



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Detroit District**



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

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior continued its seasonal rise in May. Its monthly mean level rose an inch from April to May to a level of 602.49 feet. This May level was 11 inches above the lake's long term average (LTA) May level and 5 inches below its record high May mean level set last year. Net basin supply to Lake Superior was well below average in May due to below average precipitation and above average evaporation. Lake Superior is expected to reach its seasonal peak in August. In addition, over the next 6 months, Lake Superior is projected to be 3 to 6 inches below its record high monthly mean levels set last year in June, July, August, and September, and 6 to 7 inches below its October and November record high levels. Also, Lake Superior's water levels are expected to be 9 to 10 inches above LTA levels through November.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron is in the midst of its seasonal rise. Its monthly mean water level of 581.96 feet in May was 3 inches higher than its April monthly mean level. This May level was 4 inches above its record high May mean level, which was set in 1986. Also, this May 2020 level was 8 inches above its May 2019 level and 35 inches above its May LTA level. Water supply to the lake was above average in May as a result of above normal precipitation. Lake Michigan-Huron is predicted to achieve its seasonal peak in July. The lake's water levels are predicted to be 2 to 5 inches above record high monthly mean levels from June to August, match its record high level for September, and be 7 to 9 inches below its record high October and November monthly levels. Also, over the next 6 months, Lake Michigan-Huron is forecasted to be 4 to 6 inches above last year's levels through September, be nearly equal to its 2019 October level, and be 2 inches below its November level of last year. Lastly, Lake Michigan-Huron levels are forecast to remain above LTA levels by 32 to 35 inches over the next 6 months.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair continued its seasonal rise in May, as its monthly mean level climbed 3 inches to a level of 577.36 feet from April to May. The May 2020 level exceeded its record high monthly mean level by 4 inches, which was set just last year. This May level was also 33 inches above its monthly LTA level. Lake St. Clair is projected to surpass, by less than an inch, its record high June monthly mean level that was achieved in 2019. The lake is predicted to be 1 to 9 inches below monthly record high levels, and 1 to 3 inches below 2019 levels, from July to November. Over the next 6 months, the lake is also projected to be 28 to 32 inches above its LTA levels. The lake is predicted to reach its seasonal peak in June.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie remained in its seasonal climb from April to May, rising about 1 inch to a monthly mean level of 574.41 feet. This May level was a new record high monthly mean water level for May, surpassing its previous May record, set last year, by an inch. In addition, this monthly mean level was 30 inches above its LTA May level. The net basin supply for the month was slightly above average due to above average precipitation. Lake Erie is projected to be 2 to 4 inches below its record high levels from June to September, which were all set in 2019. In October and November, the forecast predicts Lake Erie will be 9 inches below its record high levels, and 1 to 2 inches below last year's level. Also, over the next 6 months, Lake Erie is forecast to be 24 to 30 inches above LTA levels.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario's monthly mean level rose 2 inches to a level of 247.24 feet from April to May. This May level was 13 inches below its May 2019 level, 13 inches above the LTA level, and 17 inches below its record-high level. The May net basin supply was below average due to below average precipitation and above average evaporation. Lake Ontario is expected to begin its seasonal decline in June. The lake is predicted to be 6 to 23 inches below last year's levels, and 9 to 11 inches above LTA, over the next 6 months.