



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Detroit District



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JANUARY 2022 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior declined 3 inches from December to January to a level of 601.18 feet. The January mean level was 4 inches below the January long-term average (LTA) level, 12 inches below its January 2021 level and 19 inches below its record high January level from 2020. The Lake Superior basin received preliminarily record low water supplies* for the month of January due to well below average precipitation and above average evaporation. The 6-month water level forecast indicates that Lake Superior will continue its seasonal decline into March and begin its seasonal rise in April. From February to July, the water level is forecast to be 2 to 4 inches below its LTA levels and 4 to 12 inches below levels from a year ago.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron continued its seasonal decline from December to January by falling 4 inches to a level of 579.40 feet. The January mean level was 11 inches above the LTA level, but 19 inches below its level from last year. The January mean level was also 26 inches below the record high January level from 2020. The Lake Michigan-Huron basin received well below average water supplies* in January likely due to well below average precipitation and above average evaporation. The forecast indicates Lake Michigan-Huron will continue its seasonal decline through February. Over the next 6 months, water levels are forecast to be 7 to 17 inches below last year's levels and 26 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 10 inches.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair also declined 4 inches from December to January. An ice jam in the St. Clair River towards the end of the month contributed to the decline. The January monthly mean level of 575.20 feet was 18 inches above its monthly LTA level, 12 inches below its January 2021 level, and 19 inches below its record high January level from 2020. The 6-month water level forecast indicates the lake will continue its seasonal decline into February before beginning its seasonal rise. Over the next 6 months, water levels are forecast to be 6 to 11 inches below last year's levels and 20 to 24 inches below record high levels. Also, water levels are forecast to remain above LTA levels by 9 to 18 inches from February to July.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie continued its seasonal decline and declined 2 inches from December to January to a level of 572.64 feet. The January monthly mean level was 20 inches above its LTA January level, 13 inches below the January record high level, and 6 inches below the level from last year. Water supplies* were well below average in January likely due to below average precipitation and above average evaporation. The recent 6-month forecast indicates Lake Erie will continue its decline into February and begin its seasonal rise in the spring. Water levels are forecast to be 1 to 8 inches below last year's levels and 17 to 21 inches below record high levels over the next 6 months. Additionally, from February to July water levels are forecast to remain 10 to 17 inches above LTA levels.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario stayed near its December level in January, declining less than an inch. The January monthly mean level of 245.60 feet was 11 inches above the January LTA level and 9 inches above last year's level. The January mean level was also 12 inches below the record high January level. Lake Ontario received well below average water supplies* likely due to above average evaporation and below average precipitation. The recent 6-month forecast predicts water levels will rise over the next 6 months. From February to July, water levels are projected to be 6 to 19 inches above last year's levels and 15 to 33 inches below record high water levels. Additionally, water levels are forecast to range from 11 inches above to 2 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.