US Army Corps
of Engineers
Detroit District

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SEPTEMBER 2022 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

From August to September, Lake Superior remained steady near a level of 602.53 feet. The September monthly mean level was 4 inches above the September long-term average (LTA) level, 6 inches above the 2021 September level, and 8 inches below the record high September level of 2019. Provisional water supplies* to Lake Superior in September were above average despite below average precipitation. The latest 6-month water level forecast shows Lake Superior beginning its seasonal decline this month and continuing to decline into 2023 March. From October to March the forecast shows water levels 5 to 7 inches above the past year's levels, 2 to 4 inches above LTA levels, 3 to 16 inches above Chart Datum, and 11 to 13 inches below record high levels.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron declined about 3 inches from August to September to 579.79 feet. The September monthly mean level was 7 inches above its LTA September level, 8 inches below its 2021 September level, and 26 inches below its September record high level. Water supplies* in September were below average due to below average precipitation and runoff and above average evaporation. In the latest 6-month forecast, Lake Michigan-Huron continues its seasonal decline into 2023 February and the forecasted water levels are 2 to 11 inches below last year's levels but 6 inches above LTA levels. Also, from October to March, the forecast shows water levels 29 to 35 inches below the record high levels.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair declined from August to September by 4 inches to a level of 575.49 feet. The September monthly mean level was 11 inches above the monthly LTA level, 9 inches below the last year's level, and 19 inches below the September record high level in 2020. The recent 6-month water level forecast shows Lake St. Clair to continue its seasonal decline into the winter months. The October to March forecast shows water levels to be 6 to 14 inches below levels from last year through January, but the February forecasted level is 3 inches above last year's level. Likewise, the 6-month forecast shows water levels to be 9 to 13 inches above monthly LTA levels and to remain below the record high levels by 25 to 28 inches.

LAKE ERIE

From August to September, Lake Erie continued its seasonal decline and fell 4 inches to 572.38 feet. September's monthly mean level was 11 inches above the monthly LTA level, 8 inches below last year's level, and 16 inches below the record high September level from 2019. September water supplies* to Lake Erie were below average, as was precipitation. From October to March, forecasts show Lake Erie continuing to decline into winter with water levels from 7 to 15 inches below last year's levels and 23 to 26 inches below record high levels. Also, from October to March forecasted water levels are to remain above LTA levels by 8 to 10 inches.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario continued its seasonal decline from August to September and fell 7 inches to a level of 244.59 feet. This level is 8 inches below September's LTA level, 9 inches below the September 2021 level, and 34 inches below the record high monthly level. Lake Ontario experienced below average water supplies* and below average precipitation in September. The 6-month forecast shows Lake Ontario to continue its seasonal decline in October. From October to March, forecasted water levels are 4 to 8 inches below LTA levels, 14 to 17 inches below last year's levels, and 27 to 32 inches below record high water levels.

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