



# International Lake Superior Board of Control



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 3, 2016

## UPDATE ON LAKE SUPERIOR OUTFLOWS AND EXPECTED CONDITIONS

The International Lake Superior Board of Control, under authority granted to it by the International Joint Commission (IJC), has set the Lake Superior outflow to 2,750 cubic meters per second (m<sup>3</sup>/s) (97.1 thousand cubic feet per second (tcfs)) for the month of October, effective October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The outflow is expected to exceed the combined capacities of the hydropower plants on the St. Marys River, which will be approximately 1,958 m<sup>3</sup>/s (69.1 tcfs) in October, and the excess flow will be released through the control structure at the head of the St. Marys Rapids.

Anglers need to remain cautious of the relatively higher flows and levels that will be experienced in the rapids in October. The gate setting of the control structure for the month of October will be increased on October 4<sup>th</sup>, from the current setting equivalent to approximately four gates open to a setting equivalent to approximately five gates open. This will be achieved by partially opening Gates #6 to #11 to a setting of 99 cm (39 in) open. Gates #2 to #5 and #12 and #13 will remain at a setting of 74 cm (29 in) open. There will be no change to the setting of Gate #1, which supplies a flow of about 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s to the channel north of the Fishery Remedial Dike. Gate #14 will remain closed to allow water level measurements to be collected, and Gates #15 and #16 will also remain closed.

The October outflow is 190 m<sup>3</sup>/s less than that prescribed by Regulation Plan 2012. The Board continues to adjust the outflow of Lake Superior in accordance with the approved deviation strategy to accommodate expected maintenance at the hydropower plants and reduce the potential for adverse consequences of high and fluctuating flows and water levels in the St. Marys Rapids. The Board released flows greater than Plan 2012 in June through August, and expects to release less than Plan 2012-prescribed flows in September through November.

The net water supplies to Lake Superior were above average in September. The level of Lake Superior rose 1 cm (0.4 in) from the previous month, while on average the lake declines 2 cm (0.8 in) in September. The Lake Superior level at the beginning-of-October is 19 cm (7 in) above average, 4 cm (2 in) above the level recorded a year ago at this time, and 51 cm (20 in) above its chart datum level.

The net water supplies to Lake Michigan-Huron were below average in September. The level of Lake Michigan-Huron dropped 8 cm (3 in) last month, while on average the lake declines 6 cm (2 in) in September. The level of Lake Michigan-Huron is 26 cm (10 in) above its long-term average beginning-of-October level, 6 cm (2 in) higher than it was a year ago, and 72 cm (28 in) above its chart datum level.

Lake Superior is expected to begin its seasonal decline in October, and Lake Michigan-Huron is expected to continue its seasonal decline.

Brigadier General Mark Toy is the United States Board Member. Mr. Jaymie Gadal is the Board Member for Canada.

For further information please contact Ms. Cynthia Jarema, Watershed Hydrology Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Detroit District, at (313) 226-6127 or [Cynthia.A.Jarema@usace.army.mil](mailto:Cynthia.A.Jarema@usace.army.mil).

Additional information can be found here:

Board's homepage: <http://www.ijc.org/en/ilsbc>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/InternationalLakeSuperiorBoardOfControl>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District Superior Regulation webpage:

<http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/GreatLakesInformation/NewsandInformation.aspx>