

WEEKLY GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL UPDATE

February 03, 2012

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Cold temperatures and snow were experienced last weekend and the beginning of this past week, followed by above average temperatures across the Great Lakes basin. Weekend temperatures are expected to remain above seasonal averages, and little precipitation is anticipated. The past month saw above average precipitation across the southern Great Lakes basin, while the Lake Superior basin had below average precipitation.

LAKE LEVEL CONDITIONS

Currently, Lake Superior is 1 inch above its level of a year ago and Lake Michigan-Huron is 7 inches higher than it was last year. Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario are 20, 26, and 20 inches, respectively, higher than they were at this time last year. Over the next thirty days, Lake Superior is projected to drop 2 inches from its current level, while Lake Michigan-Huron is projected to remain steady. The water levels of Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario are forecasted to increase 1, 1, and 1 inch, respectively, over the next month. See our [Daily Levels web page](#) for more water level information.

FORECASTED MONTHLY OUTFLOWS/CHANNEL CONDITIONS

Lake Superior's outflow through the St. Marys River is projected to be below average for the month of February. Lake Huron's outflow into the St. Clair River and the outflow from Lake St. Clair into the Detroit River are expected to be near average throughout the month of February. Lake Erie's outflow through the Niagara River and the outflow of Lake Ontario into the St. Lawrence River are both predicted to be above average in February.

ALERTS

The water levels of Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are below chart datum, and are forecasted to remain below chart datum over the next several months. Users of the Great Lakes, connecting channels and St. Lawrence River should keep informed of current conditions before undertaking any activities that could be affected by changing water levels. Mariners should utilize navigation charts and refer to current water level readings. Ice information can be found at the National Ice Center's [website](#).

	SUPERIOR	MICH-HURON	ST. CLAIR	ERIE	ONTARIO
Forecasted Water Level for Feb 3, 2012 (feet)	600.33	577.36	574.25	572.21	245.96
Chart Datum (feet)	601.10	577.50	572.30	569.20	243.30
Difference from chart datum (inches)	-9	-2	+23	+36	+32
Difference from average water level for Jan 3, 2012 (inches*)	-3	-1	0	0	+10
Difference from average water level for Feb 3, 2011 (inches*)	+1	+7	+20	+26	+20
Difference from long-term monthly average of Feb (inches)	-11	-12	+9	+17	+15
Difference from highest monthly average of record for Feb (inches)	-26	-44	-30	-15	-12
Year of highest recorded monthly mean	1986	1986	1986	1987	1952
Difference from lowest monthly average of record for Feb (inches)	+9	+15	+45	+48	+47
Year of lowest recorded monthly mean	1926	1964	1926	1936	1936
Projected change in levels by Mar 3, 2012 (inches)	-2	0	+1	+1	+1

ALL DATA SHOWN IN THIS SUMMARY ARE REFERENCED TO IGLD 1985
*VALUES FOR SPECIFIC DAY ARE BASED ON 3-DAY DAILY AVERAGE AROUND SPECIFIED DATE
LONG TERM AVERAGE PERIOD OF RECORD, 1918-2010

FORECASTED INFORMATION
PROVIDED BY
Department of the Army
Detroit District, Corps of Engineers
[Detroit District Home](#)
1-888-694-8318 ext. 1

RECORDED DATA (1918 – present)
provided by
[NOAA, Great Lakes Online](#)
(301) 713-9596

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
[Detroit District Great Lakes Homepage](#)
[International Joint Commission](#)
[Great Lakes Information Network](#)