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## AUGUST 2018 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

### LAKE SUPERIOR

In August, Lake Superior mean water level remained at its July level, of 602.53 feet. This level was 4 inches above its long-term average (LTA) and 5 inches lower than the August level from 2017. In August, the basin received 71% of average precipitation, but had a net basin supply (NBS) above average for this month. The forecast shows that in the first month, the Lake Superior level is expected to peak in September and then begin its seasonal decline. Over the following five months, the lake level is expected to continue falling through the fall and winter, and from November through February the lake level is expected to sustain a level 4 inches greater than the LTA monthly mean levels. Throughout the forecast, the levels are expected to remain 6 to 18 inches above chart datum, and 7 to 12 inches below record highs.

### LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron's mean August level of 580.54 feet was about an inch less than its July level. In August, this level was 17 inches below the record high and 15 inches above the LTA. In August, the Michigan-Huron basin received precipitation that was 135% of average, and NBS that was over double the average NBS for the month. The forecast shows that the water levels are expected to fall, following the seasonal pattern, and are forecasted to stay 15-17 inches above the LTA while hovering just below the levels from last year by 1-3 inches from October through February. In the first month of the forecast, the September level is expected to be the same as last year. Throughout the forecast period, levels are forecasted to be 25-36 inches above chart datum.

### LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair's mean August water level was 576.25, which was 3 inches below its mean July level. This level was about an inch less than it was last year and 19 inches above the LTA. Over the forecasted period, the levels are expected to remain 16-20 inches above the LTA. Relative to last year, the forecasted values are projected to remain below the levels from last year through the end of the year, and transition to 4 inches above last year's levels in January and match February's level from the previous year. Over the next 6 months, levels are forecasted to be 12-21 inches below the record highs.

### LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie had an August mean level of 573.23, which was about one inch above the level it was last year for the same month. From July into August, the level dropped four inches, and is forecasted to continue falling through the end of the year and begin its seasonal rise into the New Year. In August, the Erie basin received precipitation at 112% of average and received a positive NBS, contrary to the average August negative NBS. Over the forecast period, Lake Erie is expected to fluctuate around the observed levels from last year, starting in September at 1 inch above last year, then in October match the level from last year, and in November and December, fall 4 inches below last year's level, and then rise back to the equivalent level as last year in January. Throughout this forecast, the levels are projected to remain above the LTA by 15-18 inches, and remain below the record highs by 8 to 20 inches.

### LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario continued its seasonal decline, falling 6 inches from July to August. The August mean level of 245.77 feet was 1 inch above the LTA August level and 20 inches below last year's level. Lake Ontario is projected to continue its seasonal decline, dropping another 16 inches by December, before beginning its seasonal rise in December. Over the next 6 months, Lake Ontario is forecasted to be at its LTA for the first and last two months of the forecast period, and is projected to be 2 and 1 inches below its LTA in November and December.