

## 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. 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 Monthly Bulletin of the lake levels for the Great Lakes may be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, by calling (313) 226-6441 or emailing [hhpm@usace.army.mil](mailto:hhpm@usace.army.mil). Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication. This information is available on the internet at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/glhh>.

### Great Lakes Basin Hydrology January 2013

The overall Great Lakes basin received above average precipitation for the month of January but is still below average for the total of the last 12 months. Lakes Superior and Ontario received below average precipitation in January while Michigan-Huron and Erie received above average. All of the lakes have received below average precipitation over the past 12 months. Lake Superior's water supply was above average for January. Even though precipitation was above average for Lake Michigan-Huron, the water supply was below average meaning that runoff to the lake was below average and/or evaporation from the lake surface was above average last month. The water supplies of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario were above average last month. The tables below list January precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

A comparison of monthly mean lake levels for January to long-term average (1918-2011) shows Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were 13 and 29 inches below average, respectively, with Lake Michigan-Huron setting a new all-time record low in January at 576.02 ft. Lake St. Clair was 13 inches below average last month, and Lakes Erie and Ontario were each 7 inches below average. Boaters should be aware of hazards to navigation due to continued below average water levels on all lakes.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	January				12-Month Comparison			
	2013	Average (1900-2008)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2008)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.53	1.95	-0.42	78	27.71	30.51	-2.80	91
Michigan-Huron	3.48	2.15	1.33	162	29.61	32.44	-2.83	91
Erie	3.08	2.50	0.58	123	30.77	35.40	-4.63	87
Ontario	2.55	2.75	-0.20	93	30.06	35.71	-5.65	84
Great Lakes	2.78	2.21	0.57	126	29.43	32.64	-3.21	90

LAKE	January WATER SUPPLIES <sup>1</sup> (cfs)		January OUTFLOW <sup>2</sup> (cfs)	
	2013	Average <sup>3</sup> (1900-2008)	2013	Average <sup>3</sup> (1900-2008)
Superior	6,000	-13,000	55,000	69,000
Michigan-Huron	38,000	60,000	153,000	161,000
Erie	45,000	29,000	194,000	196,000
Ontario	40,000	32,000	210,000	222,000

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