



DETROIT DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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MARCH 2016 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior's monthly mean level fell 1 inch from February to March. Its mean level of 601.90 ft was 2 inches above last year's March level, 9 inches above its long term average (LTA) March level, and 10 inches above chart datum. Basin-wide precipitation was 6% higher than average in March. Well above average net basin supply resulting from above average runoff to the lake in March led to a less-than-average decline in water levels. The 6-month forecast calls for levels to remain above LTA monthly mean levels through September, however the difference from LTA levels is expected to fall, with the predicted September level at 5 inches above LTA. The monthly mean levels are forecast to be within 2 inches of last year's levels for the entire forecast period. Levels are expected to be 11 to 18 inches above chart datum through September.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron's level rose 2 inches from February to March. Its mean March level of 579.43 ft was 5 inches above last year's March level and 13 inches above its LTA March level. Precipitation over the Michigan-Huron basin was 87% more than normal March precipitation. The above average precipitation, as well as greater-than-average runoff to the lake resulted in well above average net basin supplies to Michigan-Huron. Lake Michigan-Huron is projected to be 14 to 15 inches above LTA levels and 6 to 9 inches above last year's levels throughout the 6-month forecast period. Levels are expected to be 29 to 35 inches above chart datum through September.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair rose 6 inches from February to March. Lake St. Clair's mean March level was 575.20 ft, which was 15 inches above last year's March level and 17 inches above its LTA March level. The latest 6-month forecast calls for Lake St. Clair to remain 14 to 15 inches above its LTA monthly levels throughout the forecast period. Levels are expected to range from 10 inches above last year's levels in April to within 1 inch of last year's level from July to September.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie rose roughly 6 inches from February to March. March precipitation to the basin was 57% higher than average. Despite very high precipitation, runoff to the lake was within the normal to below normal range due to the lack of snowpack. The net result was somewhat above average net basin supplies to the lake in March. The March mean level was 17 inches above last year's March level and 13 inches above its LTA March level. The 6-month forecast calls for Lake Erie to be 11 to 13 inches above LTA levels through September, with monthly mean levels from 13 inches above last year's level in April to 2 to 5 inches below last year's levels from July to September.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario rose 6 inches from February to March. Precipitation to the Lake Ontario basin was 18% greater than average March precipitation. However, net basin supply to the lake was near average for the month of March as a result of runoff values in the normal to below normal range due to lack of snowpack. Projected lake levels are 4 to 10 inches above LTA levels throughout the 6 month forecast period. Levels are expected to be 8 to 20 inches above last year's levels through June, but 3 to 4 inches below last year's levels from July to September.