Information

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and Integrated Science Data Management, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada derive historic and projected lake levels under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. The Corps also, on a weekly basis publishes online the *Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths*, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. This *Monthly Bulletin of the Lake Levels for the Great Lake*s may be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, by calling (313) 226-6442 or emailing hhpm@usace.army.mil. Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication. This information is available on the internet at http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/GreatLakesInformation.aspx.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology
April 2018

According to preliminary estimates, precipitation was just below average for Great Lakes basin, at 96% of average precipitation. Individually, all of the lakes, except for Superior, received more than their average amount of precipitation for April. Lake Ontario received the most precipitation at 134% of its April average and Lake Superior received the least at 44% of its average April precipitation. Basin-wide precipitation has been near average over the last 12 months. April's net basin supply was above average on all lakes, except Superior and outflow was above average from all lakes.

All of the lakes were above their April long-term average water levels. From March to April, most of the lakes' levels increased, where Lake Michigan-Huron rose by an inch, Lake St. Clair's level rose almost 4 inches, Lake Erie increased by 4 inches, and Lake Ontario rose 3 inches. On the contrary, Lake Superior fell almost 3 inches. Each of the lakes were above last year's April levels by 2-6 inches, except for Lake Ontario which is 13 inches below its April level from last year. All of the lakes were below their record high levels in April by 8 to 25 inches.

PRELIMINARY PRECIPITATION (INCHES)

BASIN	April				12-Month Comparison			
	2018	Average (1900-2016)	Diff.	% of Average	Average Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2016)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	0.89	2.03	-1.14	44	29.84	30.58	-0.74	98
Michigan-Huron	2.77	2.66	0.11	104	31.51	32.55	-1.04	97
Erie	3.33	3.19	0.14	104	34.89	35.62	-0.73	98
Ontario	3.92	2.93	0.99	134	39.25	35.87	3.38	109
Great Lakes	2.47	2.58	0.00	96	32.52	32.77	-0.25	99

LAKE	April Net Basin Supplies[1] (cfs)		April Outflows[2] (cfs)	
	2018	Average (1900-2008)	2018	Average[3] (1900-2008)
Superior	44,000	150,000	81,000	68,000
Michigan-Huron	292,000	284,000	212,000	182,000
Erie	85,000	67,000	258,000	207,000
Ontario	108,000	93,000	303,000	251,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

[1] Net basin supply is the net result of precipitation falling on the lake, runoff from precipitation falling on the land which flows to the lake, and evaporation from the lake. Negative net basin supply denotes evaporation exceeded runoff and precipitation. The net total supply can be found by adding the net basin supply and the outflow from the upstream lake.

[2] Does not include diversions.

[3] Lake Ontario average water supplies and average outflows are based on period of record 1900-2005