

# LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

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## Lake Superior Receives Record High Supply for October

Water supplies to the Lake Superior and Lakes Michigan-Huron basins were well above their long-term average amounts for October. Further, the supply to the Lake Superior basin, at 5800 m<sup>3</sup>/second, was a new record maximum for the month of October. The previous record was set in 1982 at 4860 m<sup>3</sup>/second, while the long-term average October supply is 1100 m<sup>3</sup>/second.

As a result of the high supplies, the level of Lake Superior rose 14 cm during October, while on average its level falls by 4 cm during the month. Lake Superior began November about 21 cm higher than it was just six weeks earlier, on September 18. After setting

new period-of-record low monthly mean water levels during August and September, the lake is back above its 1925 low for this time of year. Lake Superior began November approximately 28 cm below its long-term average, beginning-of-November level, and 14 cm above its level of one year ago.

The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron fell 5 cm during October. On-average, these lakes decline by 7 cm during the month. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron began November approximately 58 cm below its long-term average, beginning-of-November level, and 12 cm lower than it was at the same time last year.

In contrast to lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron, Lake Erie received supplies well below average during October, while Lake Ontario received approximately its long-term average amount for the month. Accordingly, levels on Lake Erie fell 16 cm during October, 7 cm more than its long-term average decline for the month, while levels on Lake Ontario fell 11 cm. This is an amount equal to its long-term average decline for October.

For the complete range of probable water levels on each lake over the next six months, please refer to the October 2007 edition of the Monthly Water Level Bulletin found at: [http://www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/tidal\\_e.html](http://www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/tidal_e.html)

### Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	October 2007 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-November 2007 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2006)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2006)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	34 cm below	5 cm above	28 cm below	14 cm above
Michigan-Huron	58 cm below	11 cm below	58 cm below	12 cm below
St. Clair	30 cm below	16 cm below	33 cm below	28 cm below
Erie	11 cm below	15 cm below	16 cm below	26 cm below
Ontario	19 cm below	32 cm below	20 cm below	43 cm below

## Update on the International Upper Great Lakes Study

The International Joint Commission has announced that its International Upper Great Lakes Study Board will expedite its study of the St. Clair River to determine whether there are ongoing channel changes leading to a potential increased conveyance capacity of the channel and whether changes in water levels are the result of natural or human influences. The Study will produce a draft report by February 2009, a full year ahead of what had been previously scheduled.

On November 1, 2007, the International Upper Great Lakes Study released its second semi-annual progress report, highlighting the many research projects and other initiatives already under way. The report includes some preliminary findings regarding

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## October Precipitation over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term October average:

Great Lakes Basin	133%	Lake Erie	78%
Lake Superior	204%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	118%	Lake Ontario	98%

**NOTE: These figures are preliminary**

the stability of the St. Clair River bed at the upper part of the river. These findings were drawn based on recent video imaging of the river bed and a review of the key sediment transport studies that have previously been conducted on the river. The progress report and several video clips of the river bottom can be found under "What's New" on the Study's Web site at <http://www.iugls.org/>

The Study's next semi-annual progress report is scheduled to be released in April 2008; however, additional information and findings may be released as research projects are completed. In addition, the Study's Public Information Advisory Group (PIAG) expects to hold public meetings in both countries prior to release of the next report. Made up of 10 members from each country, the role of the PIAG is to provide an avenue for information to flow between the Study and the public. Membership on the PIAG includes individuals from coastal, ecosystem,

hydropower, navigation, municipal and industrial, and recreational boating and tourism interests.

## October Outflows from the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term October average:

Lake Superior	69%	Lake Erie	93%
Lake Huron	85%	Lake Ontario	94%

**NOTE: These figures are preliminary**