

## Information

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and Integrated Science Data Management, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada derive historic and projected lake levels under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. The Corps also, on a weekly basis publishes online the *Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths*, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. This *Monthly Bulletin of the Lake Levels for the Great Lakes* may be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, by calling (313) 226-6442 or emailing [hhpm@usace.army.mil](mailto:hhpm@usace.army.mil). Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication. This information is available on the internet at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/GreatLakesInformation.aspx>.

### Great Lakes Basin Hydrology September 2015

The Great Lakes basin as a whole saw below average precipitation during the month of September. Lake Superior received slightly below average precipitation for the month, with 92% of average falling. Lakes Michigan-Huron and Erie also received below average precipitation (25% and 21% below average respectively). Lake Ontario, on the other hand received 12% more precipitation than average during the month of September. All of the lakes experienced higher than average net basin supplies during the month of September. The tables below list September precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

A comparison of monthly mean lake levels for September to long-term average (1918-2014) shows all lakes at levels above long term average September levels. Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were both 6 inches above long-term September average levels. Lake St. Clair and Erie were 13 and 12 inches, respectively, above their long-term September averages. Lake Ontario was 2 inches above its September average.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	September				12-Month Comparison			
	2015	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	3.23	3.50	-0.27	92	29.16	30.43	-1.27	96
Michigan-Huron	2.59	3.46	-0.87	75	29.12	32.48	-3.36	90
Erie	2.54	3.23	-0.69	79	32.01	35.59	-3.58	90
Ontario	3.65	3.27	0.38	112	30.95	35.83	-4.88	86
Great Lakes	2.83	3.43	-0.60	83	29.54	32.68	-3.14	90

LAKE	September Net Basin Supplies <sup>1</sup> (cfs)		September Outflows <sup>2</sup> (cfs)	
	2015	Average (1900-2008)	2015	Average <sup>3</sup> (1900-2008)
Superior	83,000	70,000	99,000	83,000
Michigan-Huron	41,000	27,000	200,000	195,000
Erie	-3,000	-17,000	228,000	204,000
Ontario	13,000	5,000	301,000	249,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

<sup>1</sup> Net basin supply is the net result of precipitation falling on the lake, runoff from precipitation falling on the land which flows to the lake, and evaporation from the lake. Negative net basin supply denotes evaporation exceeded runoff and precipitation. The net total supply can be found by adding the net basin supply and the outflow from the upstream lake.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include diversions.

<sup>3</sup> Lake Ontario average water supplies and average outflows are based on period of record 1900-2005