

## 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 2014

Overall, the Great Lakes basin received precipitation that was 13% above average in September. Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and Erie saw above average precipitation in September, while Lake Ontario experienced below average precipitation. Lake Michigan-Huron has experienced above average precipitation for 6 consecutive months. The net basin supply of water to each of the lakes was above average in September, with the exception of Lake Ontario, which received a lower than average net basin supply. The net basin supplies to Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron have been above average for the past 6 months. 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 (1918-2013) shows Lake Superior was 7 inches above average, while Lake Michigan-Huron was slightly above average. September marks the first month since December 1998 that Lake Michigan-Huron was above long-term average. Lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario were 7, 6, and 2 inches, respectively, above long-term average.

| PRECIPITATION (INCHES) |           |                        |       |                 |                     |                        |       |                 |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| BASIN                  | September |                        |       |                 | 12-Month Comparison |                        |       |                 |
|                        | 2014      | Average<br>(1900-2010) | Diff. | % of<br>Average | Last 12<br>Months   | Average<br>(1900-2010) | Diff. | % of<br>Average |
| Superior               | 4.41      | 3.52                   | 0.89  | 125             | 32.19               | 30.46                  | 1.73  | 106             |
| Michigan-Huron         | 3.83      | 3.45                   | 0.36  | 110             | 35.09               | 32.44                  | 2.65  | 108             |
| Erie                   | 4.10      | 3.19                   | 0.91  | 129             | 37.13               | 35.43                  | 1.70  | 105             |
| Ontario                | 2.34      | 3.26                   | -0.92 | 72              | 37.41               | 35.73                  | 1.68  | 105             |
| Great Lakes            | 3.83      | 3.41                   | 0.41  | 112             | 34.80               | 32.64                  | 2.16  | 107             |

| LAKE           | September Net Basin Supplies <sup>1</sup> (cfs) |                        | September Outflows <sup>2</sup> (cfs) |                                     |
|----------------|---|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                | 2014  | Average<br>(1900-2008) | 2014                                  | Average <sup>3</sup><br>(1900-2008) |
| Superior       | 126,000   | 70,000                 | 109,000                               | 83,000                              |
| Michigan-Huron | 120,000   | 27,000                 | 194,000                               | 195,000                             |
| Erie           | 5,000   | -17,000                | 213,000                               | 204,000                             |
| Ontario        | 0   | 5,000                  | 278,000                               | 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