



DETROIT DISTRICT  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CELRE-HH-W  
477 MICHIGAN AVENUE  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

## **JANUARY 2015 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY**

### **LAKE SUPERIOR**

Lake Superior continued its seasonal decline, with its monthly mean coming in at 602.17 ft in January. This monthly mean level was 10 inches above its level of a year ago, 13 inches above chart datum, and 9 inches above its long-term average (LTA). This current 11-month stretch of above average water levels on the lake was preceded by 15 consecutive years of below average water levels. The Lake Superior basin received precipitation in January that was 30% below average, but experienced 9% above average precipitation over the last 12 months. The Superior level is projected to be 8 to 16 inches above chart datum over the next 6 months. In addition, the lake is expected to be 7 to 9 inches above its level of a year ago until April, but fall to 1 inch below last year's level in June and July. Lake Superior levels are forecast to be 5 to 8 inches above LTA through June.

### **LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON**

Lake Michigan-Huron's January level declined somewhat to 579.10 ft, from 579.17 ft in December. Levels remain 9 inches above average, however, due to the previously high levels resulting from wet conditions through the late summer and fall. January precipitation was 47% less than long term average January precipitation. The lake's mean water level was 8 inches above its mean level in December, and 9 inches above its January average. January was the fifth consecutive month with above average water levels after a 15 year stretch of continuously below average conditions. In addition, the lake's level was 19 inches above chart datum and 22 inches above its level of a year ago. Over the next six months, Lake Michigan-Huron is predicted to be 13 to 22 inches above last year's levels, and 9 inches above LTA through July 2015. In addition, the lake is predicted to be 19 to 31 inches above chart datum over the next 6 months.

### **LAKE ST. CLAIR**

Lake St. Clair's mean water level decreased to 573.98 ft in January from its mean level of 574.57 ft in December. This decrease in level is largely attributed to the buildup of ice impeding the flow in the St. Clair River. This flow restriction lowers the amount of water flowing into Lake St. Clair. In addition, the lake's mean level in January was 11 inches above its level of a year ago and 5 inches above LTA. The lake is projected to be 7 to 16 inches above last year's levels over the next 6 months. Moreover, Lake St. Clair is expected to be 9 to 10 inches above its LTA from February through July.

### **LAKE ERIE**

In January, Lake Erie's mean level fell slightly from 571.42 ft to 571.39 ft. The lake's January mean level was 6 inches above last year's level and 7 inches above its LTA. Lake Erie experienced precipitation in January that was 27% below average, but has received 95% of average precipitation during the past 12 months. The lake is forecasted to be 5 to 8 inches above its level of a year ago through July. Moreover, Lake Erie is projected to be 4 to 8 inches above its LTA over the next 6 months.

### **LAKE ONTARIO**

Lake Ontario rose from its December level of 244.29 ft to 244.62 ft. The lake's January level was 3 inches lower than its level of a year ago and equal to its LTA. The Lake Ontario basin experienced below average precipitation in January, but has experienced 98% of average precipitation over the past 12 months. Lake Ontario is projected to be 5 inches below to 2 inches above last year's level through July. In addition, the lake is forecasted to be 3 inches below to 2 inches above LTA from February to July.