

## Information

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and Integrated Science Data Management, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada derive historic and projected lake levels under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. Tables of possible storm-induced rises at key locations on the Great Lakes are available on request. The Corps also publishes the "Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths," weekly, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. This information is available on the internet at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/glhh>.

### Great Lakes Basin Hydrology October 2012

The entire Great Lakes basin received above average precipitation for the month of October. The Lake Superior basin received 128% of average precipitation last month and 91% of average over the past 12 months. The Lake Michigan-Huron basin received 148% of average precipitation in October and 94% of average over the past 12 months. Lake Erie received 160% of average precipitation last month and 103% of average over the past 12 months. Lake Ontario saw 140% of average precipitation in October and 87% of average over the past 12 months. Combined precipitation over the entire Great Lakes basin was above average for October at 142% and below average over the past 12 months at 94%. The water supply for all the lakes was above average for October. The tables below list October precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

A comparison of monthly mean lake levels for October to long-term average (1918-2011) shows Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were 15 and 28 inches below average, respectively. Lake St. Clair was 15 inches below average in October, and Lakes Erie and Ontario were 9 and 11 inches, respectively, below average. Boaters should be aware of hazards to navigation due to continued below average water levels on all lakes.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	October				12-Month Comparison			
	2012	Average (1900-2008)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2008)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	3.65	2.86	0.79	128	27.77	30.51	-2.74	91
Michigan-Huron	4.25	2.87	1.38	148	30.41	32.44	-2.03	94
Erie	4.42	2.77	1.65	160	36.53	35.40	1.13	103
Ontario	4.35	3.10	1.25	140	31.04	35.71	-4.67	87
Great Lakes	4.10	2.88	1.22	142	30.78	32.64	-1.86	94

LAKE	October WATER SUPPLIES <sup>1</sup> (cfs)		October OUTFLOW <sup>2</sup> (cfs)	
	2012	Average <sup>3</sup> (1900-2008)	2012	Average <sup>3</sup> (1900-2008)
Superior	72,000	40,000	55,000	80,000
Michigan-Huron	2,000	1,000	164,000	191,000
Erie	-1,000	-21,000	176,000	201,000
Ontario	16,000	7,000	220,000	243,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

<sup>1</sup> Water supply is the net result of precipitation falling on the lake, runoff from precipitation falling on the land which flows to the lake, and evaporation from the lake. Negative water supply denotes evaporation exceeded runoff and precipitation.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include diversions.

<sup>3</sup> Lake Ontario average water supplies and average outflows are based on period of record 1900-2005