



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Detroit District**



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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
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### **APRIL 2020 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY**

#### **LAKE SUPERIOR**

Lake Superior began its seasonal rise from March to April by rising 2 inches to a level of 602.43 feet. This April level was less than an inch above the level from last April, 14 inches above the long term average (LTA) April level, and 2 inches below the record high April mean level. Net basin supply to Lake Superior was well below average in April as a result of below average precipitation and runoff. Lake Superior is in its period of seasonal rise and is expected to reach its peak monthly mean level in August. Throughout the forecast horizon, Lake Superior is projected to be 2 to 6 inches below record high monthly mean levels, which from May to September those record high levels occurred in 2019. Over the next 6 months, Lake Superior's water levels are also forecast to be 10 to 11 inches above LTA levels.

#### **LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON**

Lake Michigan-Huron's monthly mean water level rose 3 inches from March to April to a level of 581.69 feet. This April level was 3 inches above its record high April mean level, which was set in 1986. The April 2020 level was also 13 inches above its level from last April and 36 inches above its LTA April level. Water supply to the lake was slightly below average in April due to near average precipitation and below average runoff. Lake Michigan-Huron is also in its period of seasonal rise and is forecast to reach its peak monthly mean level in July. Lake Michigan-Huron water levels are forecast to be 2 to 4 inches above record high monthly mean levels from May to July, within an inch of the record high level in August, and then falling 2 to 9 inches below record high levels in September and October. Also, water levels throughout the forecast horizon on Lake Michigan-Huron are predicted to be 3 to 8 inches above last year through September, but 1 inch below the level of last year in October. Lastly, Lake Michigan-Huron levels are forecast to remain above LTA levels by 32 to 35 inches over the next 6 months.

#### **LAKE ST. CLAIR**

Lake St. Clair continued its seasonal rise and rose 3 inches from March to April to a level of 577.13 feet. The April 2020 level surpassed its record high monthly mean level by 4 inches, which was set back in 1986. This April level was also 33 inches above its monthly LTA level and 8 inches above last year's level. Lake St. Clair is forecast to be 1 inch above the record high monthly mean level in May, which occurred in 2019, but then water levels are predicted to be 2 to 4 inches below record high levels from June to September, and 10 inches below in October. Over the next 6 months, the lake is also projected to be 27 to 31 inches above its LTA levels.

#### **LAKE ERIE**

Lake Erie continued its seasonal rise from March to April, rising about 4 inches to a level of 574.31 feet. This April 2020 level was a new record high monthly mean water level for April, surpassing its previous record set in 1985 by 3 inches. The April level was also 9 inches above the April 2019 level and 32 inches above its LTA April level. The net basin supply for the month was well below average due to below average precipitation and runoff. Lake Erie is predicted to be less than inch below the record high level in May, but be about 4 to 6 inches below record high levels from June to September, which were all set in 2019. In October, the forecast predicts Lake Erie to be 10 inches below its record high level and 2 inches below last year's level. Also, over the next 6 months Lake Erie is forecast to be 24 to 28 inches above LTA levels.

#### **LAKE ONTARIO**

Lake Ontario continued its seasonal rise from March to April and rose 6 inches to a level of 247.11 feet. This April level was 7 inches above the April 2019 level, 17 inches above the LTA level, and 13 inches below its record-high level. The April net basin supply was below average as a result of below average runoff, near average precipitation, and above average evaporation. Over the 6-month forecast horizon, Lake Ontario is predicted to be 7 to 20 inches below last year's levels and 9 to 16 inches above LTA levels.