



LEVELnews

Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Above-Average Rise For All Lakes Continues

Water supplies to each of the Great Lakes in May were well above average resulting in above-average water level increases on every lake for the second month in a row. The effects of the heavy snowmelt in the Ottawa River in April also continued into May keeping the lower St. Lawrence River water levels well above average.

- Above-average water supplies to Lake Superior resulted in the lake's level rising by 20 cm in May, double its 1918–2013 period-of-record average May rise of 10 cm

and the third highest May rise on record.

- Water supplies were also well-above-average on Lake Michigan–Huron causing this lake's level to rise by 16 cm, also double its average May increase of 8 cm and the sixth highest May rise on record.
- The above-average water supplies to Lake Erie during May resulted in its level rising by 14 cm, more than double its May average of 6 cm.
- On Lake Ontario, high water supplies resulted in the

lake rising 12 cm in May, 4 cm more than the average rise of 8 cm.

- The monthly mean level at Montreal Harbour was 64 cm above average in May, and 80 cm higher than the harbour's May level last year.

Beginning-of-June

Lake Levels

Levels of all the Great Lakes remain above last year's levels at the beginning of June. Lake Superior's beginning-of-June level was 14 cm above average, and 32 cm above last

(continued on next page)

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	May 2014 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-June 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	12 cm above	36 cm above	14 cm above	32 cm above
Michigan–Huron	20 cm below	34 cm above	17 cm below	32 cm above
St. Clair	1 cm above	29 cm above	6 cm above	29 cm above
Erie	5 cm above	25 cm above	8 cm above	28 cm above
Ontario	13 cm above	26 cm above	13 cm above	24 cm above

year's level. This is the highest it has been since 1997, although higher beginning-of-June levels have been recorded in 22 years since 1918. Lake Michigan–Huron's level was 17 cm below average, but the highest since 2009. Lower beginning-of-June levels have been recorded on Lake Michigan–Huron in 38 years since 1918, including last year, when the level was 32 cm lower than the current level. At the beginning of June, Lake Erie was 8 cm above average and 28 cm higher than this time last year. Lake Ontario's level began June at 13 cm above average, 24 cm above last year's level,

and at the highest point for this time of year since 2011.

Water Level Forecast

Relative to their beginning-of-June levels and assuming average water supply conditions, all of the Great Lakes are expected to rise or remain stable during June. 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 May 2014 edition of the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water levels bulletin found at: tides-marees.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html.

Forecast website at: weather.gc.ca/marine/index_e.html.

Lake levels can be found by visiting the Canadian Hydrographic Service website at: www.tides.gc.ca/C&A/gs_selection-eng.html and then clicking on the gauge in the area that you will be sailing. Each of the gauges has a phone number listed on their website that provides their real-time water levels.

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Before Setting Sail This Summer

Before setting sail it is important to have up-to-date conditions on the water. For local wind and wave forecasts, current weather conditions, and weather warnings on the Canadian Great Lakes go to Environment Canada's Marine

May Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	110%	Lake Erie	100%
Lake Superior	114%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	107%	Lake Ontario	127%

May Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	115%	Lake Erie	101%
Lake Michigan–Huron	96%	Lake Ontario	106%

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