



DETROIT DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

FEBRUARY 2013 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

The average water level of Lake Superior for the month of February was 600.26 feet, which was 1 inch below January's level. The February level was 10 inches below chart datum, 12 inches below long-term average (LTA), and 1 inch above the level of one year ago. Lake Superior continues its 14 year stretch of below LTA water levels, the longest period of below average levels in its recorded history dating back to 1918. Precipitation on the Lake Superior basin was below average in February and has been below average over the past 12 months. The water level of Lake Superior is forecasted to be 8 to 13 inches above record low water levels over the next six months. Superior is expected to be 10 to 11 inches below chart datum through April and then gradually rise to 3 inches above chart datum by August. The water levels are forecasted to range 0 to 2 inches below last year's levels and 10 to 11 inches below LTA through August.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

The February 2013 monthly mean water level for Lake Michigan-Huron was 576.15 feet, rising 2 inches from January's all-time record low water level. The February 2013 level was 1 inch above the previous record low water level for February of 576.08 feet set in 1964. The February level was 16 inches below datum, 14 inches below its level of last year, and 27 inches below its LTA. Lake Michigan-Huron also continues a 14 year stretch of below average levels, the longest in its period of record. The most probable line of the latest forecast shows Michigan-Huron remaining 2 to 7 inches above record lows through August. However, if the basin receives dry conditions over the next few months the water level could again return to near record lows. The lake is forecasted to range from 7 to 15 inches below chart datum through May and then 3 to 5 inches below datum for June, July, and August. The water levels are expected to remain 24 to 26 inches below LTA through August.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair's monthly mean water level for February 2013 of 572.64 feet rose 1 inch from January's level. During February, Lake St. Clair was 18 inches below last year's level and 9 inches below LTA. Lake St. Clair's water levels are projected to range 5 to 14 inches below last year's levels through June and then be 1 to 3 inches below the levels of a year ago during July and August. The lake is expected to range 10 to 13 inches below LTA through August.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie's average water level was 570.41 feet in February, which was 2 inches above January's level. February's water level was 20 inches below last year's level and 5 inches below LTA. The Lake Erie basin received near average precipitation in February and has received 88% of average precipitation over the last 12 months. Lake Erie is forecasted to be 9 to 16 inches below its levels of a year ago through April and then be 1 to 5 inches below last year for May through August. The water levels are expected to be 5 to 9 inches below LTA over the next six months.

LAKE ONTARIO

The level of Lake Ontario for February was 6 inches higher than January's level with a mean of 244.49 feet. The February water level was 19 inches below last year's level and 3 inches below LTA. Lake Ontario received above average precipitation in February, with the total being 118% of average. During the last 12 months, precipitation over the basin has been 88% of average. The lake is forecasted to range between 12 inches above and 14 inches below its levels of a year ago through August. Lake Ontario's water level is projected to be between 2 inches below and 3 inches above LTA over the next six months.