

SUBSCRIBE TO **The Macomb Daily**

**The Macomb Daily**

**Online Edition**

SEARCH

Classifieds



SITE MENU:

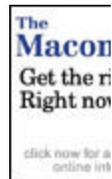
Select...

[Home](#) > [Local News](#) > [Low water makes navigating, fishing more challenging](#)

▶ THE MACOMB DAILY NEWS

Email Print

Other News



# Low water makes navigating, fishing more challenging

PUBLISHED: June 19, 2006

**By Tom Watts**  
Macomb Daily Staff Writer

Lake St. Clair water levels are up since April and should remain steady for the rest of the month, which is good news for boaters and other lake users. But officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said levels are expected to be 7 to 9 inches below the long-term average through October.

"For the boating season through October we can expect to be 1 to 3 inches below where we were last year, and we're expecting it to be 7 to 9 inches below long-term average through October," said Tim Calappi, a hydraulic engineer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office in Detroit.



Macomb Daily photo by Craig Gaffield.

Carl Pisarski of Mount Clemens likes to fish from the shoreline, but with Lake St. Clair water levels down compared with last year he must wade in the water to get his line past algae and seaweed that forms along the low-lying areas.

Calappi said overall levels the past five years "have been lower than it is now."

**Manufactur  
Engineer  
Growing tier**

"It depends on the month," Calappi said. "One month we might be 3 inches less than last year, and another month might be 1 inch. So much depends on the weather."

Calappi said since January 2005 the Lake St. Clair basin has experienced 3 inches below-average precipitation.

"That's helping levels keep lower for the last 16 months," he said. "The biggest supplier of water to the lower Great Lakes (Lake St. Clair, Erie and Ontario) basin is precipitation running off the land and into the rivers and eventually into the Great Lakes."

"The flow of water that comes out of the St. Mary's River up north and into Lake Huron is only about 25 to 30 percent of the entire supply of water that will flow into Lake St. Clair each month," he said. "It's really driven by precipitation, evaporation."

According to long range predictions by meteorologists with the National Weather Service in White Lake Township, the southeast Michigan region has a chance for above- or below-average rainfall and temperatures this summer.

"Unfortunately, in the Great Lakes basin there's an equal chance of anything happening," Calappi said. "The weather service will have a strong indication of something being different every now and then, but the most recent report said there is an equal chance of anything happening."

This month, water levels on Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, and Lake St. Clair, are 2 to 3 inches below levels of a year ago.

Lake Ontario is 6 inches below last year's level. Levels in Superior, Michigan and Huron are expected to rise 2 inches the next month.

Over the next two months, levels on all the Great Lakes are expected to remain similar to or slightly lower than those measured in 2005, said Calappi, noting a lack of ice cover on Lake St. Clair last winter "increased evaporation rates."

"You have more evaporation when there's no ice," Calappi said. "Lake St. Clair is a little different than the big Great Lakes. The bigger lakes' peak evaporation is in the fall, but with Lake St. Clair it's much smaller and it tends to evaporate a little bit more."

Jim Krause of Belle Maer Harbor in Harrison Township said his water level indicator Friday showed a 6-inch increase in levels since April 11, 2006.

"It's down over the long-term average, but right now the water's up since spring," Krause said.

Alan Rominske, 64, a fisherman from Roseville, said he prefers pike fishing, which needs deep water.

"The higher the water the better," Rominske said. "It seems like the pike are done with the lower water we're getting. They need deep water and now they're harder to find. I'm also not seeing the trophy bluegill anymore – the 8-9 inch kind."

Carl Pisarski, 26, of Mount Clemens, was fishing along the shoreline at Metro Beach Metropark in Harrison Township. "I'd rather the water levels be higher for shoreline fishing," he said. "The lines get caught up on the seaweed and algae on the shoreline. Low water's not good for fishing from the banks."

supplier see  
[View all](#)



[View all](#)



**KALKASK**  
 WOODED.  
 road, electri  
 forest! \$24,  
[View all](#)



**FRASER 3**  
 RENOVATI  
 CELEBRAT  
 1 Bedroom  
 \$565 Pool...

**MT CLEM**  
 Loft Apts, st  
 bdrm. 1 bath  
 7591

[View all](#)



[View all](#)  
 Merchandi

Boater Therese Kopacz of Rochester Hills was heading near Harsens Island over the weekend and said the water levels have been "pretty good."

"The water levels seem lower by the islands in the channels," Kopacz said. "It's normally way up. But it's been OK. I thought it would be higher this year."



[Email This Story  
to a Friend](#)



[Printer Friendly  
Version](#)



[About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Advertising](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Home Delivery](#) | [© 2006](#)