



DETROIT DISTRICT  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CELRE-EHW  
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DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

## DECEMBER 2018 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

### LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior declined approximately 4 inches from November to December to a level of 602.59 feet. The December monthly mean level was about 2 inches below last year's level, 11 inches above its long-term average (LTA) level, and 6 inches below its record high December level. In December, the Superior basin received 64% of average precipitation, but received above average net basin supplies, likely due to above average runoff. Lake Superior's seasonal decline is expected to continue through the winter and early spring. Over the next six months, the lake level is expected to be 2 inches below last year through March, and gradually exceed last year's level by 1-4 inches by June. Also throughout the next six months, water levels are expected to be 11 to 18 inches above chart datum, 9 to 11 inches above LTA levels, and 4 to 7 inches below record high levels.

### LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron declined about an inch in the past month and the monthly mean December water level was 580.15 feet. The December level was 2 inches above its level from last year and 20 inches above its LTA level for December. Despite receiving below average precipitation during December, net basin supplies were above average for Lake Michigan-Huron, likely due to above average runoff. Lake Michigan-Huron is expected to continue its seasonal decline through March and then begin its seasonal rise in the spring. Throughout the next six months, water levels are forecasted to be within 1-3 inches of last year's levels and 18 to 20 inches above LTA water levels. During the forecast period, levels are also forecasted to be 30 to 39 inches above chart datum.

### LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair declined about an inch from November to December to a level of 575.69 feet. The December level was 4 inches above the level it was last year and 22 inches above the LTA level. During the forecast period, water levels are forecasted to range 10 to 5 inches above last year's levels from January to February, and then 2 to 4 inches below last year's levels from March to June. Throughout the next 6 months, levels are also forecasted to be 17 to 26 inches above LTA levels and 10 to 14 inches below the record high levels.

### LAKE ERIE

From November to December, Lake Erie rose less than half an inch to 572.80 feet. The December level was 6 inches above its level from last year and 24 inches above the LTA level. In December, Lake Erie received 91% of average precipitation, and received average net basin supplies. During the forecast period, Lake Erie is expected to be 8 to 4 inches above last year's levels from January to February, and then 3 to 6 inches below last year's levels from March to June. Over the next six months, the levels are projected to remain above their LTA levels by 16 to 23 inches and remain below their record highs by 9 to 11 inches.

### LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario's water level increased by about 4 inches in the past month to 245.14 feet. The December monthly mean level was 2 inches below last year's level and 8 inches above the LTA level. Lake Ontario is projected to begin its seasonal rise for the duration of the forecast period through winter and spring. The Lake Ontario basin received near average precipitation in December, yet received above average net basin supplies, likely due to above average runoff. Over the next 6 months, Lake Ontario is forecasted to be 2 to 3 inches below last year's levels from January through March, about one inch above last year's level in April, and be 4 inches below last year's levels in May and June. It's also projected that water levels will be 3 to 9 inches above LTA levels over the next 6 months.