

INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

<http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/IJC/Superior/index.shtml>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 29, 2008
Contact: Melissa Kropfreiter
Hydraulic Engineer, Great Lakes H&H Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District
(313) 226-6443
E-mail: Melissa.A.Kropfreiter@usace.army.mil

UPDATE ON LAKE SUPERIOR OUTFLOW

The International Lake Superior Board of Control, under authority granted to it by the International Joint Commission, has set the Lake Superior outflow to 1,620 cubic metres per second (m^3/s) (57.2 thousand cubic feet per second (tcfs)) for the month of March. This is the outflow recommended by the regulation plan for the month of March and is a decrease from the February outflow, which was 1,680 m^3/s (59.3 tcfs).

The March outflow will be released by discharging about 1,520 m^3/s (53.7 tcfs) through the three hydropower plants and passing most of the remaining flow through the control structure at the head of the St. Marys rapids. The gate setting of the control structure will be maintained at the existing setting equivalent to one-half gate open (four gates open 20 cm, or about 8 inches each). There will be no change to the setting of Gate #1 that supplies the Fishery Remedial Works.

This past month the water supply to the Lake Superior basin was below the long-term average for February, while that to the Lakes Michigan-Huron basin was above average. Lake Superior is currently 20 cm (8 inches) below its chart datum level. The level of Lake Superior is expected to fall slightly in March. Currently, the Lake Superior level is about 26 cm (10 inches) below its long-term average beginning-of-March level, but is 21 cm (8 inches) above the level recorded a year ago. This past month the level of Lake Superior fell 6 cm (2 inches), while on average the level falls by 5 cm (2 inches) in February. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron rose by 4 cm (2 inches) this February, while on average these lakes decline by 1 cm (0.4 inches) in February. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron is now about 52 cm (20 inches) below its long-term average beginning-of-March level, and is 12 cm (5 inches) lower than it was a year ago, and 22 cm (9 inches) below chart datum. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron is expected to rise in March. The Board continues to monitor conditions both on Lake Superior and downstream and will advise the International Joint Commission accordingly on those conditions.

Brigadier General Bruce A. Berwick, Commander, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is the United States Board Member. Mr. David Fay is the Board Member for Canada.

For further information please contact Melissa Kropfreiter as indicated above.

Additional information can be found on the Internet at:
http://www.ijc.org/conseil_board/superior_lake/en/superior_home_accueil.htm or,
at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/glhh>