

# LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

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## Water Levels, Ice Jams, and a Public Teleconference

Water levels fell on each of the Great Lakes and on Lake St. Clair during January. Water levels on lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron fell by 5 and 4 cm, respectively, as these lakes continued their annual seasonal declines. The level of Lake Superior fell by 5 cm, which is 2 cm less than its average decline of 7 cm for the month, while the level of Lakes Michigan-Huron fell by 1 cm more than its average decline of 3 cm. The level of Lake Erie fell by 8 cm, four times its average decline of 2 cm for the month. Lake Ontario's level fell by 2 cm, instead of rising by 4 cm as it has on average during January over the 1918-2009 period of record.

### St. Clair River Ice Jams

When ice jams occur in the St. Clair River, they can cause a large reduction in the outflow from Lake Huron. This results in a temporary, but significant, drop in the level of Lake St. Clair.

The level of Lake St. Clair was affected by two ice jams in the St. Clair River during January. The first event actually began near the end of December, causing the lake's level to fall by 17 cm during the last four days of 2010. The jam was cleared at the beginning of January and the lake's level then rose to within 2 cm of its pre-ice jam level during the first six days of the month.

The lake's level remained up for just two days before a second ice jam caused the lake's level to start falling again. The level of the lake fell by 42 cm during the second and third weeks of the month, and then remained fairly stable for the remainder of the month before beginning to recover on February 1. As a result, the lake began February some 41 cm below its average beginning-of-February level. However, on February 2, the lake had already climbed by 12 cm in the one day, to 29 cm below average.

(continued on next page)

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	January 2011 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-February 2011 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2009)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2009)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	33 cm below	21 cm below	33 cm below	21 cm below
Michigan-Huron	50 cm below	34 cm below	49 cm below	32 cm below
St. Clair	36 cm below	26 cm below	41 cm below	41 cm below
Erie	16 cm below	16 cm below	21 cm below	22 cm below
Ontario	7 cm below	2 cm below	13 cm below	11 cm below

## St. Lawrence Board Public Teleconference

The International St. Lawrence River Board of Control will hold a public teleconference on **Tuesday, March 15, 2011, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. EDT**, to discuss the regulation of outflows and water levels in the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River system. Participation in the meeting can be in person or by phone.

To participate in the teleconference by phone, please call: **1- 877- 413- 4814** by 6:50 p.m., and enter either of the following two access codes:

**4513524 for English**  
**3606820 for French**

Please mention “**St. Lawrence River Control Board**” to the operator if asked.

The teleconference can also be attended in person at either of the two following meeting sites:

**Sarto-Desnoyers  
Community Centre,  
1335 Lakeshore Drive,  
City of Dorval, Quebec**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Chuck Southam  
Boundary Water Issues Unit,  
Environment Canada  
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or:

**Xerox Auditorium,  
Gleason Building,  
Rochester Institute of  
Technology,  
Rochester, New York**

Those attending in person at the Dorval site will be able to listen to the presentation in either English or French.

To download the meeting materials, please go to the Board's Web site at: **[www.ijc.org/conseil\\_board/islrbc/en/activities.htm](http://www.ijc.org/conseil_board/islrbc/en/activities.htm)**. Any updates will be posted by March 11 on this Web site.

Please note that there will be a brief discussion period from 6:45-7:00 p.m. at the two meeting sites to determine local concerns. The Board presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be heard by those present at the two meeting sites, as well as by those listening in by phone. Following the presentation, comments and questions will be taken from callers and attendees at both sites.

Inquires about the teleconference may be directed to either of the Board's Secretaries:

Gail R. Faveri  
Secretary, Canadian Section  
International St. Lawrence River  
Board of Control  
Boundary Waters Unit,  
Environment Canada  
867 Lakeshore Road,  
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Secretary, United States Section  
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## January Precipitation over the Great Lakes \*

Great Lakes Basin	74%	Lake Erie	82%
Lake Superior	86%	(Including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	72%	Lake Ontario	52%

## January Outflows from the Great Lakes \*

Lake Superior	81%	Lake Erie	95%
Lake Huron	88%	Lake Ontario	98%

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

**NOTE:** These figures are preliminary