



DETROIT DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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MAY 2013 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

The monthly mean water level of Lake Superior was 600.75 feet for the month of May, which is a rise of 7 inches from April's level. The average rise for Lake Superior from April to May is 4 inches. The May level was 2 inches above its level of last year, 4 inches below chart datum, and 10 inches below long-term average (LTA). 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 well above average in May at 158%; however, precipitation has been below average over the past 12 months. The water level of Lake Superior is forecasted to be 10 to 16 inches above record low water levels over the next six months and 2 to 6 inches above chart datum through November. The water levels are forecasted to be 1 to 9 inches above last year's level over the next six months and 6 to 7 inches below LTA through November.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

The average water level of May for Lake Michigan-Huron was 577.20 feet, which is a rise of 7 inches from April's level. The average rise for Lake Michigan-Huron from April to May is 4 inches. Lake Michigan-Huron's May level was 14 inches higher than the all-time record low set in January 2013. The May level was 4 inches below datum, 5 inches below its level of last year, and 22 inches below its LTA. Lake Michigan-Huron also continues a 14 year stretch of below average levels, the longest in its period of record. Precipitation on the Lake Michigan-Huron basin was above average in May at 110%, and has been near average over the past 12 months. The water level of Lake Michigan-Huron is forecasted to be 11 inches above record lows through November. Michigan-Huron is expected to be at chart datum in June, rise to 2 inches above chart datum in July, and then decline again to 4 inches below chart datum by November. The water levels are forecasted to range 2 inches below last year's level in June to 10 inches above last year's level by November. Michigan-Huron is expected to remain 17 to 20 inches below LTA over the next six months.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair's monthly mean water level for May of 573.62 feet was 3 inches above April's level. During May, Lake St. Clair was 6 inches below last year's level and 11 inches below LTA. Lake St. Clair is forecasted to be 4 inches below its levels of a year ago in June and then gradually rise to 6 inches above last year's level by October. The lake is expected to remain 9 to 11 inches below LTA over the next six months.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie's average water level was 571.19 feet in May, which was 3 inches above April's level. May's water level was 7 inches below last year's level and 8 inches below LTA. The Lake Erie basin received below average precipitation in May at 76%; and precipitation has been below average over the last 12 months. Lake Erie is forecasted to be 4 inches below its levels of a year ago in June and then gradually rise to 3 inches above last year's level by October. The water levels are expected to be 6 to 8 inches below LTA over the next six months.

LAKE ONTARIO

The monthly mean water level of Lake Ontario for May was 245.67 feet, which was 6 inches above April's level. The May water level was 1 inch below last year's level and 5 inches below LTA. Lake Ontario received below average precipitation in May at 92%; and precipitation has been below average over the past 12 months. The lake is forecasted to be 3 to 15 inches above last year's level through November. Lake Ontario's water level is projected to range from 2 inches below to 5 inches above LTA over the next six months.