

WEEKLY GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL UPDATE

March 01, 2013

WEATHER CONDITIONS

This past week all of the Great Lakes basins except Lake Superior experienced a major winter storm. The storm brought rain and heavy wet snow to the area. This was enough to bump the monthly precipitation total of the Michigan-Huron basin to slightly above its monthly average. However, the precipitation over the Lake Erie, Ontario and Superior basins were still below average for the month of February. Snow is expected to taper off and cooler temperatures are expected as fair weather pattern sets up in the Great Lakes basin this weekend. This dry pattern is expected to remain over the area to start next week.

LAKE LEVEL CONDITIONS

The water level of Lake Superior is 1 inch higher than one year ago, while Lake Michigan-Huron is 12 inches lower. Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario are 15, 19, and 17 inches, respectively, lower than their levels of a year ago. Over the next month, Lake Superior is forecasted to remain near its current level, while Lake Michigan-Huron is expected to increase 1 inch. The water level of Lake St. Clair is forecasted to increase 3 inches and Lake Erie is projected to rise 4 inches over the next month. Lake Ontario is also forecasted to increase 4 inches from its current level 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 March. Lake Huron's outflow into the St. Clair River and the outflow from Lake St. Clair into the Detroit River are also expected to be below average throughout the month of March. Lake Erie's outflow through the Niagara River is predicted to be below average and the outflow of Lake Ontario into the St. Lawrence River is expected to be below average in March.

ALERTS

Official records are based on monthly average water levels and not daily water levels. Lake Superior and Lake Michigan-Huron are below chart datum. 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.

	SUPERIOR	MICH-HURON	ST. CLAIR	ERIE	ONTARIO
Forecasted Water Level for Mar 1, 2013 (feet)	600.2	576.2	572.8	570.5	244.6
Chart Datum (feet)	601.1	577.5	572.3	569.2	243.3
Difference from chart datum (inches)	-11	-16	+6	+16	+16
Difference from average water level for Feb 1, 2013 (inches*)	-2	+2	+1	+2	+3
Difference from average water level for Mar 1, 2012 (inches*)	+1	-12	-15	-19	-17
Difference from long-term monthly average of Mar (inches)	-12	-26	-12	-7	-5
Difference from highest monthly average of record for Mar (inches)	-27	-59	-47	-39	-32
Year of highest recorded monthly mean	1986	1986	1986	1986	1952
Difference from lowest monthly average of record for Mar (inches)	+7	+2	+22	+27	+24
Year of lowest recorded monthly mean	1926	1964	1934	1934	1935
Projected change in levels by Apr 1, 2013 (inches)	0	+1	+3	+4	+4

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, 1918-2011

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](#)

