



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Detroit District**



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NOVEMBER 2019 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior entered a late seasonal decline this November, lowering roughly 3 inches from its October monthly mean to a level of 603.05 feet. Still, Lake Superior remained above its monthly mean level of last year by about 2 inches. The Lake Superior basin was the only Great Lakes basin to receive both below average precipitation and below average net basin supply for the month of November. Lake Superior is expected to meet last year's level in February and then remain lower than its level of one year ago through May. Still, Lake Superior is expected to remain well above long term average (LTA) levels, ranging anywhere from 11 to 13 inches above LTA from December to May.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lakes Michigan-Huron continued an interrupted seasonal decline this November, lowering about an inch from its October monthly mean to a level of 581.56 ft. Despite having below average precipitation, Lakes Michigan-Huron had persistently above average net basin supply, likely due to enhanced runoff from the wetter October weather. The November monthly mean was 34 inches above its long term average, 16 inches above its level of a year ago, and 5 inches below its record high monthly mean. Over the next 6 months, wetter conditions are expected to continue for this basin. Due to this, the projection of the average monthly mean is expected to tie its record high January value, before exceeding record high values by 1 to 2 inches in February, March, and May. In April, the level is projected to be within an inch of its record high. With this, Lake Michigan-Huron is expected to remain above its levels of a year ago by anywhere from 5 to 16 inches and remain above LTA levels by anywhere from 32 to 35 inches.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair continued a seasonal decline this November, lowering around 2 inches from its mean October level to 576.48 ft. This level was 31 inches above its monthly LTA, 8 inches above its level of one year ago, and 4 inches below its November record high. The forecast for the lake is expected to be below record highs through April, before tying its coordinated record high monthly mean in May, set back in 1986. Still, the mean monthly level is projected to be below the provisional record high set in May 2019 by about 2 inches. The average monthly water level is expected to remain 28 to 34 inches above LTA levels.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie continued to decline in November, dropping about 2 inches from October's monthly mean to a level of 573.10 feet. This level was 26 inches above its monthly LTA, 4 inches above last year's level, and 7 inches below its November record high. The lake had slightly above average water supply, despite receiving below average precipitation. The current 6-month forecast indicates that Lake Erie will remain at about the same level next month, before decreasing slightly in February and then starting a seasonal rise. Over the forecast horizon, the lake is projected to be 2 to 8 inches below record highs and 24 to 27 inches above LTA. Lake Erie is expected to remain above last years levels into April, while the May level is projected to be 5 inches below that of last spring.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario was the only Great Lake to remain steady, as compared to October levels, remaining at about 246.19 feet. The November monthly mean was 20 inches above its monthly LTA, 17 inches above its level of last year, and 6 inches below its record high. The Lake Ontario basin received significantly below average precipitation yet had slightly above average water supply. The latest 6-month water level forecast projects Lake Ontario to continue a delayed decline in December before entering a seasonal rise in 2020. Lake Ontario is expected to start 11 inches above last December's level and end the forecast period 16 inches below last May's level. With this, Lake Ontario is expected to be 11 to 18 inches above LTA and remain below record highs.