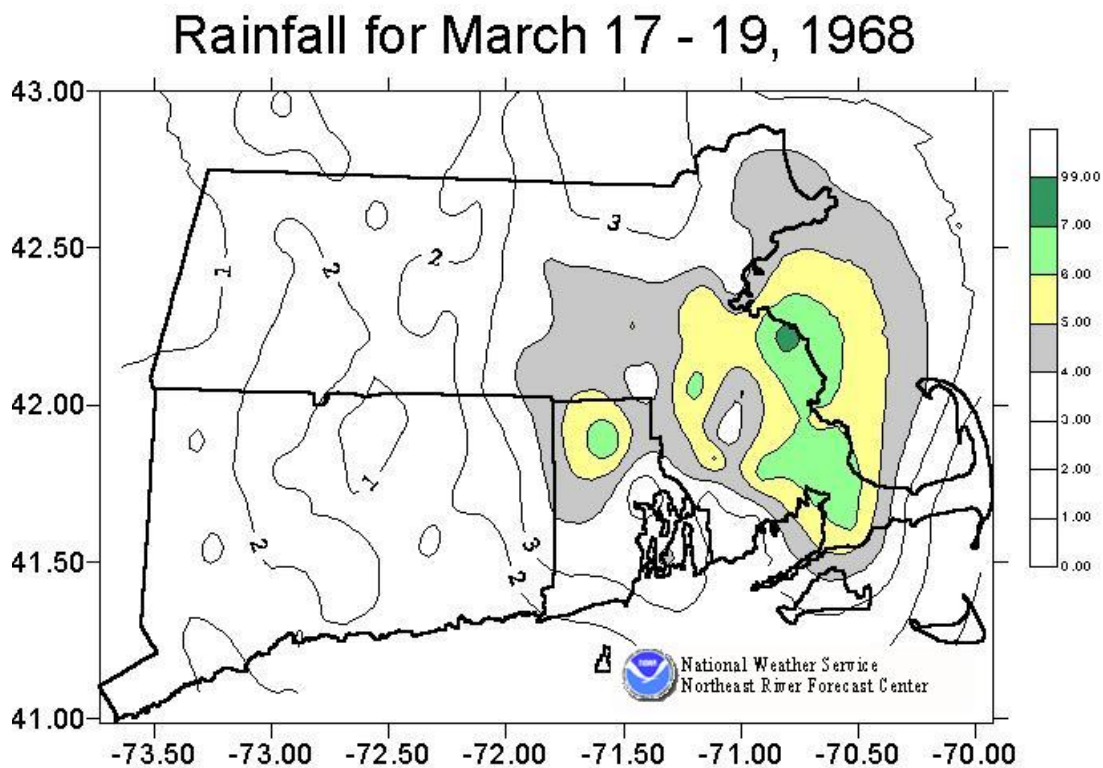


FLOOD OF MARCH 1968



The floods of March 1968 were not as dramatic as some earlier events in terms of the rainfall amounts, nor did it seriously impact the major mainstem rivers of the region. However, its impact in many ways was just as significant since its focus was on the heavily populated areas of eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. No lives were lost due to the flooding; however, damage estimates totaled about \$37 million.

Two significant storms impacted southern New England in March 1968. The first was not major, but it did combine with some snowmelt to bring a rise into many of the rivers and streams in the region. The second storm occurred March 17-19 and delivered up to 7 inches of rain with the heaviest amounts occurring just south of Boston.

The Ipswich, Charles, and Taunton River basins among others recorded floods of record during this event.

There were 29 of the now current 31 Corps of Engineers flood control dams constructed prior to this flood event. Only two dams (Hop Brook and Black Rock Dams) in the Naugatuck River Basin had not yet been constructed. This flood impacted southern New England much greater than central and northern New England. As a result, Corps of Engineers flood control dams utilized between 30% to 50% of flood control storage within the Thames River Basin, and about 60% in the Blackstone River Basin. Within the Thames River Basin, experienced river stages were the highest since the flood of August 1955. However, as a result of regulation of Corps flood control dams, stages on the French River at Webster, MA were reduced by 6 feet, and on the Quinebaug River at Putnam by 6.5 feet.

Streamgage Data

River	Station	Flow	cfs/sq mile	Stage
Ipswich	Ipswich	2680 cfs	22 csm	8.4 ft
Charles	Dover	3220 cfs	18 csm	8.7 ft *
Neponset	Norwood	1140 cfs	32 csm	10.5 ft
Wading	Norton	1460 cfs	34 csm	11.5 ft *
Blackstone	Woonsocket	15,400 cfs	37 csm	14.6 ft
Pawcatuck	Westerly	4470 cfs	15 csm	10.5 ft *

Note: * represents flood of record