



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Detroit District**



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JULY 2020 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior remains in its period of seasonal rise, rising around 2 inches from June to July. In July, Lake Superior was 10 inches above its monthly long term average (LTA) and four inches below its record high July level, which was set last summer. Net basin supply was above average to Lake Superior this month, likely owing to at-or-above average precipitation paired with wetter basin conditions allowing for enhanced runoff. Lake Superior is expected to reach its seasonal high in the next month, before beginning to decline. The forecast projects Lake Superior to be about 2 inches below its record high monthly mean level in August and September, both which were set in 2019. After this, Lake Superior is projected to be anywhere from 5 to 7 inches below its record high monthly mean levels from October through January. Lake Superior is expected to remain anywhere from 9 to 11 inches above its long term average through the forecast horizon.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron remained close to steady over the past month. June and July monthly mean levels were both around 582.19 feet, which surpasses the July record high monthly mean level (1986) by about 2 inches. Lake Michigan-Huron has remained above its observed record high monthly level for over 6 months, with the forecast predicting record highs will continue into August. Water supply to the lake was most above average for this basin, likely a result of above average precipitation and enhanced runoff. The forecast predicts that the lake will drop below record high levels by the month of September, predicting the level to be about an inch below its September monthly mean record. From October through January, the lake is predicted to range anywhere from 4 to 9 inches below its observed monthly mean records. Forecasted levels for August through October are predicted to be at-or-above last year's monthly means, before projections drop below last year's levels in November. Still, Lake Michigan-Huron is projected to remain anywhere from 31 to 34 inches above LTA levels throughout the forecast horizon.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair rose less than an inch from June to July, with the July monthly mean level around 577.53 feet. After several months of record highs, the July 2020 level fell just below its record high monthly mean set last year. The lake observed a slight rise from June to July, and is projected to decline through December. The July level was about 32 inches above its monthly LTA. Projections indicate that that the lake will remain anywhere from 26 to 30 inches above its LTA monthly means throughout the forecast period. Lake St. Clair is forecast to range anywhere from 2 to 8 inches below its level of last year through January 2021.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie began its seasonal decline this month, falling around 2 inches from its June monthly mean level. The July level was around 3 inches below its record monthly mean set last year. The net basin supply was most below average for this basin, owing to the combined influence of below average precipitation and dry basin conditions. The forecast projects Lake Erie will be around 3 inches below its record high LTA levels in August and September, predicted to fall anywhere from 9 to 12 inches below its record high levels by October. From August to December, water levels are also forecast to be 2 to 4 inches below last year's levels. In January, Lake Erie is predicted to be around 8 inches below its 2020 monthly mean. Over the next six months, Lake Erie is expected to remain anywhere from 23 to 26 inches above monthly LTA levels.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario continued a seasonal decline this month, falling around 4 inches from its June monthly mean to a level of 246.65 feet. This July level was 24 inches below its July 2019 level, which was a record high, and 7 inches above the LTA July level. July net basin supply was slightly below average, likely owing to enhanced evaporation. Over the next 6 months, the lake is forecast to be 6 to 17 inches below last year's levels and 7 to 13 inches above LTA levels.