



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Detroit District



DETROIT DISTRICT  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CELRE-EHW  
477 MICHIGAN AVENUE  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

### **May 2021 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY**

#### **LAKE SUPERIOR**

Lake Superior continued its seasonal rise in May, increasing about 1 inch to a level of 602.07 feet. The May mean level was 6 inches above its long-term average (LTA) level and 5 inches below its May 2020 mean level. The May mean level was 10 inches below its record high May level from 2019. Precipitation was below average in May, and runoff was below average for a majority of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Minnesota, which likely contributed to the water supplies being well below average. The recent six-month forecast predicts Lake Superior to continue its seasonal rise, peaking in August. Water levels are forecast to remain 2 to 4 inches above LTA levels throughout the forecast period. Additionally, Lake Superior's water level is predicted to be 6 to 8 inches below last year's levels and 10 to 14 inches below record high levels from June through November.

#### **LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON**

Lake Michigan-Huron's water level remained the same from April to May, and from March to April, at 580.54 feet. The May mean level was 18 inches above the LTA level and 17 inches below its record high May level set in 2020. Lake Michigan-Huron experienced below average net basin supplies during May, likely in response to below average precipitation and runoff. The June monthly bulletin predicts Lake Michigan-Huron will begin its seasonal rise in June and peak in July. Water levels are forecast to be 19 to 28 inches below record high levels through November. The lake will also remain 13 to 15 inches above LTA levels from June through November.

#### **LAKE ST. CLAIR**

Lake St. Clair continued its seasonal rise from April to May, rising 1 inch to 576.02 feet. The May monthly mean level was 17 inches above its monthly LTA level and 16 inches below last year's level. The latest 6-month forecast indicates the lake will begin its seasonal decline this month. Water levels are forecast to be 17 to 24 inches below the record high levels over the next 6 months, half of which were set last year in 2020. Also, Lake St. Clair is forecasted to be 13 to 14 inches above its LTA levels over the next 6 months.

#### **LAKE ERIE**

Lake Erie rose about 2 inches from April to May, to a level of 573.10 feet. The monthly May mean level was 14 inches above its LTA May level and 16 inches below the record high level from last year. Water supplies were slightly below average in May, likely on account of below average precipitation. The 6-month forecast projects Lake Erie to remain at its current level into June, and then begin its seasonal decline. Water levels are forecast to be below record high levels, which were set in 2019 for June through September, by 15 to 19 inches. In addition, Lake Erie's levels from June through November are forecasted to be 13 to 17 inches below 2020 levels. Lake Erie is also forecast to remain 11 to 13 inches above LTA levels over the next 6 months.

#### **LAKE ONTARIO**

Lake Ontario rose from April to May by about 4 inches to a level of 245.14 feet. The monthly May mean level was 12 inches below the May LTA level and 25 inches below last year's level. Lake Ontario received below average water supplies and precipitation in May. The 6-month forecast predicts the lake will be 2 to 22 inches below last year's levels from June through November. Additionally, the lake is forecast to be 3 to 13 inches below LTA levels over the next 5 months, and approach its LTA in November.