US Army Corps of Engineers
Detroit District

DETROIT DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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MAY 2022 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

From April to May, Lake Superior continued its seasonal rise and rose 8 inches to a level of 601.87 feet. The May monthly mean level was three inches above the long-term average (LTA) May level, 2 inches below last year, and 13 inches below the record high May level. Provisional water supplies* to Lake Superior for May were the third highest on record for the month of May, resulting from above average precipitation and above normal runoff throughout the basin. Lake Superior is forecast to continue its seasonal rise into late summer or early fall before beginning its seasonal decline. Over the next 6 months, water levels are forecast to range from 1 to 6 inches above last year's levels. From June to November, water levels are forecast to be 2 to 5 inches above LTA levels and 13 to 17 inches above Chart Datum.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron also continued its seasonal rise from April to May. The lake rose about 4 inches to a level of 579.92 feet. The May monthly mean level was 10 inches above its LTA level, 7 inches below last year's level, and 24 inches below the record high May level from 2020. In May, water supplies* were slightly above average in the Lake Michigan-Huron basin likely due to some areas experiencing above normal runoff, particularly in the Michigan basin. Lake Michigan-Huron is forecast to continue its seasonal rise into July. During the next 6 months, water levels are forecast to be 4 to 8 inches below last year's levels but remain 9 to 10 inches above average. Additionally, water levels are forecast to be 24 to 31 inches below record high levels.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair continued its seasonal rise, rising 4 inches to a level of 575.79 feet. The May monthly mean level was 14 inches above the LTA May level, 3 inches below last May's level, and 19 inches below the record high May level from 2020. The forecast indicates Lake St. Clair will likely be near its May level in June and July and begin its decline later this summer. From June to November, water levels are forecast to be 5 to 13 inches below last year's levels, and 20 to 27 inches below record high levels. Also, over the next 6 months, water levels are projected to be 9 to 12 inches above LTA levels.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie continued its seasonal rise and rose 3 inches to a level of 573.03 feet. The May monthly mean level was 13 inches above the LTA May level, 1 inch below last year's level, and 17 inches below the record high May level from 2020. Lake Erie's precipitation and water supplies* were near average in May. The lake is forecast to sustain its current May level into June, and then begin its seasonal decline in July and into the later months. Water levels over the next 6 months are forecast to be 2 to 15 inches below last year's levels but remain 9 to 12 inches above LTA levels. From June to November, water levels are projected to be 17 to 24 inches below record high levels.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario also continued its seasonal rise from April to May and rose about 2 inches to a level of 246.62 feet. This level was 6 inches above the LTA May level, 18 inches above last year's level, and 25 inches below the record high May level. Lake Ontario also experienced slightly below average water supplies*, likely as a result of below normal runoff in the basin. Lake Ontario is forecast to begin its seasonal decline in June. Over the next 6 months, water levels are forecast to range from 0 to 17 inches above last year's levels for the first three months, and then 6 to 14 inches below last year's levels for the following months. Additionally, water levels are projected to range from 1 to 4 inches above LTA levels in June and July, and then range from 2 to 4 inches below LTA levels from August to November. From June to November, water levels are also forecast to remain 27 to 30 inches below record high levels.

** "Water supplies" refers to the combined quantity of precipitation plus runoff minus evaporation. Also known as the net basin supply.*