

INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

<http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Storage/HH/IJC/Superior/index.shtml>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAKE SUPERIOR OUTFLOW CONDITIONS

The International Lake Superior Board of Control, under the authority granted to it by the International Joint Commission, has set the Lake Superior outflow to 1,750 cubic meters per second (m^3/s) (61.8 thousand cubic feet per second (tcfs)) for the month of November. This is the outflow recommended by the regulation plan for the month of November and is a decrease from the October outflow of 2,060 m^3/s (72.7 tcfs).

The November outflow will be released by discharging about 1,636 m^3/s (57.8 tcfs) through the three hydropower plants and passing most of the remaining flow through the control structure at the head of the St. Marys rapids. The gate setting of the control structure will be maintained at the existing setting equivalent to one-half gate open (four gates open 25 cm, or about 10 inches each). There will be no change to the setting of Gate #1 that supplies the Fishery Remedial Works.

From 6:00 AM Saturday November 1st to about 6:00 P.M. Sunday November 2nd the Edison Sault Electric Co., (ESE) in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan will be shutdown to permit removal of the Fort Street Bridge that spans its power canal. On Saturday and Sunday November 8th and 9th upgrades to the electrical distribution system will require ESE to operate at a reduced flow. The reductions in the St. Marys River flows on these dates may result in levels being up to 8 cm (3 inches) lower in the St. Marys River immediately downstream of Sault Ste. Marie during these periods.

The October water supplies for Lakes Superior were below average while supplies for Michigan-Huron were near average for the month. Currently, the Lake Superior level is about 27 cm (11 inches) below its long-term average beginning of November level and about 16 cm (6 inches) below the level recorded last year. This past month the level of Lake Superior declined by 6 cm (2 inches), more than its usual amount for October. The level of Lake Superior is now 4 cm (1-1/2 inches) above its chart datum level. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron declined by 6 cm (2 inches) this past month, about its usual amount for October. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron is about 60 cm (24 inches) below its long-term average beginning of November level, and is now about 22 cm (9 inches) below the level recorded last year. Lakes Michigan-Huron's level is now 16 cm (6 inches) below its chart datum level, but is 18 cm (7 inches) above its record low beginning-of-November level. The Board continues to monitor conditions both on Lake Superior and downstream and will advise the International Joint Commission accordingly on those conditions.

Brigadier General (P) Steven R. Hawkins, Commander, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is the United States Board Member. Mr. Carr McLeod is the Board Member for Canada.

For further information please contact Carl Woodruff as indicated above.

The Internet homepage at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/> provides access to additional information.