



DETROIT DISTRICT  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CELRE-HH-W  
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DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

## **FEBRUARY 2012 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY**

### **LAKE SUPERIOR**

The average water level of Lake Superior during February was 600.20 feet, which was a drop of 3 inches from January's average level, continuing its seasonal decline. The February level was 11 inches below chart datum, 13 inches below its long-term average (LTA), and the same level as last year. Lake Superior's outflow through the St. Mary's River was below average in February. Precipitation within the lake's basin was 92% of average in February and 89% of average over the past 12 months. Lake Superior is forecasted to continue its seasonal decline through March and then begin to rise in April, going from 12 inches below to 2 inches above chart datum over the next six months. During this time, Lake Superior is expected to be between 1 inch below and 2 inches above last year's levels. The water levels will remain 11 to 13 inches below their LTA through August.

### **LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON**

Lake Michigan-Huron continued its seasonal decline in February. Its monthly mean level of 577.30 feet was 1 inch lower than January's level, 2 inches below chart datum, 7 inches above its level of last year and 13 inches below its LTA. Precipitation on the Lake Michigan-Huron basin was 75% of average in February and 113% of average over the past 12 months. Lake Michigan-Huron's outflow through the St. Clair River was above average in February. Lake Michigan-Huron is forecasted to begin its seasonal rise in March, ranging from 2 inches below to 8 inches above chart datum over the next six months. The water levels are expected to be 13 to 14 inches below its LTA through August and range from 6 inches above to 2 inches below last year's levels.

### **LAKE ST. CLAIR**

Lake St. Clair's monthly mean water level of 574.11 feet was 1 inch lower than January's level. Lake St. Clair was 19 inches above last year's level and 8 inches above its LTA. Lake St. Clair's outflow through the Detroit River was above average during February. Lake St. Clair is forecasted to begin its seasonal rise in March. The water levels are projected to be 7 to 13 inches above last year's levels through April, then 1 to 4 inches below last year's levels for May through August. The lake level is forecasted to range between 3 inches below and 4 inches above its LTA over the next six months.

### **LAKE ERIE**

Lake Erie's average water level was 572.08 feet in February, which was nearly the same as its level in January. February's water level was 24 inches above last year's level and 15 inches above its LTA. The Lake Erie basin received 81% of average precipitation for February and has received 142% of average precipitation over the last 12 months. The outflow from Lake Erie into the Niagara River was above average during February. The latest 6-month forecast projects Lake Erie to be 0 to 14 inches above its levels of a year ago through May and then 4 to 5 inches below last year's levels during June through August. The lake is projected to be 2 to 13 inches above its LTA over the next six months.

### **LAKE ONTARIO**

The level of Lake Ontario rose 7 inches from January's level to a mean level of 246.03 feet. Lake Ontario's water level was 23 inches above last year's level and 15 inches above its LTA. Lake Ontario received below average precipitation in February, with the total being 57% of average. During the last 12 months, precipitation over the basin has been 116% of average. Lake Ontario's outflow through the St. Lawrence River was above average in February. The lake is forecasted to be 3 to 16 inches above its levels of a year ago through May and then range from 1 inch below to 6 inches above last year's levels for June through August. Lake Ontario is expected to be 8 to 13 inches above its LTA over the next six months.