

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS WEEKLY GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL UPDATE

May 26, 2017

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Precipitation for the past week in the Great Lakes basin was largely driven by two systems that brought above average rainfall to the southwestern shores of Lake Superior and along a path over Lakes Erie and Ontario. Elsewhere in the basin saw average to below average precipitation. Temperatures tended to be below normal last weekend with a mild warming to locally average temperatures across much of the basin this week. The upcoming week will see steady temperatures near average across the basin with a few areas around Lake Michigan seeing some warmer temperatures this weekend. Rainfall in the basin over the next week looks to be heavily concentrated in the eastern portions of the basin, concentrated on Lake Ontario. The western parts of the basin are only expected to see light showers.

LAKE LEVEL CONDITIONS

All the Great Lakes continued their seasonal rise and are higher than they were one month ago. Lake Michigan-Huron rose 5 inches while Lakes Superior and St. Clair rose 6 inches. Lake Erie rose 8 inches and Lake Ontario rose 14 inches since April 26th. All of the Lakes are at or above their average water level for May with Lake Ontario currently 5 inches above the highest average May level on record. Over the next 30 days Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are expected to have much more modest rises of 2 inches each while Lake Erie is expected to drop 2 inches. Lake Ontario is expected to show no change over the forecast period, although daily fluctuations are certainly possible. See our [Daily Levels web page](#) for more water level information.

FORECASTED MONTHLY OUTFLOWS/CHANNEL CONDITIONS

Lake Superior's outflow through the St. Mary's River is projected to be below average in May. Lake Michigan-Huron's outflow into the St. Clair River, and Lake St. Clair's outflow through the Detroit River are predicted to be above average. Lake Erie's outflow into the Niagara River is forecasted to be above average, and outflow of Lake Ontario into the St. Lawrence River is projected to be above average for the month of 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. Ice information can be found at the National Ice Center's [website](#).

	SUPERIOR	MICH-HURON	ST. CLAIR	ERIE	ONTARIO
Forecasted Water Level for May 26, 2017 (feet)	602.43	580.15	576.21	573.75	248.88
Chart Datum (feet)	601.10	577.50	572.30	569.20	243.30
Difference from chart datum (inches)	+16	+32	+47	+55	+67
Difference from average water level for Apr 26, 2017 (inches*)	+6	+5	+6	+8	+14
Difference from average water level for May 26, 2016 (inches*)	+4	0	+6	+9	+32
Difference from long-term monthly average of May (inches)	+10	+14	+20	+23	+33
Difference from highest monthly average of record for May (inches)	-5	-18	-8	-4	+5
Year of highest recorded monthly mean	1986	1986	1986	1986	1973
Difference from lowest monthly average of record for May (inches)	34	43	48	57	69
Year of lowest recorded monthly mean	1926	1964	1934	1934	1935
Projected change in levels by Jun 26, 2017 (inches)	+2	+2	0	-2	0

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, 1918-2016

FORECASTED INFORMATION PROVIDED BY Department of the Army Detroit District, Corps of Engineers Detroit District Home 1-888-694-8318 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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