



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Detroit District**



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

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior declined 3 inches from February to March to a level of 602.26 feet. This March level was the same level it was at one year ago, 13 inches above the long term average (LTA) March level, and 2 inches below the record high monthly mean level for March. Net basin supply to Lake Superior was well above average in March as a result of near average precipitation and increased runoff from snowmelt. Lake Superior will begin its seasonal rise in April. Over the next 6 months, Lake Superior is projected to be 1 to 3 inches below record high levels, except in August when the lake is forecasted to peak at the record high level that was set last year in 2019. Throughout the forecast horizon, Lake Superior water levels are also forecasted to be above long-term average (LTA) levels by 12 to 14 inches. Lastly, Lake Superior is projected to be near its levels of a year ago in April and August, and 1 to 3 inches below last year's levels from May to July and in September.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron's monthly mean level declined about an inch from February to March to a level of 581.43 feet. This March 2020 level was 4 inches above its record high monthly mean level for March, which was set in 1986. The March level was also 14 inches above its level from last March and 36 inches above its LTA March level. Water supply to the lake during March was above average due to above average precipitation and below average evaporation. Lake Michigan-Huron is forecasted to surpass or tie its monthly mean record high levels every month from April to September. In addition, water levels over the next 6 months on Lake Michigan-Huron are expected to remain 4 to 14 inches above last year's levels and 34 to 36 inches above its LTA levels through September.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair resumed its seasonal rise from February to March, rising about 2 inches to a level of 576.87 feet. The March 2020 level surpassed its record high monthly mean March level by 1 inch, which was set back in 1986. This level was also 36 inches above its monthly LTA level and 11 inches above its level of one year ago. Lake St. Clair's level is forecasted to exceed its monthly record high monthly mean levels by 4 to 6 inches in April and May and surpass its June record high level by less than an inch. From July to September, the lake is forecasted to be 2 to 3 inches below record high water levels, which were set last year in 2019. Also, the lake is projected to be 28 to 36 inches above its LTA levels over the next 6 months.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie continued its seasonal rise from February to March, rising about 2 inches to a level of 573.98 feet. This level was a new record high monthly mean water level for March, surpassing its previous record set in 1986 by 3 inches. The March 2020 level was also 12 inches above the March 2019 level and 34 inches above its LTA level. The net basin supply for the month was slightly above average as a result of above average precipitation. The current 6-month forecast indicates that Lake Erie will continue its seasonal rise through May. Lake Erie is predicted to set new monthly mean record high levels in April and May, but be about 2 to 4 inches below record-highs from June to September, which were set in 2019. Also, over the next 6 months Lake Erie is forecasted to be 25 to 33 inches above LTA levels.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario rose 2 inches from February to March to a level of 246.65 feet. This March level was 8 inches above the March 2019 level, 19 inches above the LTA level, and 7 inches below its record-high March level. The March net basin supply was above average, despite near average precipitation. Over the 6-month forecast horizon, Lake Ontario is expected to be about 8 inches higher than it was last year in April, but 9 to 19 inches lower than it was last year from May to September. Also during this time, it is forecasted to be 9 to 19 inches above LTA levels.