

<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>2006</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 10, 2006	

*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)*

**...FAIR, RELATIVELY DRY WEATHER OCCURRED IN MARCH 2006...**

Fair, dry weather persisted into the second week of March. By March 9<sup>th</sup>, a cold front produced significant rain across southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi. Areal rainfall amounts over the region were generally less than 0.15 inch.

During mid-March, a series of frontal boundaries produced heavy rainfall concentrations outside of this region. For southern Mississippi and southeastern Louisiana, areal rain totals were less than 0.30 inch through March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Conditions became stormy over the Lower Mississippi River Valley and south Mississippi toward the end of March, as strong thunderstorms developed on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Many sites recorded two-day totals over 3.0 inches. After a brief period of high pressure, a front anchored over the Gulf of Mexico produced rain on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Areal average rain amounts totaled around 0.20 inch for the week ending March 26<sup>th</sup>. During the last days of March, only isolated thunderstorms occurred. Areal rainfall amounts were less than 0.10 inch through March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Drought...**

Though heavy rains during late February helped some areas, abnormally dry conditions persisted over the Florida Parishes, over Pearl River County in Mississippi, over the coastal counties of Mississippi, and over the parishes south of the Mississippi River. By March 14<sup>th</sup>, abnormally dry conditions remained only around Lake Pontchartrain and south of the Mississippi River. The ongoing lack of rain in March exacerbated the dry soil conditions. By March 21<sup>st</sup>, abnormally dry conditions to spread across all of southeastern Louisiana and coastal Mississippi. Only southwest Mississippi had normal conditions.

**Flooding...**

In Louisiana, flooding started on the Lower Pearl River at Bogalusa on February 27<sup>th</sup> and at Pearl River on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Flooding continued until March 15<sup>th</sup> at both locations. The heavy, late-March rains pushed the Pearl River above flood stage again at Bogalusa on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and at Pearl River on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Flooding continued at both locations into April.

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