



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

### **MAY 2014 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY**

#### **LAKE SUPERIOR**

Lake Superior continued its seasonal rise during May, reaching its highest May water level since 1997. Its monthly mean level was 601.94 ft, 8 inches higher than April's mean. The May mean level was 14 inches above its level of a year ago, 10 inches above chart datum, and 5 inches above its long-term average (LTA). If the May monthly mean is not adjusted when final levels are coordinated, it would be the third straight month that Lake Superior is higher than its LTA after a 15 consecutive year stretch of being below its LTA. The Lake Superior basin received above average precipitation in May, and slightly above average precipitation over the past 12 months. The Superior level is expected to be 12 to 16 inches above chart datum over the next 6 months. Also, the lake is projected to be 4 to 13 inches above its level of a year ago through November. It is forecasted to be 2 to 6 inches above its LTA into November.

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

Lake Michigan-Huron's mean water level in May was 578.31 feet, 8 inches higher than April's monthly mean level. The May level was 10 inches above chart datum, 13 inches above its level of last year, and 8 inches below its LTA. Lake Michigan-Huron continues a 15 consecutive year stretch of below average levels, the longest in its period of record. The Lake Michigan-Huron basin received precipitation in May that was 7% above average, but has experienced near average precipitation over the past 12 months. Over the next six months, Lake Michigan-Huron is projected to be 12 to 15 inches above last year's levels. The lake is forecasted to be 4 to 7 inches below LTA through August, and 2 to 3 inches lower than its LTA from September to November. In addition, the lake is predicted to be 12 to 16 inches above chart datum from May to November.

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

The monthly mean water level of Lake St. Clair climbed 7 inches from April's mean to May's mean level of 574.57 feet. Lake St. Clair mean level was 11 inches above its level of a year ago and equaled its LTA in May. The lake is expected to be 4 to 7 inches above last year's levels over the next 6 months. In addition, Lake St. Clair is projected to be 1 to 2 inches below its LTA over the next 6 months.

#### **LAKE ERIE**

The average water level for Lake Erie was 572.01 feet in May, rising 6 inches from its April mean level. The lake's May level was 12 inches above last year's level, and 2 inches above its LTA. In addition, Lake Erie experienced precipitation in May that was very near average. The lake is forecasted to be 7 inches above its levels of a year ago in June, very near to last year's levels in July, and 1 to 2 inches above last year's levels from August to November. Lake Erie is predicted to remain 1 to 3 inches above its LTA over the next 6 months.

#### **LAKE ONTARIO**

The average water level for Lake Ontario was 246.52 feet in May, a foot higher than its April average level. Its mean water level in May was 10 inches higher than last year's level and 5 inches above its LTA. Also, the Lake Ontario basin experienced precipitation in May that was 27% above average. This is the second straight month the lake has seen precipitation that was at least 25% above average. Moreover, Lake Ontario has experienced near average precipitation over the past 12 months. Lake Ontario is forecasted to be 2 inches above last year's level in June, and 3 to 6 inches below last year's levels from July to November. Lake Ontario's water level is expected to be 4 inches above its LTA in May, equal to its LTA in July, and 1 to 3 inches below LTA from August to November.