



Green Bay Weather



Temp: 56 °F
Hi: 69 °F
Lo: 49 °F

LOCAL NEWS

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Dip in Great Lakes water levels continues

Michigan-Huron 12 inches lower than last September

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Already-low Great Lakes water levels have continued to decline this year, according to the International Lake Superior Board of Control.

[Graphic: A look at the levels](#)

The level of lakes Michigan-Huron is about 23 inches below its long-term average for the beginning of September. The level is 12 inches below this time last year but 9 inches above the record low.

"Mainly, it's the lack of precipitation and snowfall," said Carl Woodruff, a hydraulic engineer for the Detroit District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Low water can be a blessing or a curse.

"It gives us more beach," said Kent Harrison, a park manager at Whitefish Dunes State Park in Door County. "From my standpoint, it's not any kind of a problem."

Sand Bay Beach Resort and Suites owner Dale Stroschein of Sturgeon Bay echoed that viewpoint.

Also a professional fisherman and the owner of a guide service, Stroschein noticed other benefits as well. "In low water, fish are more concentrated," he said.

Those who work at boat launches and marinas see things differently.

"Anything that drops at this point is significant," said Charles Buccola, owner of the Leathem Smith Lodge and Marina in Sturgeon Bay. "We've gone past the critical mark right now, and we're in desperation mode."

Buccola said boats are often damaged on rough surfaces exposed by receding water.

Potawatomi State Park's boat launch has experienced a drop in usage because of low water.

"This year, we only put in two docks instead of three, so we have less lanes running," said Maggie Kailhofer, an assistant park manager at the park. "You can't launch big boats."

Despite the setbacks compared to normal water levels, the boat launch is functioning about as well as it was last year, she said.

Regaining normal water levels would take a long period of above-average snowfall and precipitation, Woodruff said.

"It will take a long period of time to bring these lakes back," he said.

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