



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

JANUARY 2019 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior continued its seasonal decline, decreasing 2 inches from December to January to a level of 602.43 feet. The January monthly mean level was about 1 inch below last year's level, 11 inches above its long-term average (LTA) level, and 3 inches below its record high January level. In January, the Lake Superior basin received 62% of average precipitation, however, it received slightly above average net basin supplies. This might be explained by above average temperatures in the beginning of the month, leading to enhanced runoff. Lake Superior's seasonal decline is expected to continue into March, followed by a gradual increase until July. It is worth noting that the forecast range includes the slight possibility of reaching, or exceeding, the record high in the early summer months. Over the next six months, the lake level is expected to be below last year's level through March. After March, the level is forecast to be 2 to 4 inches above last year's level through mid-summer. Throughout the next six months, water levels are expected to be 11 to 19 inches above chart datum, 7 to 11 inches above monthly LTA levels, and 3 to 6 inches below record high levels.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron declined less than an inch in the past month, with the monthly mean January water level being 580.09 feet. The January level was 3 inches above its level from last year and 20 inches above its LTA level for the month. Despite receiving below average precipitation during January, net basin supplies were above average for Lake Michigan-Huron. This is most likely owing to a warmer December followed by warmer temperatures early in the month, likely causing increased runoff. Lake Michigan-Huron is expected to decline through February, beginning its seasonal rise in March. Throughout the next six months, water levels are forecasted to be 2 to 4 inches above last year's levels and 18 to 20 inches above LTA water levels. During the forecast period, levels are forecasted to be 31 to 40 inches above chart datum, and 12 to 14 inches below record high.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair declined about 2 inches from December to January to a level of 575.52 feet. The January level was 7 inches above the level it was at last year and 23 inches above the LTA level. During the forecast period, water levels are projected to be 4 inches above last year's levels in February, and then 1 to 4 inches below last year's levels from March to July. Throughout the next 6 months, levels are also forecasted to be 17 to 25 inches above LTA levels and 9 to 15 inches below the record high levels.

LAKE ERIE

From December to January, Lake Erie rose just under 2 inches to 572.93 feet. The January level was 10 inches above its level from last year and 25 inches above the LTA level. In January, Lake Erie received 69% of average precipitation, and received just below average net basin supplies. During the forecast period, Lake Erie is expected to be 5 inches above last year's level in February, and then 2 to 5 inches below last year's levels from March to July, with a slight chance of reaching the record high in May. Over the next six months, the levels are projected to remain above their LTA levels by 15 to 22 inches and remain below their record highs by 8 to 12 inches.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario's water level increased by over 4 inches in the past month to 245.51 feet. The January monthly mean level was approximately the same as last year and 11 inches above the LTA level. Lake Ontario is projected to continue its seasonal rise through May, decreasing in level in June and July. The Lake Ontario basin received about 85% of its January precipitation, and received near normal net basin supplies. Over the next 6 months, Lake Ontario is forecasted to continue to be close to last year's levels through March, about 3 inches above last year's level in April, and 1 to 4 inches below last year's levels from May to July. It is also projected that water levels will be 2 to 11 inches above LTA levels over the next 6 months, approaching average in the late spring and summer months.