



LEVELnews

Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Superior's Wet Supply Period Ends

The eleven consecutive months of wet supply to Lake Superior was broken with a dry January while the other lakes experienced near-average conditions for the month. All the Great Lakes monthly average levels were at or above long-term average for January. Ice effects were seen in the St. Clair River and lower St. Lawrence River.

- The monthly mean water level of Lake Superior was 22 cm above its January period-of-record (1918–2013)

average, 25 cm higher than January 2014, and the highest January level since 1997.

- Lake Michigan–Huron's mean level in January was also 22 cm above average, up 56 cm from last year and the highest mean level recorded in January since 1998.
- Lake Erie's mean monthly level was 17 cm above average and 16 cm above last January's.
- Lake Ontario was at its average January level and 8 cm lower than a year ago.

- Montreal Harbour's levels increased over January due to ice slowing flow in the river but the monthly mean level was below average, and 30 cm lower than last year.

Above-average outflows with below-normal water supply resulted in Lake Superior's level falling 10 cm in January, 3 cm more than the lake's average (1918–2013) decline of 7 cm. Lake Michigan–Huron on average falls by 3 cm in January but fell 2 cm last month due to the combination of

(continued on next page)

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	January 2015 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-February 2015 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	22 cm above	25 cm above	21 cm above	25 cm above
Michigan–Huron	22 cm above	56 cm above	25 cm above	56 cm above
St. Clair	12 cm above	27 cm above	6 cm below	12 cm above
Erie	17 cm above	16 cm above	12 cm above	15 cm above
Ontario	Same	8 cm below	4 cm below	9 cm below

above-average inflows from Lake Superior combined with the below-average outflows through the ice-choked St. Clair River. The reduction in flow into Lake St. Clair caused the level to drop 38 cm, nearly triple its average decline for the month. Lake Erie fell 2 cm, slightly more than the average decline of 1 cm. Lake Ontario's level increased by 5 cm, an amount equivalent to its average January rise, as normal ice management practices resulted in the typical reductions in outflows.

Beginning-of-February Lake Levels

Levels of all the Great Lakes remained above average and above last year's levels at the beginning of February, with the exception of Lake Ontario. Lake Superior's beginning-of-February level was 21 cm above average (1918–2013), 25 cm above last year's level. This is the highest Superior has been this time of year since 1997 and only 8 period-of-record values have been higher since 1918. Lake Michigan–Huron's beginning-of-February level was 25 cm above average, 56 cm higher than last year and the highest beginning-of-February level since 1998. Lake Erie was 12 cm above average at the beginning of February, and 15 cm higher than last year. Lake Ontario's level began February 4 cm below average, and 9 cm lower than last year.

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 Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water levels bulletin found at:

tides-marees.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html

Upcoming Public Teleconference-Webinar

The International St. Lawrence River Board of Control invites you to discuss water regulation in the St. Lawrence River on March 17, 2015 from 7:00–8:30 p.m. EST. Further details can be found at: ijc.org/en/_islrbc/Events or by calling **905-336-6007**.

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Water Level Forecast

For a graphical representation of recent and forecasted water levels on

January Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	60%	Lake Erie	72%
Lake Superior	71%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	51%	Lake Ontario	58%

January Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	125%	Lake Erie	106%
Lake Michigan–Huron	96%	Lake Ontario	100%

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