



DETROIT DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
BOX 1027
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48231-1027

OCTOBER 2008 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior continued its seasonal decline during the month of October. Its mean water level of 601.44 feet was 2 inches lower than September and 6 inches above last year's water level. Lake Superior was 4 inches higher than its chart datum elevation and 8 inches below its long term average (LTA) for October. Precipitation in the Lake Superior basin was below average during the month of October, but has been near average over the past year. The outflow from Lake Superior into the St. Marys River was also below average. The latest 6-month forecast continues to show Lake Superior's water levels 2 to 3 inches above those of a year ago and 7 to 9 inches below its LTA.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron continued its normal period of seasonal decline in October, as its water level dropped 4 inches during the month. Its mean water level of 577.72 feet was 8 inches higher than it was last October, 3 inches above chart datum and 15 inches below its LTA. Similar to the Lake Superior basin, precipitation in the Lake Michigan-Huron basin was below average during the month of October, but has been near average over the past year. The outflow from Lake Michigan-Huron into the St. Clair River was near average in October. Lake Michigan-Huron is predicted to remain 3 to 10 inches above its level of a year ago and 16 to 17 inches below its LTA over the next 6 months.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair dropped 6 inches during the month of October as it continued its seasonal decline. The lake's monthly mean level was 573.65 feet which is 6 inches higher than last year's level and 6 inches below its October LTA. The outflow from Lake St. Clair into the Detroit River was near average. Lake St. Clair is forecasted to be several inches higher than last year's levels through January 2009 and then be 6 to 7 inches lower last year's levels through April. The lake is expected to be 4 to 8 inches below its LTA through April.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie dropped 5 inches this past month as it continued its seasonal decline. Its October mean water level was 570.90 feet which is 2 inches higher than last year's level and two inches lower than its LTA. The Lake Erie basin received near average precipitation in October. Lake Erie's outflow into the Niagara River was near average in October. The current forecast shows Lake Erie remaining near last year's level through December and then several inches below last year's levels through April. Lake Erie is projected to be 4 to 6 inches below its LTA over the next 6 months.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario's water level also continued its seasonal decline in October. Its mean water level of 244.75 feet was 8 inches lower than September's level. Lake Ontario was 7 inches higher than its level of a year ago and was near its October LTA. Near average precipitation fell in the Lake Ontario basin this past month. The lake's outflow through the St. Lawrence River was near average in October. Levels on Lake Ontario are expected to remain 4 to 7 inches above last year's levels through December, then fall 5 to 15 inches below last year's level through the early part of 2009. It is forecasted to be below its LTA over the next 6 months.