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Detroit District



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FEBRUARY 2022 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior declined almost 3 inches from January to February to a level of 600.95 feet. February mean level was 4 inches below the February long-term average (LTA) level, 11 inches below its February 2021 level and 19 inches below its record high February level from 2020. Lake Superior received well above average water supplies* in February despite above average evaporation and average precipitation. 6-month water level forecast indicates Lake Superior will continue its seasonal decline into March and begin its seasonal rise in April through August. From March to August, the water level is forecast to be 2 to 3 inches below its LTA levels and 2 to 11 inches below levels from a year ago.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron continued its seasonal decline from January to February by falling 2 inches to a level of 579.20 feet. February mean level was 9 inches above the LTA level, but 18 inches below its level from last year. February mean level was also 28 inches below the record high February level from 2020. Lake Michigan-Huron basin received below average water supplies* in February likely due to above average evaporation and below average runoff. 6-month forecast indicates Lake Michigan-Huron will remain near its February level through March and begin its seasonal rise in April through July before declining in August. Over the next 6 months, water levels are forecast to be 7 to 16 inches below last year's levels and 27 to 28 inches below record high levels, which were set in 2020. However, water levels are forecast to remain above LTA levels over the next 6 months by 6 to 9 inches.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair declined 10 inches from January to February. An ice jam in the St. Clair River at the beginning of the month contributed to the decline. February monthly mean level of 574.34 feet was 9 inches above its monthly LTA level, 16 inches below its February 2021 level, and 29 inches below its record high February level from 1986. The 6-month water level forecast indicates the lake will begin its seasonal rise in March. Over the next 6 months, water levels are forecast to be 5 to 12 inches below last year's levels and 19 to 23 inches below record high levels. Also, water levels are forecast to remain above LTA levels by 9 to 16 inches from March to August.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie continued its seasonal decline and declined 5 inches from January to February to a level of 572.24 feet. The February monthly mean level was 16 inches above its LTA February level, 19 inches below the February record high level, and 6 inches below the level from last year. Water supplies* were well above average in February likely due to well above average precipitation and runoff. The recent 6-month forecast indicates Lake Erie will begin its seasonal rise in March. Water levels are forecast to be 0 to 10 inches below last year's levels and 16 to 20 inches below record high levels over the next 6 months. Additionally, from March to August water levels are forecast to remain 10 to 17 inches above LTA levels.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario rose less than an inch in February to a level of 245.67 feet. The February monthly mean level was 11 inches above the February LTA level and 14 inches above last year's level. The February mean level was also 15 inches below the record high February level. Lake Ontario received well above average water supplies* likely due to well above average precipitation and runoff despite above average evaporation. The recent 6-month forecast predicts water levels will rise from March through May before beginning to decline. From March to August, water levels are projected to be 5 inches below to 18 inches above last year's levels and 17 to 34 inches below record high water levels. Additionally, forecasted water levels show to range from 10 inches above to 7 inches below LTA levels over the next 6 months.

** "Water supplies" refers to the combined quantity of precipitation plus runoff minus evaporation. Also known as the net basin supply.*