

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)	
		NEW ORLEANS/BATON ROUGE, LA	
MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS		REPORT FOR:	YEAR
		MARCH	2014
TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2 NOAA / National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283		SIGNATURE	
		KENNETH GRAHAM METEOROLOGIST-IN-CHARGE	
		DATE	
		APRIL 15, 2014	

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.

...Periods of Frozen Precipitation First Then Thunderstorms Produced Flooding During March 2014...

A blistering cold front progressed across Louisiana and Mississippi during the first days of March and produced frozen precipitation at some locations. By March 3rd and 4th, much of Interstate 10 has hampered from Baton Rouge, LA westward. Mardi Gras Day (March 4th) celebrations were impacted by freezing rains at several locations across central, east-central, and south central Louisiana, as well as parts of southwestern Mississippi. By March 9th, another frontal boundary swept through, though little rain fell over the area. Areal average rainfall totals for March 3rd through March 9th ranged from 0.63 inch over coastal Mississippi up to 1.20 inches over extreme southeast Louisiana.

A strong low pressure area developed along the Texas and Louisiana coasts around March 11th. After that system produced significant rainfall over parts of Louisiana and Mississippi, a series of frontal boundaries impacted the region during mid-March. By March 16th, areal-average rain totals ranged from 1.05 inches over extreme southeast Louisiana to 1.91 inches over coastal Mississippi. Conversely, during the weather week that ended March 23rd, the frontal systems that crossed the region were weaker and drier. As a result, areal-average rain totals were around 0.25 inch across extreme southeast Louisiana and coastal Mississippi, but generally less than 0.10 inch over other parts of the region.

Starting around March 24th, the airmass over southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi began to destabilize. By March 28th, a cold front induced strong storms and heavy rainfall. Copious downpours developed through March 29th over parts of southwestern Mississippi, southeastern Louisiana, and coastal Mississippi. In this event, Slidell measured 7.06 inches; Terrytown recorded 5.37 inches; New Orleans Lakefront Airport had 5.33 inches; Gloster, MS recorded 5.21 inches; Biloxi, MS measured 5.17 inches; and Talisheek received 5.16 inches. Areal-average rainfall totals for the weather week ending March 30th ranged from 0.82 inch over parts of south-central Louisiana to over 3.0 inches across extreme southeast Louisiana and over 4.0 inches across coastal Mississippi.

Flooding...

Minor flooding developed on the Lower Pearl River at Bogalusa, LA on February 6th and at Pearl River, LA by February 9th. The Lower Pearl River remained in flood at Bogalusa until March 2nd and at Pearl River until March 4th.

Heavy rainfall in late March induced minor flooding over southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi. Starting March 28th, floods developed in Mississippi on the Buffalo River near Woodville; on the West Hobolochitto Creek at McNeill; on the Wolf River at Gulfport; and on the Biloxi River near Lyman. Flooding developed in Louisiana on the Bogue Falaya River at Camp Covington GSA and at Boston Street in downtown Covington.

After March 29th, flooding began in Mississippi on the East Hobolochitto Creek at Caesar. Flooding expanded in the Louisiana on the Tangipahoa River at Robert; on the Tchefuncte River at Covington; and on the Bogue Chitto River at Bush. Flooding redeveloped on the Lower Pearl River at Bogalusa and Pearl River.

Most flooding had receded by the end of March. However, flooding persisted into April on the Bogue Chitto River near Bush and on the Lower Pearl River at Bogalusa and Pearl River.

Monthly Reports by Agricultural Region	Areal Average	Departure from Normal
Southwest Mississippi (1 Site)	7.58	N/A
South Central Mississippi (1 Site)	5.72	-0.10
Coastal Mississippi	6.82	+1.03
Central Louisiana (2 Sites)	2.30	-2.87
East Central Louisiana	5.55	-0.49
South Central Louisiana (5 Sites)	2.19	-2.86
Southeast Louisiana	6.46	+0.92

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

Slidell, LA	11.30	+5.36	Biloxi, MS	8.26	+2.15
Stennis/Diamondhead, MS	8.80	+3.12	Boothville, LA	8.08	+2.75
Terrytown, LA	8.57		New Orleans (KNEW), LA	7.63	

Drought...

Soil moisture contents were at normal levels over all areas at the onset of March, except over a small portion of the Atchafalaya River Basin. With the heaviest rains generally east of this region, abnormally dry (D0) soil moisture contents persisted throughout March over that region. All other areas kept normal soil moisture conditions into April.