
News Release

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U.S. Geological Survey

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Release:
March 6, 2001

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Water Levels Improve, But Are Still Below Normal

Water levels for February improved at many sites but are still below average. February streamflow across Maryland and Delaware ranged from 29 percent below normal at the Potomac River near Washington, D.C., to 17 percent above normal at the Choptank River near Greensboro, Maryland, on the Eastern Shore, according to hydrologists at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Baltimore, Maryland. Despite improved conditions, adequate rainfall is still needed throughout the spring to maintain sufficient streamflow and ground-water levels through the summer.

Streamflow entering the Chesapeake Bay during February averaged 41.7 bgd (billion gallons per day), which is 39 percent below the long-term average (see graphs at <http://md.water.usgs.gov/monthly/bay.html>). Below-average conditions have persisted since September 2000. Storage in the Baltimore reservoir system increased by 2 percent to 87 percent of capacity at the end of February.

Ground-water levels increased for many wells and are generally in the normal range for Maryland and Delaware, except for the lower Delmarva Peninsula, where ground-water levels are below normal. Monthly updates of ground-water conditions for key observation wells in Maryland and Delaware can be accessed at <http://md.water.usgs.gov/groundwater/>.

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