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LEVELnews

Great Lakes — St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Lake Superior's Level Climbs a Bit Closer to Average during June

Wet weather over Lake Superior's basin helped its water level climb a bit closer to average during June. Conversely, fairly dry weather elsewhere in the Great Lakes region meant that the levels of the other lakes fell further below average than they were at the beginning of June.

• Lake Superior: Lake Superior's basin received more than its average June monthly precipitation amount this June. The wet weather, combined with the lake's below-average outflow, led to a 14 cm rise in its level during June—twice Lake Superior's average June increase of 7 cm. Although still below average, the lake's water level climbed a bit closer to average during the month.

• Lakes Michigan–Huron: The level of Lakes Michigan– Huron rose by 1 cm this past month, whereas its average June rise is 8 cm. Although the lake's outflow was below average, that was not low enough to make up for the combined effect of belowaverage local supplies and below-average inflows from Lake Superior.

• Lake Erie: The average Lake Erie rise in June is 1 cm, but this year its level fell by 8 cm. Lake Erie's outflow was below average during June; however, the lake's total water supply from it local basin and upstream via the Detroit River (continued on next page)

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
	June 2012 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-July 2012 Level	
Lake	Compared to Monthly Average (1918–2011)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918–2011)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	24 cm below	5 cm above	20 cm below	8 cm above
Michigan–Huron	48 cm below	14 cm below	51 cm below	20 cm below
St. Clair	19 cm below	24 cm below	20 cm below	25 cm below
Erie	11 cm below	36 cm below	15 cm below	36 cm below
Ontario	15 cm below	43 cm below	18 cm below	40 cm below



was well-below average resulting in its large decline.

• Lake Ontario: The level of Lake Ontario fell by 4 cm during June. The level of Lake Ontario typically falls in June as it begins its annual seasonal decline; however, the lake's average June decline is only 1 cm during June. Lake Ontario's outflow was belowaverage during June, but not low enough to make up for the low water supplies it also received during the month.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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June Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin 96% Lake Erie Lake Superior 121% (including Lakes Michigan–Huron 91% Lake Ont

Lake Erie 65% (including Lake St. Clair) Lake Ontario 94%

June Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior 76% Lake Erie 94% Lakes Michigan–Huron 90% Lake Ontario 92%

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