



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Detroit District



DETROIT DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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MARCH 2021 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior continued its seasonal decline in March, falling about 2 inches to a level of 601.77 feet. The March mean level was 7 inches above its long-term average (LTA) level and 6 inches below its March 2020 level. Water supplies and precipitation to Lake Superior were near average in the month of March. The recent six-month forecast predicts Lake Superior to begin its seasonal rise in April. Water levels are forecast to remain 6 to 7 inches above LTA levels throughout the forecast period. Additionally, Lake Superior's water levels are predicted to be 4 to 6 inches below last year's levels and 7 to 9 inches below record high levels from April to September.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron continued its seasonal decline from February to March, falling 2 inches to a level of 580.54 feet. The March mean level was 25 inches above the LTA level and 11 inches below its record high March level set in 2020. Lake Michigan-Huron experienced slightly below average net basin supplies during March likely due to below average precipitation and runoff. The April monthly bulletin predicts Lake Michigan-Huron will begin its seasonal rise in April. Water levels are forecast to be 12 to 13 inches below last year's record high levels through August. The lake will also remain 20 to 24 inches above LTA levels from April to September.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair increased nearly 3 inches from February to March to a level of 575.92 feet. The March monthly mean level was 24 inches above its monthly LTA level and 11 inches below last year's level. The latest 6-month forecast indicates the lake will continue its seasonal rise this month. Water levels are forecast to be 13 to 15 inches below the record high levels over the next 6 months, most of which were set last year, except in July. Also, Lake St. Clair is forecasted to be 17 to 20 inches above its LTA levels over the next 6 months.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie rose just a half an inch from February to March to a level of 572.77 feet after receiving less than average precipitation. The water supply for Lake Erie was well below average in March, which contributed to the minimal rise in water level. The March monthly mean level was 19 inches above its LTA March level and 15 inches below the record high from last year. The 6-month forecast projects Lake Erie to continue its seasonal rise this month. Water levels are forecast to be below record high levels, which were set from April to September in either 2020 or 2019, by 12 to 16 inches. In addition, Lake Erie's levels from April to September are expected to be 15 to 17 inches above monthly LTA levels.

LAKE ONTARIO

The level of Lake Ontario declined from February to March by about 2 inches to a level of 244.39 feet. The March mean level was 8 inches below the March LTA level and 27 inches below last year's level. Lake Ontario received below average water supplies and precipitation in March. From April to September, the lake is predicted to be 7 to 28 inches below last year's levels. Additionally, the lake is forecast to be 4 to 11 inches below LTA levels from April to September.