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
May 2018

According to preliminary estimates, precipitation was just above average for the Great Lakes basin, at 104% of average precipitation. All of the lakes besides Ontario received precipitation just slightly above average in May, while Lake Ontario experienced a rather dry month with 65% of average precipitation. All of the lake basins have experienced near average precipitation over the last 12 months. In May, the net basin supply was above average for lakes Michigan-Huron and Erie, but below average for lakes Superior and Ontario. Outflows continue to remain above average on all of the lakes.

All of the lakes were above their May long-term average water levels. Lake Superior's May level was 2 inches below last year and Lake Ontario was 21 inches below last year's level. Lake Michigan-Huron was 5 inches above last year and Lake Erie was 2 inches above last year's level. Lake Erie's May level was also 4 inches below its record high May level set in 1986. From April to May, all of the lakes continued or began their seasonal rise. Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, Erie, and Ontario rose by 1, 5, 4, and 10 inches, respectively.

PRELIMINARY PRECIPITATION (INCHES)

BASIN	May				12-Month Comparison			
	2018	Average (1900-2016)	Diff.	% of Average	Average Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2016)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	2.98	2.79	0.19	107	29.98	30.58	-0.60	98
Michigan-Huron	3.41	3.05	0.36	112	31.84	32.55	-0.71	98
Erie	3.47	3.37	0.10	103	33.26	35.62	-2.36	93
Ontario	2.00	3.10	-1.10	65	35.27	35.87	-0.60	98
Great Lakes	3.13	3.02	0.11	104	31.90	32.77	-0.87	97

LAKE	May Net Basin Supplies[1] (cfs)		May Outflows[2] (cfs)	
	2018	Average (1900-2008)	2018	Average[3] (1900-2008)
Superior	130,000	182,000	81,000	75,000
Michigan-Huron	308,000	251,000	213,000	189,000
Erie	81,000	48,000	261,000	216,000
Ontario	57,000	60,000	298,000	260,000

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