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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
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### **MARCH 2015 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY**

#### **LAKE SUPERIOR**

Lake Superior continued its seasonal fall in March. Its monthly mean level of 601.77 ft in March was 2 inches lower than its mean level in February. In addition, the lake's March mean level was 7 inches above its level of a year ago, 8 inches above chart datum, and 8 inches above its long-term average (LTA). The Lake Superior basin received precipitation in March that was less than 70% of its average March precipitation, but has experienced 6% above average precipitation over the last 12 months. The Lake Superior level is projected to be 9 to 17 inches above chart datum over the next 6 months. The lake is predicted to remain above its level of a year ago through May, but then fall to 1 to 3 inches below last year's levels through September. Lake Superior's level is forecasted to be 4 to 7 inches above LTA over the next 6 months.

#### **LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON**

Lake Michigan-Huron continued falling in March. Its mean level declined an inch in March, from 579.07 ft to 579.00 ft. The lake's level, however, was 7 inches above average, 18 inches above chart datum and 21 inches above its level of a year ago. March was the seventh consecutive month with above average water levels after a 15 year stretch of continuously below average conditions. Nevertheless, Lake Michigan-Huron received less than an inch of precipitation in March, but has experienced slightly above average precipitation during the past 12 months. Over the next six months, Lake Michigan-Huron is projected to be 7 to 19 inches above last year's levels, and 8 to 9 inches above LTA over the next 6 months. In addition, the lake is predicted to be 20 to 28 inches above chart datum through September.

#### **LAKE ST. CLAIR**

Lake St. Clair began its seasonal rise in March. Lake St. Clair's mean water level rose 8 inches in March to a level of 573.92 ft in March. This large increase in level is due largely to the breakup and melting of the ice that had impeded the flow from the St. Clair River. The lake's mean level in March was 6 inches above its level of a year ago and an inch above LTA. Lake St. Clair is forecasted to be 1 to 6 inches above last year's levels over the next 6 months, and be 4 to 8 inches above its LTA from into September.

#### **LAKE ERIE**

Lake Erie usually rises from February to March, but in 2015, Lake Erie's mean level fell from 570.96 ft in February to 570.83 ft in March. The lake's March mean level equaled last March's mean level and was 2 inches below its LTA. One possible factor in the continued decline of Lake Erie's level was the below average precipitation it received in March. The lake received precipitation that was less than 40% of average for March, and has received just 90% of the precipitation it usually receives in a 12-month period. Lake Erie is projected to be 1 to 2 inches below its level of a year ago through September. In addition, the lake is expected to be 3 inches below LTA in April, nearly equal to LTA in May, and be 1 to 4 inches above its LTA over from June to September.

#### **LAKE ONTARIO**

Lake Ontario's level fell again in March. Its monthly mean level of 244.13 ft was 3 inches lower than its mean level in February. Lake Ontario's level is usually on the rise in March. The lake's March level was 6 inches lower than its level of a year ago and 11 inches below its LTA. The Lake Ontario basin experienced less than 40% of its average March precipitation, and has experienced 96% of average precipitation over the past 12 months. Lake Ontario is projected to be 2 to 12 inches below last year's level through August, and be near last year's level by September. In addition, the lake is forecasted to be 4 to 11 inches below LTA from April to June, be near its LTA in July, and be 1 inch below LTA in August and September.