



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

OCTOBER 2015 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

During the month of October, Lake Superior began its seasonal decline. Its mean October water level was 602.36 ft, 4 inches below its September 2015 mean water level. The lake's October mean water level was also 4 inches below where it was in October of 2014. The October 2015 level was 4 inches higher than the long term average October level and 15 inches above chart datum. The Lake Superior basin received near average precipitation in October, but has seen precipitation over the last 12 months that was 8% below average. Lake Superior is projected to be lower than 2014 levels throughout the 6-month forecast period by 5 to 6 inches, but be 1 to 3 inches above long term average levels over the next 6 months. Lake Superior levels are forecast to be 2 to 13 inches above chart datum through April.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron continued its seasonal decline and fell 5 inches in October to a level of 579.33 ft. October levels were 6 inches higher than the long term average October levels, the 14th consecutive month that the Lake has been above average after a 15 year stretch of continuously below average conditions. The mean monthly water level was 22 inches above chart datum. Lake Michigan-Huron saw precipitation in October that was about 10% below average, and has experienced 16% below average precipitation over the last 12 months. The lake's October levels was just an inch higher than its 2014 level. Its mean monthly water levels are predicted to fall an inch below its level of a year ago, and be 1 to 3 inches below last year's levels through April. In addition, Lake Michigan-Huron is predicted to be 5 to 6 inches above long term average levels over the next six months. Also, the lakes is projected to be 16 to 20 inches above chart datum through April.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair remained in seasonal decline during October. Lake St. Clair's water level fell 6 inches from a monthly mean of 575.52 ft in September to 575.00 ft in October. The lake's mean level in October was 5 inches above its level of a year ago and 11 inches above long term average levels. Lake St. Clair is forecasted to be within an inch of last year's levels in November and December, and be 2 to 14 inches above last year's levels from January to April 2016. The lake is projected to be 8 to 12 inches above long term average levels through April.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie also continued its seasonal decline in October, falling 6 inches to a level of 571.98 ft in October. The Lake Erie basin experienced a drier than average month in October, receiving 90% of its average October precipitation, and has also experienced 90% of its annual average precipitation in the past 12 months. October was the third consecutive month of below average precipitation. The lake's October level was 11 inches above its long term average October level, and 6 inches higher than October 2014. Lake Erie is forecasted to be 1 to 11 inches above its level of a year ago during the next 6 months. Moreover, the lake is projected to be 8 to 10 inches above its LTA through April.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario is in the midst of its seasonal decline. Its monthly mean level fell 10 inches in October, from 245.77 feet in September to 244.98 ft. The lake's October level was 6 inches higher than its level of a year ago and 2 inches above its long term average October level. The Lake Ontario basin received above average October precipitation, but has experienced precipitation over the past 12 months that has been 13% below average. Lake Ontario is projected to be 1 to 4 inches above average from November to December, be near average in January, and then rise to 4 to 9 inches above last year's levels from February to April 2016. It is projected to be within 2 inches of its LTA over the next 6 months.