

# LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

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## ***Lake Levels Rise Significantly***

Water levels on all of the Great Lakes, except Erie, climbed by more than the average amount in April. This unusual increase was due to a combination of above-average rainfall over the upper lakes' basin and the melt of above-average snow accumulation.

Lake Superior's level rose by 16 cm in April, which is twice its average rise of 8 cm. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron rose by 20 cm during the month, which is nearly double the average April rise of 11 cm. Lake Erie's level rose quickly during the first half of April, but then it declined during the last two weeks. It ended the month 2 cm higher than at the start of the month.

The above-average total supply (basin + Lake Erie outflow) to Lake Ontario caused its level to rise by 36 cm last month, even though its regulated outflows were 1% more than average. On average, Lake Ontario rises by 21 cm in April. The lake's outflow was less than that specified by the regulation plan for much of the month. This was to prevent water levels of the St. Lawrence River near Montréal from rising above the flood stage. As a result of deviations from the regulation plan, Lake Ontario's level is 6 cm higher than it otherwise would have been. Even though the lake's outflow was restricted, the April mean level at Montréal Harbour was 41 cm

higher than average, in part due to high flows in the Ottawa River.

Lakes St. Clair and Erie might have reached their peak level for this year during April. With average water supply conditions, the levels of all the other lakes are expected to rise in May, as they typically do.

## **Public Hearings on Proposed Regulation Plan**

The International Joint Commission is holding public hearings on the proposed Order of Approval and regulation plan for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Information  
**(continued on next page)**

### **Great Lakes Water Level Information**

Lake	April 2008 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-May 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	26 cm below	16 cm above	20 cm below	26 cm above
Michigan-Huron	48 cm below	10 cm below	45 cm below	4 cm below
St. Clair	5 cm below	3 cm above	8 cm below	5 cm below
Erie	18 cm above	7 cm above	12 cm above	2 cm below
Ontario	30 cm above	17 cm above	35 cm above	24 cm above



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on the proposal and the complete schedule of public hearings can be found at:

<http://www.ijc.org/en/activities/losl/index.php>

The public is invited to attend and make comments and presentations. The first public hearing is from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on June 9 at the Best Western Hotel in Jordan, Ontario. Later in June, there will be hearings held in Montréal, Sorel-Tracy, Belleville, Kingston and Massena, N.Y., as well as in other U.S. locations. Written comments may also be submitted to the International Joint Commission online or by fax, mail or email.

### 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 April 2008 edition of the

## April Precipitation over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term April average:

Great Lakes Basin	108%	Lake Erie	63%
Lake Superior	140%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	115%	Lake Ontario	86%

**NOTE:** These figures are preliminary

Monthly Water Level Bulletin  
found at:

[http://www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/tidal\\_e.html](http://www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/tidal_e.html)

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## April Outflows from the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term April average:

Lake Superior	82%	Lake Erie	110%
Lake Huron	84%	Lake Ontario	101%

**NOTE:** These figures are preliminary