

Regional Impacts – March - May 2025

Historic Ice Storm: A long duration freezing rain event resulted in ice accumulations up to 1 inch (25.4 mm) across the central Great Lakes. A State of Emergency was declared in [Wisconsin](#) and [Michigan](#) where about 200,000 customers were without power. Six regions across southern Ontario were in a State of Emergency with over [one million](#) customers without power. For some, the power outages lasted more than a week. The Mackinac Bridge had multiple closures due to falling ice. The heavy ice [collapsed](#) radio and news transmitter towers, snapped trees, downed power lines, and made roadways impassable.

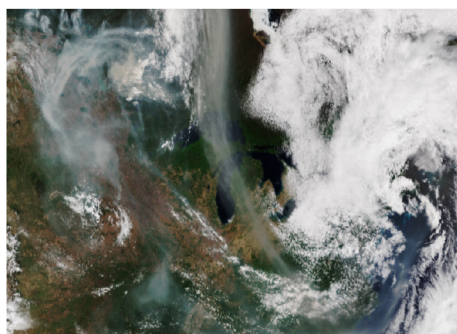
Agriculture: An estimated 30,000 gallons of Michigan's [maple syrup](#) (about one third the annual yield) was lost due to fallen trees during the March 28-30 ice storm. Berry and other specialty crop growth was delayed in [Ontario](#) and in western [New York](#) due to cool and wet spring conditions.

Natural Resources: A Lake Erie water sample collected by NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab detected the toxin [microcystin](#) on April 28, which is the earliest the toxin has been detected in that lake. A colder-than-usual winter followed by a seasonal temperature warm-up in early May resulted in a fish kill that washed up hundreds of dead alewife (herring family) along the Canadian shores of Lake Ontario.

Hazy Skies: Canadian wildfires brought hazy skies and reduced air quality in late May, lingering into June.



Ice accumulation in northern Michigan
(Credit: NOAA)



Satellite image of smoke over the Great Lakes (Credit: NASA)



Damaged red pine in Wisconsin (Credit: Levi Koski)

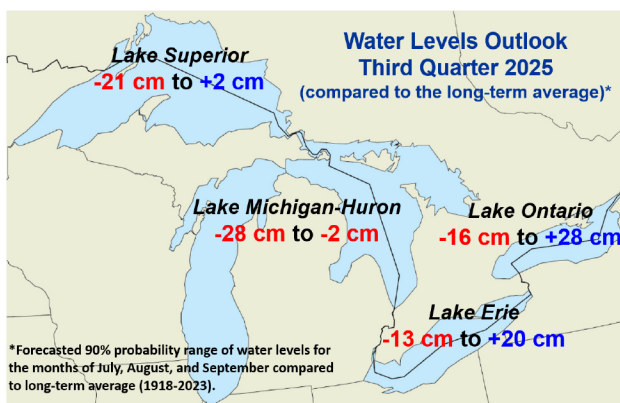
Regional Outlook – July - September 2025

Temperature and Precipitation

[Canadian](#) and [American](#) outlooks show chances of above-normal temperatures, with greater confidence in the eastern portion of the Great Lakes basin. Canadian outlooks are not favoring wetter or drier conditions, while American outlooks show a slight chance of above-normal precipitation in the southeast and a slight chance of below-normal precipitation in the far western basin.

Great Lakes Water Level Outlook

The June forecast indicates that during the 3rd quarter of 2025 (July, Aug, Sep), Lake Superior will be finishing its seasonal rise and reaching its peak level, Lake Michigan-Huron will be reaching its peak and beginning its seasonal decline, and Lakes Erie and Ontario will be in their period of seasonal decline. Lakes Superior, Erie, and Ontario could experience water levels above or below average depending if wetter or drier conditions are received. Water levels on Lake Michigan-Huron are likely to remain below long-term average levels in the 3rd quarter.



Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

A mild to moderate western Lake Erie HAB is [projected](#). Severity depends on total bioavailable phosphorus (TBP) from March 1 - July 31. Near-normal rainfall and river discharge are expected through the remainder of the TBP season.

Partners

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