

LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

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Water Level Update and Meeting Reminder

The water level of Lake Superior increased during August 2010, while the levels of the remaining Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair fell as they began or continued their annual seasonal declines.

The level of Lake Superior increased by 3 cm last month. On average, the level of Lake Superior has risen by 1 cm during the month of August for the years included in the 1918-2009 period of record currently used for water level comparison purposes. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron fell by 6 cm this August, while on average it falls by 5 cm during August. The levels of lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario fell by 12, 14 and 16 cm,

respectively, during August. These changes in levels for lakes St. Clair and Erie represent a decline of twice as much as they have on average during the month of August, which was largely due to the low water supplies that their basins received. Meanwhile, the change in the level of Lake Ontario represents a decline of just 1 cm more than its average decline for the month.

With average water supply conditions, the level of Lake Superior is expected to remain stable 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.

For a complete range of probable water levels over the next six months on each of the Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair, please refer to the September 2010 edition of the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water level bulletin found at:

http://www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/tidal_e.html.

Please note that although water levels are most likely to fall somewhere within the probable ranges provided, what actually happens will depend on the water supply conditions over the next few months. If extremely high or low water supply conditions are experienced, future levels
(continued on next page)

Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	August 2010 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-September 2010 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	34 cm below	19 cm below	33 cm below	23 cm below
Michigan-Huron	33 cm below	20 cm below	33 cm below	22 cm below
St. Clair	10 cm below	15 cm below	11 cm below	20 cm below
Erie	6 cm below	16 cm below	9 cm below	18 cm below
Ontario	2 cm above	13 cm below	1 cm above	12 cm below



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could fall outside the ranges shown. Please check the water level bulletin each month for an update on actual and forecasted water level conditions.

Meeting Reminder

As mentioned in last month's edition of LEVELnews, the International Niagara and International St. Lawrence River Boards of Control are holding public information events this month.

The International Niagara Board of Control will hold an open house on Wednesday, September 15, 2010, to inform the public about the Board's current activities. This session is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. EDT in the Prospect Room of the Crown Plaza Hotel, 300 Third Street, Niagara Falls, New York. For additional information please visit the Niagara Board's Web

site at:

www.ijc.org/conseil_board/niagara/en/niagara_home_accueil.htm

The International St. Lawrence River Board of Control will hold a public teleconference on Tuesday, September 21, 2010, 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. For information on how to participate, please visit the St. Lawrence Board's Web site at:

www.ijc.org/conseil_board/islrbc/en/activities.htm

Did You Know?

The Great Lakes consist of lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario. They form a chain of reservoirs, with each one draining into the next. Lake Superior is the uppermost lake and the largest. It drains to Lake Huron by way of the St. Marys River. Lake Michigan, located entirely in the United States, also drains to Lake Huron. The water levels of both lakes Michigan and Huron are

essentially at the same elevation, because the two lakes are connected by the wide and deep Straits of Mackinac. For this reason, lakes Michigan and Huron are often referred to as Lake or Lakes Michigan-Huron.

From Lake Huron, water flows into Lake Erie by way of the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River. Lake Erie is the shallowest of the five Great Lakes and has the second smallest surface area. Its outflow to Lake Ontario is mainly through the Niagara River. Lake Ontario water in turn flows into the St. Lawrence River, which carries the total outflow of the Great Lakes to the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

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Editor, Chuck Southam

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August Precipitation over the Great Lakes *

Great Lakes Basin	94%	Lake Erie	66%
Lake Superior	107%	Including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	93%	Lake Ontario	101%

August Outflows from the Great Lakes *

Lake Superior	66%	Lake Erie	94%
Lake Huron	95%	Lake Ontario	99%

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

NOTE: These figures are preliminary