

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS WEEKLY GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL UPDATE

Mar 16, 2018

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Over the past week, the average temperature of the Great Lakes basin has been in the 30s (Fahrenheit) in a majority of the basin, particularly the central and northwestern regions, which saw temperatures about 4 degrees Fahrenheit above the long-term average. The areas to the south of Lakes Erie and Ontario experienced temperatures only slightly below average. The basin observed 0.01 to 1.0 inches of precipitation last week, which is in line with the average. Temperatures are expected to reach the 40s throughout most of the basin over the next week, and less than an inch of precipitation can be expected in the central and southwestern regions.

LAKE LEVEL CONDITIONS

Water levels for all of the Great Lakes continue to be above their long term average for March and all of the lakes are above last year's March levels, except Lake Ontario, which is 2 inches below. Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario have exceeded last month's averages by 2, 10, 11, and 3 inches respectively while Lake Superior has averaged the same water level as it did this time last month. Over the next month Lake Superior is expected to decline by 2 inches, Lakes Erie and St. Clair are forecasted to rise by 2 inches, Lake Ontario is expected to rise by 4 inches, and Lake Michigan-Huron is forecasted to remain constant. 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 is projected to be above average in March, as well as Lake Michigan-Huron's outflow through the St. Clair River. Lake St. Clair's outflow through the Detroit River and Lake Erie's outflow into the Niagara River are forecasted to be above average. The outflow of Lake Ontario into the St. Lawrence River is projected to be above average for March 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. Ice conditions can have a dramatic impact on actual channel depth and can lead to large short-term water level fluctuations [website](#).

	SUPERIOR	MICH-HURON	ST. CLAIR	ERIE	ONTARIO
Forecasted Water Level for Mar 16, 2018 (feet)	602.20	579.99	575.72	572.97	245.90
Chart Datum (feet)	601.10	577.50	572.30	569.20	243.30
Difference from chart datum (inches)	+13	+30	+41	+45	+31
Difference from average water level for Feb 16, 2018 (inches*)	0	+2	+10	+11	+3
Difference from average water level for Mar 16, 2017 (inches*)	+7	+10	+9	+7	-2
Difference from long-term monthly average of Mar (inches)	+13	+19	+23	+22	+11
Difference from highest monthly average of record for Mar (inches)	-2	-13	-13	-9	-17
Year of highest recorded monthly mean	1986	1986	1986	1986	1952
Difference from lowest monthly average of record for Mar (inches)	32	47	56	57	40
Year of lowest recorded monthly mean	1926	1964	1934	1934	1935
Projected change in levels by Apr 16, 2018 (inches)	-2	0	+2	+2	+4

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](#)