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

## **FEBRUARY 2016 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY**

### **LAKE SUPERIOR**

Lake Superior is in the midst of its seasonal decline, and its monthly mean level fell 2 inches from January to February. Its mean level of 602.00 ft was an inch higher than its February 2015 level, 9 inches higher than its long term average (LTA), and 11 inches higher than chart datum. The net basin supply to the lake was above average in February, however, precipitation to the lake that was around 20% below its February average. Lake Superior is projected to be within 2 inches of last year's level from February to August. The latest Great Lakes water level forecast predicts the lake's elevation above its long-term average will steadily decline from 9 to 5 inches over the next 6 months.

### **LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON**

After 2 consecutive months of anomalous rises this winter, Lake Michigan-Huron's monthly mean level fell slightly in February to 579.27 ft. The lake was 21 inches above chart datum, 2 inch above its level of a year ago, and 11 inches above the long-term average February level. Precipitation that fell on the lake was about average, but the net basin supply to the lake was well above average. Lake Michigan-Huron level is projected to be 4 to 6 inches above last year's level, 20 to 23 inches above chart datum, and 9 to 11 inches above long term average through August.

### **LAKE ST. CLAIR**

The level of Lake St. Clair dropped marginally in February, from 574.74 ft to 574.70 ft. The monthly mean level was 17 inches above its level of a year ago, and 15 inches above its historical February average. Although this current winter has been mild, ice jamming in the St. Clair River did restrict the flow of water into the lake for about a week in February, lowering the level of the lake during that period. The latest 6-month forecast projects Lake St. Clair to be 8 to 13 inches above last year's levels from February to May, and within 2 inches of last year's levels from June to August. In addition, Lake St. Clair is forecasted to be 12 to 15 inches above LTA during the next 6 months.

### **LAKE ERIE**

Lake Erie continued its seasonal rise in February. The lake's monthly mean level of 571.75 ft was 2 inches higher than its January mean level. The lake was 9 inches above last year's level and 11 inches above its LTA. The precipitation that fell over Lake Erie matched its February average, and the lake has received an average amount of precipitation over the past year. The net basin supply to the lake was considerably above average. The latest 6-month forecast predicts Lake Erie to be 11 to 16 inches above last year's levels through May, 3 inches above last year's level in June, and 4 to 6 inches below last year's level in July and August. Also, Lake Erie is projected to be 10 to 13 inches above average through August.

### **LAKE ONTARIO**

Lake Ontario's level continued climbing in February. The lake's mean level rose 6 inches in February to 245.44 ft. Lake Ontario received precipitation in February that was nearly 50% above average, but has experienced near average precipitation in the past 12 months. The net basin supply to the lake was significantly higher than average as well. Lake Ontario is expected to be 16 to 22 inches above last year's level through May, 8 inches above last year's level in June, and fall to 2 to 4 inches below last year's level in July and August. The current forecast calls for levels to be 6 to 12 inches above long term average levels over the next 6 months.