

RIVER AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Prepared for Waterways Association Meeting 1/8/2014
National Weather Service Forecast Office, Pittsburgh PA
For the latest river and weather forecasts--<http://www.weather.gov/pittsburgh>

WEATHER RECAP

December 2013 temperatures and precipitation both were above normal. The weather pattern continued to have wild swings in temperatures with several rain and snow events with arctic cold air outbreaks. There were 2 significant rainstorms, one Dec 5-6 with 1-2 inches mostly over the Cheat/Mon, then another December 20-22 with 2 -3 inches mostly over the Allegheny and Ohio. We had over twice the normal amount of snowfall for an average December. But with several warm-ups and complete snow melts during the month we currently have less than one inch snow water equivalents over the entire area.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Dec 2013 Precipitation</i>	<i>Departure (Inches)</i>	<i>Dec Snowfall</i>	<i>Seasonal Snowfall</i>
Pittsburgh	3.26	+0.41	15.0 (+6.7)	24.9








<i>Location</i>	<i>Dec Average Temperature</i>	<i>Departure degrees</i>	<i>Extreme High</i>	<i>Extreme Low</i>
Pittsburgh	34.2	+1.8	72(Dec 22)	10(Dec10,25)

HIGH WATER POTENTIAL

Flows on the Allegheny are 120% of normal, the Monongahela 110%, and the Ohio 100% of normal. A minimum of 1.50-2.00 inches basin wide rainfall in 6 to 12 hours is needed to bring rivers to bank full. High water potential is slightly above normal over the next 90 days. Near normal precipitation and below normal temperatures are expected through much of the remainder of January. The storm track/jet stream will be active.

HEADS UP: Weather models are calling for a several warm-ups again in January. A warm-up and potential rain event (1.00 to 1.25 inches) around Jan 11-13 and another warm-up Jan 24-26. In between, look for arctic air and a series of Alberta Clipper systems that will bring light 1 to 3 inch snow falls. Lake Erie is becoming ice covered so this should limit the amount of Lake effect snow falls.

WEATHER FORECAST

WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY
						
20%	30%	30%	50%		30%	40%
Slight Chc Snow High: 22 °F	Chance Snow Low: 18 °F	Chance Snow High: 32 °F	Chance Snow Low: 30 °F	Mostly Cloudy High: 41 °F	Chance Rain Low: 33 °F	Chance Rain/Snow High: 44 °F

8-14 Day Outlook... Normal temperatures and above normal precipitation.

30 Day Outlook... Below normal temperatures and normal precipitation.

Jan-Feb-Mar Outlook... Normal temperatures and normal precipitation

Mar-Apr-May Outlook... Above normal temperatures and normal precipitation

May-Jun-Jul Outlook... Above normal temperatures and normal precipitation

Average Yearly rainfall Pittsburgh: 38.19 inches **2013:** 36.65 inches **So far in 2014:** 0.59 (+.06)

Totals for: 2012: 41.74 inches; 2011: 44.24 inches; 2010: 37.85 inches

Average Yearly snowfall Pittsburgh: 41.9 inches **So far in 2013-2014:** 24.90 inches

2012-13: 57 inches

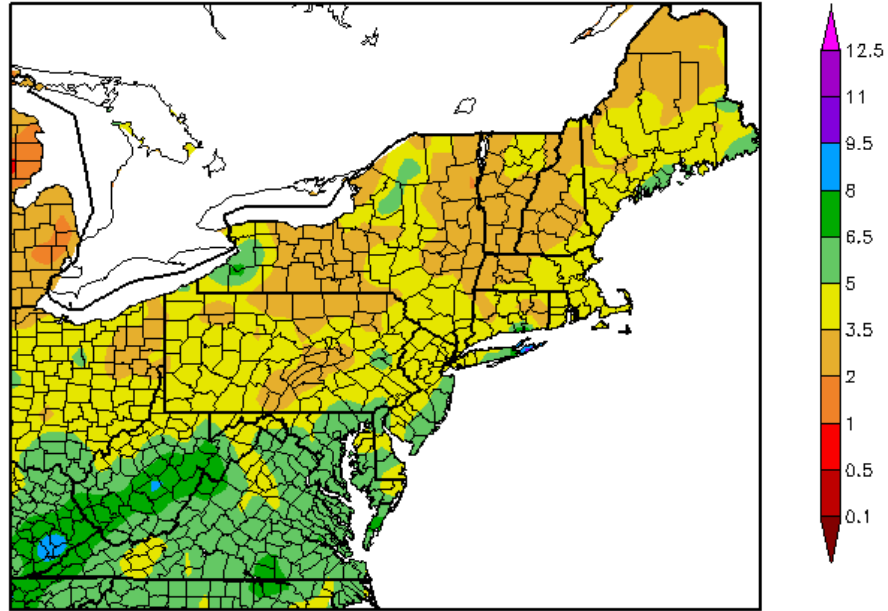
2011-12: 37 inches

2010-11: 57 inches

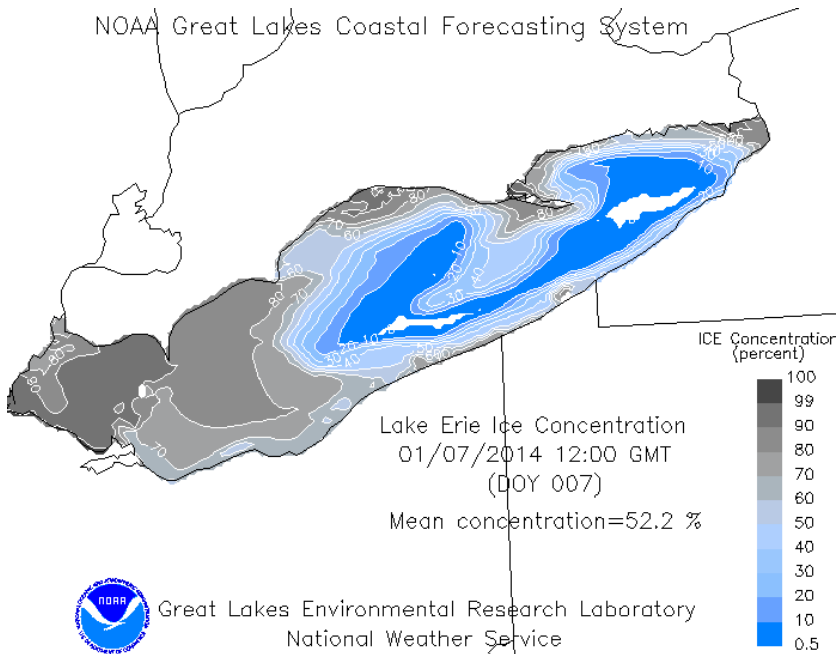
2009-10: 77 inches

Precipitation (in)
12/1/2013 – 12/31/2013

RESERVOIR	FLOOD STORAGE CAPACITY USED
Allegheny	0%
Tionesta	2%
Union City	2%
Woodcock	0%
East Branch	0%
Mahoning	4%
Crooked Creek	2%
Conemaugh	3%
Loyalhanna	3%
Stonewall Jackson	27%
Tygart	32%
Yough	3%
Michael J. Kirwan	1%
Berlin	5%
Lake Milton	0%
Mosquito	0%
Shenango	0%



NOAA Great Lakes Coastal Forecasting System



RIVER ICE REPORTS/PICTURES:

As discussed at the Joint River Ice meeting last year, “a picture is worth a thousand words”. We would like to be proactive before the start of river ice season, and would appreciate river ice photos from you and your crews. With the proliferation of smart phones/social media send them to the National Weather Service one of the following ways:

1. E-mail river ice photos to: nws.er.pbz.icereports@noaa.gov
2. Post them to the National Weather Service Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Pittsburgh.gov
3. Twitter: @NWSPittsburgh