



LEVELnews

Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

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Water Levels Update

Water levels increased by more than average amounts on each of the lakes during May. The levels of lakes Superior and Michigan–Huron increased slightly more than average,

while lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario experienced increases much larger than average. This was due to the above-average precipitation amounts that their basins received during the month.

Lake Superior's level rose by 14 cm this May, compared to its average May rise of 10 cm. Similarly, the level of Lakes Michigan–Huron rose by 14 cm in May, which is 6 cm more than its average May rise of 8 cm.

In comparison, Lake St. Clair's level rose by 17 cm last month, 10 cm more than its average May rise of 7 cm. Lake Erie rose by 24 cm during the month, almost five times more than its average 5 cm rise in May. Lake Ontario's level rose by 33 cm, compared to the average May rise of 8 cm.

If there are typical water supply conditions, the levels of lakes Superior and Michigan–Huron are expected to continue their **(continued on next page)**

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	May 2011 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-June 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	32 cm below	4 cm below	31 cm below	2 cm above
Michigan–Huron	39 cm below	3 cm below	34 cm below	4 cm above
St. Clair	3 cm above	18 cm above	11 cm above	24 cm above
Erie	16 cm above	25 cm above	28 cm above	35 cm above
Ontario	22 cm above	52 cm above	33 cm above	64 cm above

seasonal rise during June. The levels of lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario are expected to decline, which is typical for them at this time of year. The most probable water supplies forecast indicates that Montreal Harbour's monthly mean level will be lower than it was in May, but still above average for June.

For a complete range of probable water levels over the next six months on each of the Great Lakes, on Lake St. Clair, and at Montreal Harbour, please refer to the May 2011 edition of the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water levels bulletin, found at: www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/tidal_e.html

Be Up To Date When You Set Out

Whether you are a recreational boater or a ship's captain, it is important to have up-to-date information about marine weather and water level conditions before you set out.

Marine Weather

You can find the information you need on current and forecasted weather, wind and wave conditions for the Great Lakes on Environment Canada's weather website at: www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/canada_e.html

Water Levels

Real-time water levels on the Great Lakes, their connecting channels and the upper St. Lawrence River are available by telephone from a network of gauging stations operated by the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS).

Please visit the CHS website at www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/voice_e.html for a list of voice-announcing water level gauging stations and their telephone numbers.

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May Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	119%	Lake Erie	201%
Lake Superior	91%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan–Huron	102%	Lake Ontario	140%

May Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	74%	Lake Erie	106%
Lake Huron	89%	Lake Ontario	106%

*As a percentage of the long-term May average.

NOTE: These figures are preliminary.