



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Detroit District**



DETROIT DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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MAY 2019 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior continued its seasonal rise from April to May and rose 6 inches to a May monthly mean level of 602.92 feet. This level surpassed the record high level for May of 602.82 feet, which was set back in 1986. The May monthly mean level was also 11 inches above its level of a year ago and 16 inches above its long term average (LTA) level. In May, the Lake Superior basin experienced near average precipitation and above average water supplies, which was likely influenced by above average runoff with the persistence of wet conditions in the region. The Lake Superior level is projected to rise over the next 3 months, reaching its peak in August. The lake is forecasted to surpass its record high monthly levels in June, July, August, and September and is predicted to be 3 to 4 inches below its record high levels for October and November. Over the next six months, water levels are predicted to be 22 to 27 inches above chart datum and 12 to 16 inches above LTA levels.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

The Lake Michigan-Huron level rose about 8 inches from April to May and its May monthly mean water level was 581.27 feet. This level was 4 inches below the record high May level, 10 inches above its level from last year, and 27 inches above its LTA level. The lake experienced its fourth highest net basin supply on record for the month of May as a result of precipitation that was 31% above average and above average runoff that was influenced by high soil moisture and streamflows in the basin. Lake Michigan-Huron is projected to continue its seasonal rise and peak in July. The monthly mean water level for June is projected to be less than 1 inch above its record high June level. From July to September, monthly mean water levels are forecasted to be less than an inch to 2 inches below record high levels, while in October and November monthly mean levels are forecasted to be 8 to 10 inches below record high levels. Throughout the next 6 months, water levels are predicted to be 12 to 17 inches above last year's levels, 31 to 32 inches above LTA water levels, and 45 to 53 inches above chart datum.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair rose 7 inches from April to May to a level of 577.07 ft. This monthly mean level surpassed the record high May level of 576.87 feet, set back in 1986. The lake's May monthly mean level was also 8 inches above last year's level and 30 inches above its LTA level. In June, Lake St. Clair is forecasted to meet its record high June level and then be 1 to 3 inches below record high levels July through September. In addition, throughout the 6-month forecast period, water levels are expected to be 3 to 8 inches above last year's levels and 26 to 29 inches above LTA levels.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie continued its seasonal rise and from April to May, rising 9 inches to a level of 574.31 feet. This monthly mean level surpassed the record high May level and it is the highest monthly mean water level recorded in the period record (1918-2018). The lake's May monthly mean level was also 7 inches above its level of a year ago and 29 inches above its LTA level. A continued wet pattern in the region led precipitation to be 13% above average and above average runoff contributed to well above average water supplies in the basin. From May to June, the lake is expected to rise slightly and also surpass the record high June level. From July to September, the monthly mean level is projected to be 1 to 2 inches below record high levels and then it is predicted to be 11 inches below record high levels in October and November. Over the next 6 months, Lake Erie's levels are projected to be 22 to 28 inches above LTA levels. Additionally, the forecast indicates monthly mean water levels to be 4 to 7 inches above last year's levels through October, and matching the level from last year in November.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario experienced very wet conditions in May, which led to a rise of 22 inches from April to May. The May monthly mean level of 248.36 feet was 4 inches below the record high May level set back in 2017. The level was also 17 inches above last year's level and 27 inches above its LTA level for May. The lake received precipitation 44% above average along with above average runoff, which led to its fifth highest May net basin

supply on record. Lake Ontario is forecasted to peak in June and the monthly mean June level is projected to surpass the record high June level recorded back in 2017. In July, the level is forecasted to be 1 inch below its record high July level and then the forecast indicates the monthly mean levels will be 7 to 14 inches below record highs from August to November. Our latest forecast projects Lake Ontario to be 8 to 25 inches above last year's levels and 11 to 31 inches above LTA levels for the next 6 months.