
News Release

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

Address:
Maryland-Delaware-D.C. District
8987 Yellow Brick Road
Baltimore, MD 21237

Email and Homepage:
gtfisher@usgs.gov
<http://md.water.usgs.gov/>

Release:
July 6, 2001

Contact:
Gary T. Fisher

Phone:
(410) 238-4259

Fax:
(410) 238-4210

Rainfall Helps Water Levels in June

Streamflow levels increased across Maryland (except NE) and Delaware and in the Chesapeake Bay, to hydrologists at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Baltimore, Maryland. The National Weather Service reported # inches of precipitation during May at BWI Airport, which was # inches above normal. This rainfall has helped to recharge the ground-water levels and to maintain water storage in the Baltimore reservoir system at 99 percent of capacity.

Streamflow entering the Chesapeake Bay averaged 40.1 bgd (billion gallons per day) in June, which is 19 percent below the long-term average for June, and streamflow from the Susquehanna River into the Bay was ... (see graphs at <http://md.water.usgs.gov/monthly/bay.html>). Streamflow in May represented a 48-percent drop from April, and continued a year of having below average streamflow into the Bay for every month except April. Low streamflow has resulted in increased salinity levels in the Bay.

Streamflow of the Potomac River near Washington, D.C., increased from April, and was 45 percent below the long-term average for May. The monthly streamflow levels at five USGS index stations were all below normal in May; however, streamflow on the Choptank River near Greensboro, Maryland, on the Eastern Shore was only 5 percent below normal.

Ground-water levels in water-table wells at the end of May were mostly in the normal range for Delaware and Maryland (see graphs at <http://md.water.usgs.gov/groundwater/>). Ground-water levels in water-table wells typically decrease in the spring and summer as more water is consumed by evapotranspiration from growing plants and increase air temperatures.

As the Nation's largest water, earth and biological science, and civilian mapping agency, the USGS works in cooperation with more than 2,000 organizations across the country to provide reliable, impartial scientific information to resource managers, planners, and other customers. This information is gathered in

every state by USGS scientists to minimize the loss of life and property from natural disasters, contribute to the sound conservation and the economic and physical development of the Nation's natural resources, and enhance the quality of life by monitoring water, biological, energy, and mineral resources.

*** * * USGS * * ***

In-depth information about USGS programs may be found on the USGS home page at <http://www.usgs.gov> and <http://chesapeake.usgs.gov/> for Chesapeake Bay activities. To receive the latest USGS news releases automatically by e-mail, send a request to <mailto:listproc@listserver.usgs.gov>. Specify the listserver(s) of interest from the following names: water-pr; geologic-pr; hazards-pr; biological-pr; mapping-pr; products-pr; lecture-pr. In the body of the message write: subscribe (name of listserver) (your name). Example: water-pr joe smith.