denham Springs. Areal rainfall amounts for the week ending on April 30th ranged from 2.95 inches over southeast Louisiana to 3.67 inches over east central Louisiana.

Drought...

In late March, abnormally dry conditions spread across all of southeastern Louisiana and coastal Mississippi and continued into April. By April 4th, moderate drought conditions became established over the Louisiana parishes around and south of Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas, as well as over the Mississippi coastal counties. Abnormally dry conditions persisted over the remainder of the region. Only southwest Mississippi had normal conditions through April 4th.

By April 11th, moderate drought extended across southern sections of Mississippi and Louisiana. Significant portions of the southern tier of Louisiana north and west of New Orleans were 16.0 inches to more than 20.0 inches below normal for the past year. By April 18th, the large precipitation deficits led to extreme drought conditions over the Louisiana parishes around and south of Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas, with severe drought conditions over the Mississippi counties and most of the Northshore. Six-month totals of 12.0 to 20.0 inches below normal were widespread along the central Gulf Coast and inland across the southern tier of Mississippi.

Extreme drought conditions expanded over southeast Louisiana by April 25th. Heavy rain fell during the last week of April and drought conditions improved. Severe drought conditions remained over the Atchafalaya Basin; moderate drought conditions persisted over the remainder of southeast Louisiana and coastal Mississippi; and abnormally dry conditions continued over southwest Mississippi.

Flooding...

In Louisiana, minor flooding began on the Lower Pearl River at Bogalusa on March 22nd and at Pearl River on March 26th. Flooding ended at Bogalusa on April 2nd and at Pearl River on April 1st. The ongoing drought has induced widespread below-normal streamflow levels.

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