



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Detroit District**



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JULY 2008 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior continued rising in July, climbing 4 inches. Its mean water level of 601.7 feet was 16 inches higher than it was last July. In addition, Lake Superior was 8 inches higher than its chart datum, but 5 inches lower than its Long-Term Average (LTA). In July, the Lake Superior basin received precipitation that was almost 50% above average, and over the past year, precipitation has been above average within the basin. In addition, the lake's outflow through the St. Mary's River was below its July monthly average, while the net basin supply to the lake was above average. Lake Superior is expected to remain above chart datum over the next 6 months. It is forecasted to be 5 to 17 inches above last year's levels, and be around 4 inches below its LTA through January 2009.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron continued its seasonal rise in July. Its mean water level in July was 3 inches higher than it was last month, and 7 inches higher than it was last July. Furthermore, Lake Michigan-Huron was 9 inches above chart datum, and 16 inches below its LTA. Precipitation within its basin was above average in July, and has been above average during the past 12 months. In addition, the net supply of water to its basin was above average, and its outflow through the St. Clair River was below normal for July. The lake is predicted to reach its seasonal peak this month, and will begin declining next month. Lake Michigan-Huron is predicted to be 7 to 14 inches above its level of a year ago, and be a foot below its LTA over the next 6 months.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

The water level of Lake St. Clair rose in July. Its mean monthly level climbed 3 inches to 574.74 feet, which was 8 inches higher than last year's July level and 5 inches below its July LTA. The Lake St. Clair basin received 25% above average precipitation in July and its Detroit River outflow was below average. Lake St. Clair is forecasted to be 0 to 8 inches higher than last year's levels, and be 3 to 6 inches lower than its LTA through January 2009.

LAKE ERIE

After dropping in April and May, and staying relatively steady in June, Lake Erie rose about an inch in July. Lake Erie's July mean level of 572.05 was the same as it was last July. Unlike the Great Lakes upstream of it, Lake Erie was higher than its LTA, by 2 inches. Precipitation within its basin was 10% above average in July, and it has experienced 22% above average precipitation over the past year. Just as last month, Lake Erie's outflow through the Niagara River was near average. Also, the net basin supply to the lake was above average. Lake Erie's level is predicted to decline through December. This month, it is projected to be 4 inches higher than it was last August, and then hover around last year's levels into January 2009.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario's water level continued to fall in July. Its mean water level of 246.7 feet was 3 inches below its mean level in May. In addition, Lake Ontario was 10 inches higher than its level of a year ago, and 5 inches higher than its LTA. Lake Ontario's outflow through the St. Lawrence River was above average. Also, its basin received precipitation that was almost 40% above average. The net supply of water to Lake Ontario was above its monthly average as well. Lake Ontario is predicted to continue to decline into December, but it is predicted to stay 3 to 7 inches above last year's levels. It is forecasted to drop below its LTA in November.