



LEVELnews

Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Most Lakes Receive Above-Average Supplies during December

Water supplies to lakes Superior, Erie and Ontario were above-average during December resulting in smaller-than-average declines or larger-than-average increases on these lakes during the month. Conversely, Lake Michigan–Huron received below-average supplies causing its level to fall a bit more than average during the month.

- Above-average water supplies to Lake Superior resulted in the lake's level falling by 5 cm during December, 3 cm less than its

1918–2012 period-of-record average fall of 8 cm during the month.

- Below-average water supplies caused Lake Michigan–Huron's level to fall by 4 cm during December, 1 cm more than its average decline during the month.
- Water supplies to Lake Erie were above average, resulting in the lake rising by 9 cm, 7 cm more than the lake's average December rise of 2 cm.
- On Lake Ontario, above-average water supplies

combined with near-average outflows, resulted in the lake rising 4 cm, twice its average December rise of 2 cm.

- The monthly mean level at Montreal Harbour was 20 cm below the 1967–2012 period-of-record December average, but 70 cm higher than the December level last year.

Water Level Forecast

For a graphical representation of recent and forecasted water levels on each of the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair and Montreal Harbour, compared (continued on next page)

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	December 2013 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-January 2014 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918–2012)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918–2012)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	5 cm below	30 cm above	3 cm below	31 cm above
Michigan–Huron	36 cm below	36 cm above	35 cm below	36 cm above
St. Clair	11 cm below	25 cm above	5 cm below	34 cm above
Erie	4 cm below	12 cm above	4 cm above	22 cm above
Ontario	1 cm above	25 cm above	5 cm above	27 cm above

to their respective period-of-record monthly averages and extreme levels, please refer to the December 2013 edition of the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water levels bulletin at: www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin_e.html

Period of Record

Although it is now 2014, the period of record used for comparison purposes in the monthly water levels bulletin and LEVELnews is still 1918–2012, and will likely remain so for a couple more months. The 2013 water level data needs to be verified and accepted as correct before the period-of-record statistics used for water level purposes can be updated to 1918–2013. If the January

2013 preliminary monthly mean water level recorded on Lake Michigan–Huron is verified it will become the lake's new period-of-record low monthly water level for the month of January, replacing the previous record low for the month set in 1965.

Ice Information

Environment Canada monitors ice conditions in five regional areas, including the Great Lakes. If you would like to track ice conditions throughout the winter, please visit the Canadian Ice Service website at: www.ice-glaces.ec.gc.ca

If you click on the Great Lakes map on the regional area map provided you will find a number of ice information products for the Lakes. This includes Ice Charts (showing ice concentrations and stages of development), Ice Hazard Bulletins, Ice Forecasts, and Ice Cover Graphs. You can also view high resolution maps showing the latest ice cover in Canadian waters nation-wide and animation of the changes in ice cover over the past 10 days. Be sure to look at the Ice Products Guide provided on the Canadian Ice Services

website to learn more about the ice products and how to interpret them. The links to the product guide and the high resolution maps can be found below the regional area map.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Chuck Southam (Editor)
Boundary Water Issues Unit
MSC – Operations Ontario
Environment Canada
P.O. Box 5050
Burlington ON L7R 4A6
Tel.: 905-336-4955
Fax: 905-336-8901
Email: water.levels@ec.gc.ca

Rob Caldwell
Great Lakes–St. Lawrence
Regulation Office
MSC – Operations Ontario
Environment Canada
111 Water Street East
Cornwall ON K6H 6S2
Tel.: 613-938-5864

For information regarding reproduction rights, please contact Public Works and Government Services Canada at 613-996-6886 or at droitdauteur.copyright@tpsgc-pwgsc.ca
Photos: © Environment Canada – 2011
© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of the Environment, 2013

ISSN 1925-5713

Aussi disponible en français

December Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	67%	Lake Erie	115%
Lake Superior	68%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	51%	Lake Ontario	63%

December Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	107%	Lake Erie	100%
Lake Michigan–Huron	95%	Lake Ontario	108%

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