



LEVELnews

Great Lakes — St. Lawrence River Water Levels

April Brings Above-Average Rise for All Lakes

Water supplies to each of the Great Lakes were well above average in April, resulting in above-average water level increases on every lake. Heavy snowmelt in the Ottawa River caused a rapid increase in the lower St. Lawrence River water levels, rising from well-below-average to well-above in less than two weeks in mid-April.

- Above-average water supplies to Lake Superior resulted in the lake's level rising by 11 cm in April, 3 cm more than its 1918–2013 period-of-record average April rise of 8 cm.

- Water supplies were also well-above-average on Lake Michigan–Huron causing this lake's level to rise by 20 cm, nearly double its average April increase of 11 cm and the sixth highest April rise on record.

- Water supplies to Lake Erie were also above-average during April, resulting in its level rising by 20 cm, 8 cm more than average.

- On Lake Ontario, high water supplies combined with below-average outflows resulted in the lake rising 50 cm in April, setting a new

record for the month that has an average rise of 20 cm.

- The monthly mean level at Montreal Harbour was 6 cm below average in April, but 57 cm higher than the harbour's April level last year.

Lake Levels

Levels of all the Great Lakes remain above last year's levels at the beginning of May. Lake Superior's beginning-of-May level was 4 cm above average, and 36 cm above last year's level, which is the highest it has been since

(continued on next page)

Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	April 2014 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-May 2014 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918–2013)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918–2013)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	2 cm above	35 cm above	4 cm above	36 cm above
Michigan–Huron	32 cm below	31 cm above	25 cm below	29 cm above
St. Clair	7 cm below	21 cm above	5 cm below	19 cm above
Erie	2 cm below	18 cm above	same	14 cm above
Ontario	5 cm below	11 cm above	9 cm above	21 cm above

1998, although higher beginning-of-May levels have been recorded in 39 years since 1918. Lake Michigan–Huron’s level was 25 cm below average, but the highest since 2009. Lower beginning-of-May levels have been recorded on Lake Michigan–Huron in 31 years since 1918, including last year, when the level was 29 cm lower than the current level. At the beginning of May, Lake Erie was at average and 14 cm higher than this time last year. Lake Ontario’s level began May at 9 cm above average, 21 cm above last year’s level, and at the highest point for this time of year since 2009.

Water Level Forecast

Relative to their beginning-of-May levels and assuming average water supply conditions, all of the Great Lakes are expected to rise during May. For a graphical representation of recent and forecasted water levels on each of the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair and Montreal Harbour, compared to their respective period-of-record monthly averages and extreme levels, please refer to the April 2014 edition of the Canadian Hydrographic Service’s monthly water levels bulletin found at: www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin_e.html.

comments. Those interested may participate either by phone or webinar. Further information and instructions on how to participate in the teleconference or webinar will be available prior to the meeting on the Board’s calendar website at: www.ijc.org/en_/Calendar and click on “**Lake Superior Board of Control Webinars**”. To participate by toll-free telephone at either of the meetings, please call **1-877-413-4781** at least ten minutes prior to the start and enter the following access code: **7368794**.

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Lake Superior Board Teleconference-Webinar

The International Lake Superior Board of Control will hold two public teleconference-webinars on **Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. EDT and 6:00 p.m. EDT** to provide updates about Board activities, current hydrological conditions, and an opportunity for your questions or

April Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	122%	Lake Erie	109%
Lake Superior	103%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	127%	Lake Ontario	147%

April Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	106%	Lake Erie	102%
Lake Michigan–Huron	96%	Lake Ontario	97%

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