

LEVEL *news*

Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels



Volume 16, Number 1

January 7, 2008

Below-average Conditions Persist

The beginning of 2008 saw water levels on all of the Great Lakes below their respective long-term averages for the beginning of the year. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron was only 6 cm higher than its 1918-2006 period-of-record beginning-of-January minimum and the latest six-month forecast indicates that levels on these lakes will continue to be near the record monthly lows if they receive low water supplies in the months ahead.

Water levels on lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron continued their annual seasonal declines during December, experiencing near-average declines of 6 and 5 cm, respectively during the

December Precipitation over the Great Lakes *

Great Lakes Basin	127%	Lake Erie	160%
Lake Superior	107%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	119%	Lake Ontario	148%

December Outflows from the Great Lakes *

Lake Superior	80%	Lake Erie	98%
Lakes Huron	82%	Lake Ontario	88%

* As a percentage of the long-term December averages.
NOTE: These figures are preliminary

month. Above-average water supplies combined with below-average outflows caused water levels on lakes Erie and Ontario to increase by 10 and 16 cm respectively during December. In previous years, water levels on both these lakes have increased by 1 cm on average during December.

Six-Month Forecast

For a complete range of probable water levels on each of the lakes over the next six months, please refer to the December 2007 edition of the Monthly Water Level Bulletin found at:

http://www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/tidal_e.html

Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	December 2007 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-January 2008 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2006)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2006)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	30 cm below	13 cm above	28 cm below	14 cm above
Michigan-Huron	68 cm below	30 cm below	67 cm below	33 cm below
St. Clair	35 cm below	31 cm below	30 cm below	30 cm below
Erie	12 cm below	30 cm below	9 cm below	30 cm below
Ontario	21 cm below	51 cm below	10 cm below	42 cm below



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Canada