

## Information

Recorded monthly mean 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 and Climate Change 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, on a weekly basis publishes online the *Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths*, 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* is available free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, by calling (313) 226-6441 or emailing [hphm@usace.army.mil](mailto:hphm@usace.army.mil). Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication. This information is available on the internet at <https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/GreatLakesInformation.aspx>.

### Great Lakes Basin Hydrology March 2022

Preliminary estimates of precipitation indicate that the Great Lakes basin received above average precipitation in March. Lake Superior received slightly above average precipitation, while Lake Michigan-Huron received 146% of average precipitation. Lakes Erie and Ontario both received below average precipitation at 82% of average. Over the past 12 months, precipitation across the individual lake basins has ranged from 84% to 102% of average. Water supplies were above average on all lakes, except Lake Erie, which experienced below average water supplies. Outflows remain above average, except for outflow out of Lake Superior which continues to be below average.

Water levels on Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron declined less than an inch from February to March, likely reaching their seasonal low and are forecast to begin their seasonal rise in the coming month. Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario all rose from February to March. Lake St. Clair rose 10 inches as the flow in the St. Clair River was no longer restricted by thick ice. Lakes Erie and Ontario both climbed 4 inches. The Great Lakes water levels 6-month forecast projects all the lakes will begin or continue their seasonal rise over the next month.

| PRECIPITATION (INCHES) |             |                        |              |                 |                     |                        |              |                 |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| BASIN                  | March       |                        |              |                 | 12-Month Comparison |                        |              |                 |
|                        | 2022        | Average<br>(1900-2018) | Diff.        | % of<br>Average | Last 12<br>months   | Average<br>(1900-2018) | Diff.        | % of<br>Average |
| <b>Superior</b>        | <b>1.83</b> | <b>1.69</b>            | <b>0.14</b>  | <b>108</b>      | <b>25.67</b>        | <b>30.59</b>           | <b>-4.92</b> | <b>84</b>       |
| <b>Michigan-Huron</b>  | <b>3.16</b> | <b>2.17</b>            | <b>0.99</b>  | <b>146</b>      | <b>31.02</b>        | <b>32.87</b>           | <b>-1.85</b> | <b>94</b>       |
| <b>Erie</b>            | <b>2.26</b> | <b>2.76</b>            | <b>-0.50</b> | <b>82</b>       | <b>36.79</b>        | <b>35.91</b>           | <b>0.88</b>  | <b>102</b>      |
| <b>Ontario</b>         | <b>2.19</b> | <b>2.68</b>            | <b>-0.49</b> | <b>82</b>       | <b>37.19</b>        | <b>36.34</b>           | <b>0.85</b>  | <b>102</b>      |
| <b>Great Lakes</b>     | <b>2.55</b> | <b>2.17</b>            | <b>0.38</b>  | <b>118</b>      | <b>30.99</b>        | <b>32.99</b>           | <b>-2.00</b> | <b>94</b>       |

| Lake                  | March WATER SUPPLIES <sup>1</sup> (cfs) |                                     | March OUTFLOW <sup>2</sup> (cfs) |                                     |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                       | 2022                                    | Average <sup>3</sup><br>(1900-2008) | 2022                             | Average <sup>3</sup><br>(1900-2008) |
| <b>Superior</b>       | <b>74,000</b>                           | <b>47,000</b>                       | <b>55,000</b>                    | <b>66,000</b>                       |
| <b>Michigan-Huron</b> | <b>246,000</b>                          | <b>182,000</b>                      | <b>206,000</b>                   | <b>172,000</b>                      |
| <b>Erie</b>           | <b>44,000</b>                           | <b>71,000</b>                       | <b>237,000</b>                   | <b>197,000</b>                      |
| <b>Ontario</b>        | <b>91,000</b>                           | <b>72,000</b>                       | <b>300,000</b>                   | <b>237,000</b>                      |

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

<sup>1</sup> Net basin 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 net basin supply denotes evaporation exceeded runoff and precipitation. The net total supply can be found by adding the net basin supply and the outflow from the upstream lake.

<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