



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Detroit District**



DETROIT DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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FEBRUARY 2020 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior continued its seasonal decline and declined 3 inches from January to February to a level of 602.49 feet. This February level surpassed its record-high February level previously set in 1986 by less than an inch. The February level was also 2 inches above last February's level and 15 inches above the long term average (LTA) February level. Net basin supply to Lake Superior was well below average in February as a result of below average precipitation and above average evaporation. Over the next 6 months, Lake Superior is projected to be 2 to 4 inches below record high levels, but above its long-term average (LTA) levels by 11 to 13 inches. Lastly, Lake Superior is projected to be within an inch of its levels of a year ago in March and April, and 2 to 4 inches below last year's levels from May to August.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron's monthly mean level declined less than an inch from January to February to a level of 581.53 feet. This February level set a new record high monthly mean water level for the month, which was 6 inches higher than the previous record set in 1986. The February 2020 level was also 17 inches above its level from last February and 38 inches above its LTA level. Water supply to the lake during February was slightly below average as a result of below average precipitation, above average evaporation, and near average runoff. Lake Michigan-Huron is forecasted to surpass its monthly mean record-high levels every month from March to August by 1 to 5 inches. In addition, water levels over the next 6 months on Lake Michigan-Huron are expected to remain 4 to 15 inches above last year's levels and 33 to 37 inches above its LTA levels through August.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

The monthly mean level of Lake St. Clair declined less than an inch from January to February. The February level of 576.74 feet was less than an inch below the record high monthly mean level set back in 1986. This level was also 39 inches above its monthly LTA level and 15 inches above its level of one year ago. Lake St. Clair's level is forecasted to exceed its monthly record-high levels from March to May by 1 to 2 inches, and be 1 to 3 inches below record high levels from June to August. Also, the lake is projected to be 7 to 11 inches above last year's levels through April, within 1 inch of last year's water levels in May and June, and 2 to 3 inches below last year's levels in July and August.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie continued its seasonal rise in February, rising 4 inches from January to February to a level of 573.82 feet. This level was a new record high monthly mean water level for February, surpassing its previous record set in 1987 by 5 inches. The level was also 11 inches above the February 2019 level and 35 inches above its LTA level. The net basin supply for the month was below average as a result of below average precipitation and runoff, as well as above average evaporation. The current 6-month forecast indicates that Lake Erie will continue its seasonal rise through May. Lake Erie is predicted to set new monthly record high levels from March to May, but be about 4 inches below record-highs in June, July, and August, which were set in 2019. Also, over the next 6 months Lake Erie is forecasted to be 26 to 33 inches above LTA levels.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario rose 3 inches from January to February. The lake's monthly mean level of 246.46 feet was 6 inches above the February 2019 level, 20 inches above the LTA level, and 6 inches below its record-high level. The February net basin supply was slightly above average, despite below average precipitation and above average evaporation. Over the 6-month forecast horizon, Lake Ontario is expected to be about 7 inches higher than it was last year in March and April, but 10 to 20 inches lower than it was last year from May to August. Also during this time, it is forecasted to be 10 to 18 inches above LTA levels.