

# Alexander River

The Alexander River runs for about 44 km from the western side of the Mountain Belt across cultivated areas and past towns of the Coastal Plain to the Mediterranean Sea. Average rainfall over this basin for 1949–97 is 640 mm, or 315 MCM at the gaging station; but natural factors plus use of the water of the Alexander River result in a median annual-flow volume of only 5 MCM near its outlet to the Mediterranean Sea. Industrial and domestic effluents have been discharged to the Alexander River and introduced considerable pollutants over the past 40 years. These have degraded the water quality and the ecosystem. However, improvements are underway with a comprehensive rehabilitation program that was begun in 1995. These efforts include preservation of breeding sites along the river for the rare Nile soft-shell turtle.



- Alexander River Watershed—  
Area at gage is 492 km<sup>2</sup>
- Major watersheds
- ▲ Elyashiv gaging station



*Alexander River near Elyashiv*

Flow characteristics of the Alexander River have been measured since 1939 at Elyashiv, near the river's outlet, where the drainage area is 492 km<sup>2</sup>. At this location, the stream typically flows only during December through March. Flows have never been observed from July through September, as shown in the graph of monthly flow volumes to the right. There have been 4 years since 1939 when zero flow was observed for the entire year. The largest flood observed on the Alexander River occurred on January 30, 1958, and had a peak discharge of 260 m<sup>3</sup>/s. Several large storms during 1992 led to an annual-flow volume that year more than double that of any other year since 1939.

