

# LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

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## Summer Dreaming

Spring may be just a few weeks old, but people are already starting to ask what water levels will be like this summer on the Great Lakes. It's a fair question, but one that can't answer with complete confidence at this time. We can, however, turn to the Monthly Water Levels Bulletin prepared by the Canadian Hydrographic Service for an idea of what we might see over the next six months.

The March 2007 edition of the Bulletin, posted at: [chswwww.bur.dfo.ca/danp/bulletin\\_e.html](http://chswwww.bur.dfo.ca/danp/bulletin_e.html), contains the water level forecast for April through September 2007. Since it isn't possible to accurately forecast water supply conditions in advance, a probable range of future levels is provided in the

### March Precipitation over the Great Lakes \*

Great Lakes Basin	111%	Lake Erie	103%
Lake Superior	121%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	119%	Lake Ontario	74%

### March Outflows from the Great Lakes \*

Lake Superior	69%	Lake Erie	108%
Lakes Huron	89%	Lake Ontario	118%

\* As a percentage of the long-term March average.

NOTE: These figures are preliminary

Bulletin for each of the Great Lakes. Right now, it's look almost certain that below-average water levels conditions will continue on lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron throughout the summer. If very low water level conditions persist over the forecast period, Lake Superior could set a new seasonal period-of-record low water level

sometime this 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. Based on the current forecast, it looks like lakes Erie and Ontario have about an equal chance of being above or below average in June, but are likely to fall below average shortly thereafter.

## Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	March 2007 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning of April 2007 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	47 cm below	34 cm below	45 cm below	33 cm below
Michigan-Huron	40 cm below	1 cm below	39 cm below	1 cm above
St. Clair	1 cm above	7 cm above	2 cm above	18 cm above
Erie	20 cm above	15 cm above	19 cm above	20 cm above
Ontario	18 cm above	3 cm above	16 cm above	11 cm above



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