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 publishes the "Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths," weekly, 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. 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
January 2014

All of the Great Lakes experienced below average precipitation in January. Precipitation for the overall Great Lakes basin was under 70% of average in January. Lake Superior received less than half of its average precipitation, while Michigan-Huron received just 76% of its January average. This winter's cold air temperatures have created an ice cover on the Great Lakes which is greater for this time of year than it has been in recent years. With the exception of Lake Erie, the net basin supply of water to all of the Great Lakes was above average in January. The tables below list January precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

A comparison of monthly mean lake levels for January to long-term average (1918-2012) shows Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were 1 and 13 inches below average, respectively. Lake St. Clair was 6 inches below average. Lake Erie was very near average, while Lake Ontario was 3 inches above average. Boaters should be aware of hazards to navigation due to continued below average water levels on the upper Lakes.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)

BASIN	January				12-Month Comparison			
	2014	Average (1900-2010)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2010)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	0.94	1.94	-1.00	48	31.74	30.46	1.28	104
Michigan-Huron	1.63	2.14	-0.51	76	34.02	32.44	1.58	105
Erie	2.15	2.49	-0.34	86	37.52	35.43	2.09	106
Ontario	1.74	2.74	-1.00	64	34.38	35.73	-1.35	96
Great Lakes	1.50	2.20	-0.70	68	33.77	32.64	1.13	103

LAKE	January Net Basin Supplies[1] (cfs)		January Outflows[2] (cfs)	
	2014	Average[3] (1900-2008)	2013	Average[3] (1900-2008)
Superior	-8,000	-13,000	74,000	69,000
Michigan-Huron	101,000	60,000	156,000	161,000
Erie	10,000	29,000	188,000	196,000
Ontario	39,000	32,000	223,000	222,000

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

[1] 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.

[2] Does not include diversions.

[3] Lake Ontario average water supplies and average outflows are based on period of record 1900-2005