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) **NWFO NEW ORLEANS/BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**
MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS		REPORT FOR: MONTH **May** YEAR **2004**
TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2 NOAA / National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283		SIGNATURE Paul S. Trotter, Meteorologist-In-Charge DATE **June 16, 2004**

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)

…Stormy Weather Caused Flooding in May over Southeast Louisiana and South Mississippi…

Flow from the Gulf of Mexico brought warm temperatures and high humidity into the region in early May. In this unstable environment, heavy rain and severe weather developed. Downpours on May 1 produced flash floods in Point Coupee and Lafourche Parishes, along with other areas of southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi. Dry weather returned by May 3. In Mississippi, minor flooding briefly occurred on May 1 along the Biloxi River at Lyman. In Louisiana, the Atchafalaya River responded quickly at Morgan City and briefly rose above its flood stage on May 2 and again on May 5.

On May 10, a dynamic upper level disturbance pushed across southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi. Strong storms produced severe weather and downpours occurred repeatedly over the same areas, quickly saturating the soils. Rain totals of over 4.0 inches occurred at a few locations. By May 11, flash floods developed over St. Charles, Plaquemines, St. Tammany, and West Baton Rouge Parishes. Flash floods developed on May 12 across the Atchafalaya River basin in Livingston, St. Landry, St. Martin, and Avoyelles Parishes. Localized rain totals of over 4.0 inches occurred again. By May 14, an approaching cold front helped focus the development of more thunderstorms. Flash floods over St. Landry Parish led to road closures. The front stalled over central Louisiana and southwest Mississippi; storms developed again on May 15. Significant floods occurred across the metropolitan New Orleans area, particularly in Jefferson and St. Charles Parishes.

Several sites had rainfall amounts of more than 9.0 inches for the week of May 10 through May 16. The greatest total reported in southeast Louisiana for this period was 15.49 inches at Butte La Rose.

After a brief dry period on May 16, heavy rainfall occurred on May 17 and May 18, as another upper level disturbance pushed into the Lower Mississippi River valley. Many roads were closed on May 17 in Jefferson, St. Charles, St Helena, Assumption, Ascension, and Iberville Parishes, with some minor flooding of homes and businesses. On May 18, extensive street flooding developed in St. Tammany Parish. At Slidell, 2.84 inches of rain occurred in one hour and 3.52 inches occurred within three hours; the total for the day was 4.59 inches.

From May 11 through May 19, significant river floods developed in response to the copious rainfall over the region. In southeastern Louisiana, minor to moderate flooding occurred along the Atchafalaya, the Amite, the Comite, the Tickfaw, the Natalbany, the Tangipahoa, the Tchefuncte, the Bogue Falaya, the Bogue Chitto, and the Lower Pearl Rivers. Major flooding occurred in Louisiana at Comite on the Comite River and at Folsom on the Tchefuncte River. In Mississippi, minor to moderate flooding developed on the West Hobolochitto Creek at McNeil and the East Hobolochitto Creek at Caesar, along with the Wolf River at Gulfport, and along the Biloxi River at Lyman. Flooding ended by May 20 everywhere in Louisiana and Mississippi, except on the Lower Pearl River where flooding ended May 23.

High pressure dominated the weather from May 21 until the end of the month, with generally hot, dry conditions. Thunder-storms produced significant rain on May 21; amounts ranged from 0.25 inch to over 1.75 inches. Although rain developed on May 23 and May 31, areal rainfall totals averaged less than one tenth of an inch. Flooding developed briefly on the Atchafalaya River at Morgan City on May 25, May 30, and May 31, in response to local and upstream rainfall.

Several areas, including McComb in Mississippi and New Orleans, Slidell, and Baton Rouge in Louisiana, had rain totals that were over 5.0 inches above normal values for May.