



LEVELnews

Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Lake Levels Continue To Rise In May

All of the Great Lakes saw average or greater gains in water levels in May, with most of the lakes receiving average to above-average water supplies.

- The monthly mean water level of Lake Superior was 18 cm above its period-of-record (1918–2014) average in May, 6 cm higher than May 2014, and the highest May level since 1997.
- Lake Michigan–Huron’s mean level in May was 12 cm above average, 32 cm above last year’s level and the highest

mean level recorded in May since 1998.

- Lake Erie’s mean monthly level was 1 cm above average, but 4 cm below the May level of the previous year.
- Lake Ontario was 20 cm below its May average level, 33 cm lower than a year ago, however lower May levels have been recorded as recently as 2010.
- The low outflow from Lake Ontario contributed to Montreal Harbour’s level remaining well below average in May.

Above-average outflows partially countered the above-average water supplies to Lake Superior, resulting in its level rising 11 cm in May, slightly more than the lake’s average (1918–2014) rise of 10 cm. Lake Michigan–Huron’s level rose 8 cm in May, an amount equivalent to the lake’s average, due to above-average supplies being countered by above-average outflows. Lake St. Clair rose 19 cm in May, much more than the average rise of 7 cm. Lake Erie rose

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Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	May 2015 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-June 2015 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918–2014)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918–2014)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	18 cm above	6 cm above	19 cm above	5 cm above
Michigan–Huron	12 cm above	32 cm above	14 cm above	31 cm above
St. Clair	10 cm above	9 cm above	26 cm above	20 cm above
Erie	1 cm above	4 cm below	12 cm above	4 cm above
Ontario	20 cm below	33 cm below	18 cm below	31 cm below

16 cm in a month that on average rises 6 cm, mainly due to 51 mm of rainfall during the last two days of the month. Below-average outflows offset the below-average water supplies in Lake Ontario resulting in levels rising 10 cm during May, slightly more than its average rise of 8 cm for the month.

Beginning-of-June Lake Levels

At the beginning of June, levels of all the lakes were above average and above last year's levels, with the exception of Lake Ontario, which was below average

and below last year's levels. Lake Superior's beginning-of-June level was 19 cm above the 1918–2014 average, and 5 cm above last year's level. Higher beginning-of-June levels have been recorded on Lake Superior in only nine years since 1918, and levels have not been this high since 1997. Lake Michigan–Huron's beginning-of-June level was 14 cm above average, 31 cm higher than last year, and the highest beginning-of-June level since 1998. Lake Erie was 12 cm above average at the beginning of June, and 4 cm higher than this time last year. June saw Lake Ontario's level begin 18 cm below average, and 31 cm lower than last year at this time. Beginning-of-June levels have been lower on Lake Ontario in 26 of the past 98 years, and the level has been lower as recent as 2010.

conditions on the Canadian Great Lakes go to Environment Canada's Marine Forecast website at: weather.gc.ca/marine/index_e.html. Current lake levels can be found by visiting the Canadian Hydrographic Service website at: tides.gc.ca/eng/find/region/6 and clicking on the gauge in the area that you will be sailing. Each gauge has a phone number listed on their website that provides their real-time water levels.

Water Level Forecast

For a graphical representation of recent and forecasted water levels on the Great Lakes refer to the May 2015 edition of the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water levels bulletin found at: tides-marees.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Summer Sailing Conditions

For current and forecasted wind, wave and weather

May Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	115%	Lake Erie	115%
Lake Superior	118%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	118%	Lake Ontario	92%

May Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	115%	Lake Erie	101%
Lake Michigan–Huron	107%	Lake Ontario	90%

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