



DETROIT DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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SEPTEMBER 2014 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior's monthly mean level rose an inch in September, from 602.59 ft in August to 602.69 ft. This monthly mean level was 9 inches above its level of a year ago, 19 inches above chart datum, and 7 inches above its long-term average (LTA). This current 7-month stretch of above average water levels on the lake was preceded by 15 consecutive years of below average water levels. The Lake Superior basin received precipitation in September that was 25% above average, and has experienced 6% above average precipitation over the past 12 months. The Superior level is projected to be 4 to 18 inches above chart datum over the next 6 months. In addition, the lake is expected to be 4 to 9 inches above its level of a year ago during the next 6 months, and be 4 to 7 inches above LTA through February.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron continued its seasonal rise in September, climbing to a mean level of 579.10 ft. The lake's seasonal rise historically ends in July, but has continued through September this year due to persistently wet conditions. Lake Michigan-Huron received above precipitation in September, and has experienced above average precipitation in each of the past six months. The lake's mean water level was an inch above its mean level in August, and exceeded its September long-term average of 579.07 ft, marking the first time since December 1998 that Lake Michigan-Huron's monthly mean level was above LTA. That 15 consecutive year stretch of below average levels was the longest in its period of record. In addition, the lake's level was 19 inches above chart datum and 19 inches above its level of a year ago. Over the next six months, Lake Michigan-Huron is predicted to be 15 to 19 inches above last year's levels, and 2 to 4 inches above LTA through March 2015. In addition, the lake is predicted to be 13 to 19 inches above chart datum over the next 6 months.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair's mean water level in September of 575.00 ft matched its mean level in August. Its mean level in July was also identical. In addition, the lake's mean level in September was 7 inches above its level of a year ago and 12 inches above LTA. The lake is projected to be 10 to 17 inches above last year's levels over the next 6 months. Moreover, Lake St. Clair is expected to be 7 to 10 inches above its LTA from October through March.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie continued its seasonal decline in September. Its average water level in September was 571.88 ft, 2 inches lower than its mean level in August. The lake's September mean level was 6 inches above last year's level, and 6 inches above its LTA. In addition, Lake Erie experienced precipitation in September that was 29% above average, and has received 5% above average precipitation during the past 12 months. The lake is forecasted to be 5 to 9 inches above its level of a year ago through March. Moreover, Lake Erie is projected to be 5 to 7 inches above its LTA over the next 6 months.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario is in the midst of its seasonal decline. Its monthly mean water level in September of 245.34 ft was 7 inches below its mean level in August. In addition, the lake's level was very near to its level of a year ago and 2 inches above its LTA. The Lake Ontario basin experienced below average precipitation in September, but has experienced above average precipitation within the past 12 months. Lake Ontario is projected to be 3 to 6 inches below last year's level through February, and 2 inches above last year's level in March 2015. In addition, the lake is forecasted to be 1 to 4 inches below LTA from October to March.