



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

MARCH 2012 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

The average water level of Lake Superior during March was 600.16 feet, which was near February's average level. The March level was 11 inches below chart datum, 12 inches below its long-term average (LTA), and 2 inches above the level of last year. Lake Superior's outflow through the St. Mary's River was below average in March. Precipitation within the lake's basin was above average in March, at 111% of average, and over the past 12 months has been below average at 93% of average. Lake Superior is forecasted to begin its seasonal rise in April, going from 8 inches below to 3 inches above chart datum over the next six months. During this time, Lake Superior is expected to be between 0 to 4 inches above last year's levels. The water levels will remain 10 to 11 inches below their LTA through September.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron's monthly mean level for March was 577.43 feet, which was about 2 inches higher than February's level, beginning its seasonal rise. The level for March was 1 inch below chart datum, 7 inches above its level of last year and 12 inches below its LTA. Precipitation on the Lake Michigan-Huron basin was 107% of average in March and 110% of average over the past 12 months. Lake Michigan-Huron's outflow through the St. Clair River was below average in March. Lake Michigan-Huron is forecasted to continue its seasonal rise through July and then begin its seasonal decline in August, ranging from 2 to 8 inches above chart datum over the next six months. The water levels are expected to be 12 to 14 inches below its LTA through September and range from 7 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 the same as February's level. During March, Lake St. Clair was 13 inches above last year's level and 4 inches above its LTA. Lake St. Clair's outflow through the Detroit River was below average during March. Lake St. Clair is forecasted to begin its seasonal rise in April through June and then begin its seasonal decline in July. The water levels are projected to range 7 inches above to 5 inches below over the next six months. And the lake level is forecasted to range between 1 inch above and 5 inches above its LTA through September.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie's average water level was 572.05 feet in March, which was near February's average level. March's water level was 13 inches above last year's level and 11 inches above its LTA. The Lake Erie basin received 104% of average precipitation for March and has received 139% of average precipitation over the last 12 months. The outflow from Lake Erie into the Niagara River was above average during March. Lake Erie is forecasted to continue its seasonal rise through May, ranging from 8 inches above to 7 inches below its levels of a year ago through September. The lake is projected to be 7 inches above to 1 inch below its LTA over the next six months.

LAKE ONTARIO

The level of Lake Ontario dropped 1 inch from February's level to a mean March level of 245.96 feet. Lake Ontario's water level was 14 inches above last year's level and 11 inches above its LTA. Lake Ontario received below average precipitation in March, with the total being 63% of average. During the last 12 months, precipitation over the basin has been 109% of average. Lake Ontario's outflow through the St. Lawrence River was above average in March. The lake is forecasted to continue its seasonal rise through May, ranging 7 inches above to 9 inches above its levels of a year ago through September. Lake Ontario is expected to be 0 to 6 inches above its LTA over the next six months.