



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Detroit District



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AUGUST 2021 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior's water level dropped slightly from July to August, decreasing by less than an inch to a level of 602.17 feet. The August mean level matched its long-term average (LTA) level for the first time since April 2014. Also, the August level was 11 inches below its August 2020 mean level and 13 inches below its record high August level from 2019. Precipitation and runoff were below average in August, contributing to below average water supplies on Lake Superior. Forecasts indicate the lake to continue its seasonal decline, that began in August, over the next 6 months. Forecasts show Lake Superior will be near its monthly LTA level in each of the next 6 months. Additionally, forecasts specify the lake will be 7 to 10 inches below the prior year's levels and 13 to 17 inches below record high levels from September through February.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron's water level rose nearly an inch from July to August to a level of 580.77 feet. The August mean level was 17 inches above the LTA level and 16 inches below its record high August level set in 2020. The Lake Michigan-Huron basin received above average precipitation and runoff in August, which contributed to the above average water supplies observed during the month. The August monthly bulletin forecast predicts Lake Michigan-Huron will begin its seasonal decline in September and continue its decline in the following 5 months. Water levels are forecast to be 17 to 24 inches below record high levels from September to February. Also, Lake Michigan-Huron is forecast to remain 14 to 17 inches above LTA levels over the next 6 months.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair fell an about an inch from July to August, to the level 576.48 feet. The August monthly mean level was 21 inches above its monthly LTA level and 10 inches below its record high August level set in 2020. The recent 6-month forecast indicates the lake will continue its seasonal decline this month which began in August. Over the next 6 months, water levels are forecast to be 11 to 20 inches below record high levels and 6 to 11 inches below levels from last year. Also, the lake is forecast to be 16 to 20 inches above its LTA levels from September to February.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie, also, fell almost an inch from July to August to a level of 573.46 feet. The August monthly mean level was 20 inches above its LTA August level and 9 inches below the record high level from 2019. Above average precipitation contributed to above average water supplies to the basin in August. The 6-month forecast projects Lake Erie to continue its seasonal decline in the coming months. Over the next 6 months, water levels are forecast to be 5 to 11 inches below last year's levels and 7 to 19 inches below record high levels. Additionally, water levels are forecast to remain 15 to 20 inches above LTA levels from September to February.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario rose almost 2 inches from July to August, to a level of 245.57 feet. The August monthly mean level was 2 inches below the August LTA level and 8 inches below last year's level. Lake Ontario received above normal water supplies likely due to above average precipitation and runoff. The recent 6-month forecast predicts that the lake will begin its seasonal decline this month. Lake Ontario's water level is forecast to be 4 inches below last year's level in September, within two inches of last year's level from October to January, and 6 inches above its level from a year ago in February. Additionally, the lake is forecast to be 0 to 4 inches above LTA levels over the next 6 months.