



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Detroit District



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MARCH 2022 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

From February to March, Lake Superior declined less than an inch to 600.92 feet. The March mean level was 3 inches below the March long-term average (LTA) level, 10 inches below its March 2021 level and 18 inches below its record high March level. Lake Superior received above average water supplies* in March likely due to above average precipitation and near average runoff. The 6-month water level forecast indicates Lake Superior will begin its seasonal rise from March to April and likely reach its peak level in August and/or September. Over the next 6 months, water levels are forecast to be 2 to 3 inches below LTA levels and 1 to 11 inches below last year's levels. Additionally, water levels are forecast to remain about an inch below chart datum in April, but then be 3 to 10 inches above chart datum from May to September.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron also declined less than an inch from February to March. The March mean level of 579.17 feet was 8 inches above the March LTA level, but 17 inches below its level from last March and 27 inches below the record high March level from 2020. Lake Michigan-Huron basin received above average water supplies* in March likely due to above average precipitation and runoff. The 6-month water level forecast indicates Lake Michigan-Huron will begin its seasonal rise in the next month and likely reach its seasonal peak in July. From April to September, water levels are forecast to be 6 to 13 inches below last year's levels and 26 to 27 inches below record high levels, which were mostly set in 2020. However, water levels are forecast to remain above LTA levels over the next 6 months by 7 to 9 inches.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair rose 10 inches from February to March as the flow in the St. Clair River was no longer restricted by thick ice. The March monthly mean level of 575.20 feet was 15 inches above its monthly LTA level, 9 inches below its March 2021 level, and 20 inches below its record high March level from 2020. The 6-month water level forecast indicates the lake will continue its seasonal rise and likely reach its seasonal peak in July. From April to September, water levels are forecast to be 5 to 13 inches below levels from a year ago, and 8 to 13 inches above LTA levels. Additionally, water levels are forecast to be 20 to 22 inches below record high levels.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie began its seasonal rise and rose 4 inches from February to March. The March monthly mean level of 572.60 feet was 17 inches above its LTA March level, 2 inches below the level from last March, and 17 inches below the record high level from 2020. Water supplies* were below average in March likely due to below average precipitation. The 6-month water level forecast indicates Lake Erie will continue its seasonal rise and likely reach its peak in May. Over the next 6 months, water levels are forecast to be 0 to 1 inch above last year's levels in April and May, and then range from 2 to 11 inches below last year's levels from June to September. Additionally, from April to September water levels are forecast to be 9 to 16 inches above LTA levels and 16 to 20 inches below record high levels.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario continued its seasonal rise and rose 4 inches to a level of 246.03 feet. The March monthly mean level was 12 inches above the March LTA level, 20 inches above last year's level, and 15 inches below the record high March level. Lake Ontario received above average water supplies* likely due to above average runoff. The recent 6-month water level forecast predicts Lake Ontario's water level will continue to rise likely reaching its peak in May. From April to September, water levels are forecast to range from 7 inches below to 23 inches above last year's levels and range from 5 inches below to 12 inches above LTA levels. Additionally, water levels are forecast to be 18 to 31 inches below record high water levels over the next 6 months.

* "Water supplies" refers to the combined quantity of precipitation plus runoff minus evaporation. Also known as the net basin supply.