



LEVELnews

Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Water Levels Decline on Each Lake During August

Water levels on each of the Great Lakes fell during August. Although outflows from Lake Superior were below average in August, because the water supply that Lake Superior received during the month was even more below average, its level declined by 2 cm this August. In comparison, its average August rise is 1 cm. Similar conditions caused the level of Lakes Michigan–Huron to decline by 7 cm this past month, which is almost twice

its average August decline of 4 cm. Lake Erie received below-average water supplies during August. This, combined with an above-average outflow, caused Lake Erie's level to fall by 12 cm this August, which is 4 cm more than its average decline of 8 cm for the month. Lake Ontario received above-average water supplies during August. However, this was more than offset by its above-average August outflow. As a result, Lake Ontario's level

declined by 17 cm last month, which is a bit more than its average August decline of 15 cm.

Six-Month Forecast

With average water supply conditions, the level of Lake Superior is expected to remain about the same during September. The levels of each of the remaining Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair are expected to fall as they continue their annual seasonal declines.

(continued on next page)

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	August 2011 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-September 2011 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918–2010)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918–2010)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	25 cm below	8 cm above	28 cm below	5 cm above
Michigan–Huron	32 cm below	Same	34 cm below	1 cm below
St. Clair	1 cm above	11 cm above	2 cm above	13 cm above
Erie	13 cm above	19 cm above	12 cm above	20 cm above
Ontario	6 cm above	4 cm above	5 cm above	4 cm above

For a graphical representation of recent and forecasted water levels on each of the Great Lakes and on Lake St. Clair, compared to their 1918–2010 period-of-record monthly average and extreme levels, please refer to the August 2011 edition of the Canadian Hydrographic Service’s monthly water levels bulletin, found at: www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/tidal_e.html

Great Lakes Water Levels and Related Data

To know what Great Lakes water levels are like right now, to track them as they change from day to day, to see what they might be like over the next six months, or to see what they have been like in

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the past, please visit Environment Canada’s Great Lakes Water Levels and Related Data Web page at: www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water/default.asp?lang=En&n=79962112-1. There is a selection of links to “current and recent water level data,” “water level forecasts,” and “historical water levels.” This page also provides related data on precipitation, water temperature and ice cover.

International Upper Great Lakes Study

More than 1000 people attended a dozen public meetings that were held this summer in the United States and Canada, where Study Board members and researchers provided a status report on Phase 2 regulation and restoration options for the lakes. Download the presentation from the public meetings, and the progress report on Phase 2, from the Study Board’s website at: www.iugls.org

August Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	99%	Lake Erie	129%
Lake Superior	89%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan–Huron	84%	Lake Ontario	144%

August Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	75%	Lake Erie	104%
Lake Huron	92%	Lake Ontario	110%

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