Great Lakes Significant Events – March - May 2025



Northern Michigan and the area east of Lake Superior in Ontario had over 300 percent of normal precipitation for March. The month started with a record lake effect snow event on March 6 that dropped 20.8 inches (52.8 cm) of snow in Marquette. Michigan, becoming the city's 3rd snowiest March day on record. The month ended with a long duration freezing rain event that caused widespread impacts in the U.S. and Canada.

Flooding rain and severe weather, including 1.5 inch (38.1 mm) hail, traversed southern Michigan eastward through Toronto, dropping 2-3 inches (50.8-76.2 mm) of rainfall on April 2-3. Persistent wetness

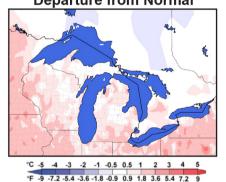
along Lake Superior's north shore resulted in April precipitation that was over 200 percent of normal.

Temperatures soared in the far western portion of the basin in mid-May before giving way to a severe weather outbreak that brought tornadoes, damaging winds, and large hail to the Upper Midwest and U.S. side of the Great Lakes on May 15. At least 31 tornadoes were confirmed across Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Hail up to 3 inches (76.2 mm) in diameter fell along the southern Lake Michigan shore from Milwaukee throughout the Chicago area.

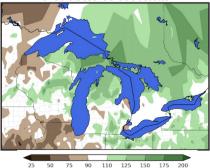
The Sault Ste. Marie area had its wettest spring on record.

Regional Climate Overview - March - May 2025

Spring Temperature **Departure from Normal**



Spring Precipitation Percent of Normal



Precipitation and temperature normals based on 1991-2020.

Air Temperature and **Precipitation**

March was up to 7°F (4°C) warmer than normal. April ranged from 4°F (2°C) below normal in the Superior and northern Huron basins to 2°F (1°C) above normal in the southern Erie and Ontario basins. May ranged from 4°F (2°C) below normal to near normal, except in the western Superior basin which was up to 4°F (2°C) above normal. Spring ranged from 2°F (1°C) below normal to 4°F (2°C) above normal.

In March and April, all lake basins saw near or above-average precipitation, with the overall basin at 138% of average for March and 120% of average for April. May precipitation ranged from 44% of average in the Superior basin to 161% of average in the Ontario basin, with the overall basin seeing 96% of average. Spring precipitation for the basin was 116% of average, with all basins having near or above-average precipitation.

Current Water Levels

Lake	End of May 2025 Level Compared to:		Change in Level from beg. of Mar. to end of May	
	Average for May	May 2024	2024-25 Change in Level	Average Change in Level
Sup.	-12 cm	-7 cm	+22 cm	+16 cm
Mich Huron	-15 cm	-23 cm	+29 cm	+24 cm
Erie	+10 cm	-17 cm	+42 cm	+31 cm
Ont.	+2 cm	+15 cm	+64 cm	+43 cm

End of May water levels were below average and below last May's levels for Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron. For Lakes Erie and Ontario, the end of May levels were above average, however, Lake Erie was below last May's level while Lake Ontario was the only lake above its end of May 2024 level. Generally wetter conditions this spring led to greater than average water level rises from the beginning of March to the end of May on all the lakes.

