

MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS

REPORT FOR:
MONTH YEAR
MARCH 2009

TO: Hydrologic Information Center, W/OS31
NOAA's National Weather Service
1325 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

SIGNATURE
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DATE
April 15, 2009

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions below the small box, 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.

...EXTENSIVE FLOODING DEVELOPED IN LATE MARCH WITH WIDESPREAD HEAVY RAIN...

March started with generally dry conditions over southwestern Mississippi, coastal Mississippi, and southeastern Louisiana. For the first week, areal average rain totals were less than 0.05 inch. By March 12th, a cold front had moved south across the region. The front stalled over the Gulf coast and southeastern Louisiana through March 16th. For the week ending March 15th, areal rainfall totals ranged from around 1.0 inch along the coasts of Mississippi and Louisiana up to 2.0 inches over east-central Louisiana. Areal average rainfall totals for the week of March 16th through 22nd ranged from 0.75 to **around 1.25** inches.

A strong cold front moved across Louisiana and Mississippi on March 25th. Copious rainfall developed until the front exited the region on March 28th. In Pike County, 8.00 inches fell on one day, March 26th, just southwest of McComb, MS. In Plaquemines Parish, LSU-Citrus Research Station recorded 11.76 inches for the week, which was 10.51 inches above the normal. During the week ending March 29th, several sites across the southeastern Louisiana and coastal Mississippi measured over 6.00 inches. The last days of March were **generally fair and dry**.

Flooding...

Minor flooding developed in Louisiana along the Pearl River after the heavy mid-March rains. Flooding started at Bogalusa on March 17th and at Pearl River on March 21st. Conditions worsened on the Pearl River later in March with the heavy rainfall that occurred during the next week.

During the week of March 23rd, copious rains produced floods across southeastern Louisiana and coastal Mississippi. By March 25th, the heavy rains pushed the Atchafalaya River into flood at Morgan City, LA.

After March 27th, flooding became widespread over the entire region. Minor flooding developed in Louisiana on the Amite River at Denham Springs, Bayou Manchac Point, and Little Prairie; on the Tickfaw River at Montpelier and Holden; on the Tangipahoa River at Robert; on the Tchefuncte River at Covington; and on the Bogue Falaya River at Covington Girl Scout Camp and downtown Covington. Minor flooding developed in Mississippi on the Tangipahoa River at Osyka; on the Biloxi River at Lyman; on the Pascagoula River at Graham Ferry; and on the Escatawpa River at Orange Grove.

Moderate flooding occurred on the Tickfaw River at Liverpool; on the Tangipahoa River at Kentwood; on the Tchefuncte River at Folsom; on the Bogue Chitto River at Franklinton and Bush; on the Pearl River at Bogalusa and Pearl River; on the West Hobolochitto Creek at McNeil, MS; on the East Hobolochitto Creek at Caesar, MS; and on the Biloxi River at Wortham, MS. Major flooding occurred on the Bogue Chitto River at Tylertown, MS.

Monthly Reports by Agricultural Region	Areal Average	Departure from Normal
Southwest Mississippi (2 Sites)	10.86	+4.11
South Central Mississippi (2 Sites)	12.68	+6.26
Coastal Mississippi	10.87	+4.35
Central Louisiana (2 Sites)	7.35	+2.24
East Central Louisiana	7.31	+1.27
South Central Louisiana (7 Sites)	6.76	+1.78
Southeast Louisiana	6.99	+1.45

Extreme Rainfall for the Month (Inches and Departure from Normal)

McComb (6SW), MS	20.98		Wiggins, MS	14.35	+7.57
Tylertown, MS	14.14	+7.90	Ocean Springs, MS	13.41	
LSU Citrus Research Station, LA	13.37	+7.67	Bayou Sorrel Lock, LA	12.06	+6.95

Drought...

At the start of March, soil conditions remained dry over the region. Moderate drought (D1) conditions extended over most areas of coastal Mississippi and southeastern Louisiana. Conditions were slightly better over the northern portion of the Florida Parishes and southwestern Mississippi, where abnormally dry (D0) soil moisture levels persisted. By mid-March, severe drought conditions had developed over a localized area along the Atchafalaya River. Rainfall over the three-day period from March 12th through March 15th eroded the soil moisture deficiencies and ended drought conditions at most locations. Heavy rainfall late in March produced extensive flooding and alleviated the drought conditions over the entire region by March 31st.

**Corrections in bold italic.*