

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS WEEKLY GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL UPDATE

May 25, 2018

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Periods of heavy rain passed through much of the southern portion of the Great Lakes basin over the weekend and into the start of the work week. As a result of these rains, streamflows are well above normal for this time of year across much of Wisconsin, lower Michigan, and southern Ontario. Over the next week, forecasts call for highs in the upper 70s and 80s, and lows in 50s and 60s, with lower temperatures along the lakeshores. The 7-day precipitation forecast shows rainfall amounts ranging from 0.25 inch in lower Michigan to over 1.25 inches in parts of Wisconsin, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and the Lake Ontario basin.

LAKE LEVEL CONDITIONS

All of the Great Lakes are above their long-term average May levels. Lake Superior is 6 inches above its long term monthly average level for May, and Lake Michigan-Huron is 19 inches above its long term May average level. Lakes St. Clair and Erie are 23 and 24 inches above their long term average levels, and Lake Ontario is 11 inches above its long term average May level. Lake Erie is just 2 inches below its record high May level, which occurred in 1986. Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are 9, and 13 inches below their record high, Lake St. Clair is 5 inches below its record high May level, and Lake Ontario is 20 inches below its record high water level that occurred last year. Over the next 30 days, Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are forecast to rise by 3 inches. Lake St. Clair is expected to rise one inch, while Lakes Erie and Ontario are forecast to fall by 1 and 3 inches, respectively. See our [Daily Levels](#) web page for more water level information.

FORECASTED MONTHLY OUTFLOWS/CHANNEL CONDITIONS

Lake Superior's outflow through the St. Marys River and Lake Michigan-Huron's outflow through the St. Clair River are forecasted to be above average in May. Lake St. Clair's outflow through the Detroit River and Lake Erie's outflow into the Niagara River are also projected to be above average. The outflow of Lake Ontario into the St. Lawrence River is predicted to be above average for May as well.

ALERTS

Official records are based on monthly average water levels and not daily water levels. Users of the Great Lakes, connecting channels and St. Lawrence River should keep informed of current conditions before undertaking any activities that could be affected by changing water levels. Mariners should utilize navigation charts and refer to current water level readings.

	SUPERIOR	MICH-HURON	ST. CLAIR	ERIE	ONTARIO
Forecasted Water Level for May 25, 2018 (feet)	602.10	580.58	576.48	573.88	247.01
Chart Datum (feet)	601.10	577.50	572.30	569.20	243.30
Difference from chart datum (inches)	+12	+37	+50	+56	+45
Difference from average water level for Apr 25, 2018 (inches*)	+2	+6	+3	+3	+7
Difference from average water level for May 25, 2017 (inches*)	-4	+6	+3	+2	-23
Difference from long-term monthly average of May (inches)	+6	+19	+23	+24	+11
Difference from highest monthly average of record for May (inches)	-9	-13	-5	-2	-20
Year of highest recorded monthly mean	1986	1986	1986	1986	2017
Difference from lowest monthly average of record for May (inches)	30	48	51	58	46
Year of lowest recorded monthly mean	1926	1964	1934	1934	1935
Projected change in levels by Jun 25, 2018 (inches)	+3	+3	+1	-1	-3

ALL DATA SHOWN IN THIS SUMMARY ARE REFERENCED TO IGLD 1985
 *VALUES FOR SPECIFIC DAY ARE BASED ON 3-DAY DAILY AVERAGE AROUND SPECIFIED DATE
 LONG TERM AVERAGE PERIOD OF RECORD, 1918-2017

FORECASTED INFORMATION PROVIDED Department of the Army Detroit District, Corps of Engineers Detroit District Home 1-888-694-8313 ext. 1	RECORDED DATA (1918 – present) provided by NOAA, Great Lakes Online (301) 713-9596	FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT Detroit District Great Lakes Homepage International Joint Commission Great Lakes Information Network
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