

NWS FORM E-5 (11-88) (PRES. by NWS Instruction 10-924) MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA) NEW ORLEANS/BATON ROUGE, LA
	REPORT FOR: MONTH YEAR MARCH 2007	SIGNATURE PAUL S. TROTTER, METEOROLOGIST-IN-
TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2 NOAA / National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230 CHARGE Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283	DATE APRIL 15, 2007	

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)

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

...MARCH 2007 WAS DRIER THAN NORMAL...

The weather was drier than normal for the month of March across southern Mississippi and southeastern Louisiana. Most locations had rainfall deficits of three to four inches for the month. The greatest deficits from normal were 5.83 inches at Hammond, Louisiana and 5.07 inches at the Weather Service Office in Slidell, Louisiana.

A cold front produced scattered thunderstorms on March 1st and 2nd over southern Mississippi and southeastern Louisiana. Areal rainfall averaged less than 0.25 inch through March 4th. No rainfall developed during the second week of the month.

Changes developed over the region during the week of March 12th through 18th. A warm front pushed north and brought sparse precipitation. However, an upper-level disturbance helped focus severe thunderstorm development on March 14th and 15th. From that weather system, numerous thunderstorms produced locally heavy rainfall. Isolated amounts over 2.0 inches were recorded at several locations. Beginning late on March 15th through the 16th, another cold front produced light rain. Areal rainfall amounts ranged from 0.67 inch over coastal Mississippi to 1.50 inches over extreme southeast Louisiana for the week.

High pressure again dominated the weather through March 25th. Where rain fell, amounts were very light. Areal rainfall averaged 0.05 inch or less.

The week of March 26th was characterized by return flow from the Gulf of Mexico, which persisted through the 30th. In the abundant moisture, a cold front entered northern Louisiana on March 31st. As the front dissipated, rain developed over Louisiana and southern Mississippi. Areal rain amounts averaged less than 0.25 inch.

Drought...

As rainfall remained below the seasonal normal amounts in March, abnormally dry conditions spread across southwest Mississippi and the Florida Parishes by March 6th. By March 13th, the Mississippi Gulf Coast was abnormally dry and moderate drought conditions developed over parts of Pike and Walthall Counties in Mississippi. Moderate drought conditions developed across Jackson and Harrison Counties along the Gulf Coast and across much of Pearl River and Hancock Counties in Mississippi by March 27th. The northeast corner of Washington Parish in Louisiana was also plagued by moderate drought through the end of March. As the month ended, soils became abnormally dry over parts of the River Parishes.