

# LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

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## December brings Above-average Water Supplies to the Lakes

Unseasonably mild, wet weather was experienced throughout much of the Great Lakes Basin during December. Precipitation in the form of rain, combined with a reduction in evaporation due to above-average temperatures, resulted in water supplies well above average to lakes Michigan-Huron, Erie and Ontario during the month. Water supplies to Lake Superior were also above average (but just slightly) for the first time in 11 months.

As a result of the above-average supply conditions water levels increased 3 cm on Lakes Michigan-Huron

## December Precipitation Over the Great Lakes \*

Great Lakes Basin	121%	Lake Erie	154%
Lake Superior	91%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	130%	Lake Ontario	108%

## December Outflows From the Great Lakes \*

Lake Superior	76%	Lake Erie	104%
Lakes Huron	88%	Lake Ontario	119%

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

and 6 cm on both lakes Erie and Ontario during December. Over the period of record, water levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron have declined 4 cm on average during December while remaining about the same on lakes Erie and Ontario. Although water levels continued to decline on Lake Superior during

December, daily levels fell 2 cm less than average during the month. Water levels on Lake Superior remain well below average and at the beginning of January the level of Lake Superior was just 9 cm above its period-of-record low level for the beginning of January, which was set in 1926.

## Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	December 2006 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning of January 2007 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2005)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2005)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	44 cm below	32 cm below	42 cm below	30 cm below
Michigan-Huron	38 cm below	10 cm above	35 cm below	13 cm above
St. Clair	4 cm below	16 cm above	1 cm below	15 cm above
Erie	18 cm above	31 cm above	21 cm above	30 cm above
Ontario	31 cm above	28 cm above	32 cm above	32 cm above



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