

LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

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Spring is in the Air

With spring finally in the air, it seems like everyone wants to know what water levels will be like on each of the Great Lakes this summer. Although it's too early to say with any confidence, we can look at the latest Monthly Water Levels Bulletin prepared by the Canadian Hydrographic Service for an idea of what we might expect to see this summer.

The March 2008 edition of the Bulletin, posted at:

chswwww.bur.dfo.ca/danp/bulletin_e.html, contains the water level forecast for April through September 2008.

Because it isn't possible to accurately forecast water supply conditions in advance, a probable range of future levels

is provided in the Bulletin for each of the Great Lakes.

Right now, it looks almost certain that below-average water levels conditions will continue on lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron throughout the summer. Water levels on Lake Superior should, however, be higher this summer than they were last year. If levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron experience a near-average seasonal rise this spring, summer levels will be about the same as they were last year. However, as the forecast band indicates, there is almost an equal chance that levels will be higher or lower than they were last year.

Based on the current forecast, it looks like Lake Erie has about an equal chance of being above or below average in June, but is likely to fall below average shortly thereafter. There is a good chance that levels on Lake Ontario will remain above average throughout the spring and early summer, but below-average conditions are also possible – particularly during the latter half of the forecast period.

Although water levels are likely to fall somewhere within the probable ranges provided, water levels this summer will depend on the actual water supply conditions experienced this spring. Because weather and attendant water supply
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Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	March 2008 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-April 2008 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2007)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2007)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	27 cm below	19 cm above	27 cm below	17 cm above
Michigan-Huron	54 cm below	14 cm below	54 cm below	17 cm below
St. Clair	2 cm below	3 cm below	8 cm below	10 cm below
Erie	20 cm above	same	22 cm above	3 cm above
Ontario	20 cm above	2 cm above	20 cm above	4 cm above



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conditions can vary significantly from one month to the next, it is important to check the Canadian Hydrographic Service Web site for the latest forecast each month.

International Upper Great Lakes Study Public Meeting

Public advisors to a binational study of Great Lakes water levels have announced that three public meetings will be held in the United States this spring. Although it is anticipated that similar meetings will be held in Canadian locations this summer, the spring meeting planned for Port Huron, Michigan, just across the St. Clair River from Sarnia, Ontario, may be of interest to LEVELnews readers. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on

Tuesday, April 29, 2008 at the Great Lakes Maritime Center,

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March Precipitation over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term March average:

Great Lakes Basin	111%	Lake Erie	152%
Lake Superior	64%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	103%	Lake Ontario	152%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary

51 Water Street, Port Huron, Michigan. Information about the public meetings is available on the Study's Web site at:

www.iugls.org

Draft new Order and Regulation Plan

The International Joint Commission has released for public comment a proposed new Order of Approval and a proposed new plan, called Plan 2007, for regulating the flows through the Moses-Saunders Dam between Cornwall, Ontario and Massena, New York.

Information about the proposed new order and plan and how to provide comments on them is available online at:

www.ijc.org/LOSdocuments

Get International Joint Commission News Automatically

As regular readers will have certainly noticed, LEVELnews often contains an item or two highlighting an activity of the International Joint Commission or one of its Great Lakes water quantity boards. Unfortunately, due to timing, space or topic

limitations, many activities that might be of interest to LEVELnews readers are not included. However, if you would like to receive International Joint Commission news releases, newsletters and announcements automatically via e-mail you can subscribe to IJC-Announce — the International Joint Commission's mass mailing list. To subscribe to this service, please visit the IJC-Announce Web site at:

<http://mailman.ijc.org/mailman/listinfo/ijc-announce>

March Outflows from the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term March average:

Lake Superior	87%	Lake Erie	111%
Lake Huron	83%	Lake Ontario	108%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary