**AYC Ecology North**

**July 2013**

**June rain gives Great Lakes levels needed boost**
By Jim Lynch, The Detroit News

June provided a healthy dose of precipitation for the region — giving most of the Great Lakes a much-needed boost.

In recent years, lake levels have sunk to record or near-record lows as winters with little snow and ice and springs with little rainfall have become close to the norm. Last month, however, each of the lakes — [save](http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130708/METRO08/307080113/June-rain-gives-Great-Lakes-levels-needed-boost) Superior — experienced above average precipitation, according to new statistics released by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

■Lakes Michigan and Huron received 3.21 inches of rainfall — above the 3.17 inch average for June.

■Lake Erie received 4.99 inches of rainfall — more than the June average of 3.47 inches.

■Lake Ontario received 4.77 inches of rainfall — exceeding the average of 3.13 inches.

Lake [Superior](http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130708/METRO08/307080113/June-rain-gives-Great-Lakes-levels-needed-boost) finished June with 2.9 inches of rainfall, which is well below the 3.27 inches the lake historically sees for the month.

Despite the increased precipitation for the region, most of the lakes finished the month with a mean level below the historical average. For the month, Lake Superior finished with a mean of 601.25 feet above sea level. That’s below the historic mean of 601.84 feet for June.

Lakes Michigan and Huron finished June with a mean of 577.79 feet above sea level — below the historic mean of 579.2 feet. Lake St. Clair finished June at 574.11 feet, below the historical mean of 574.7 feet. Lake Erie ended the month at a mean of 571.62 feet, while its historic average is 571.95 feet.

Lake Ontario, always the region’s statistical wild card, finished June with a mean of 246.39 feet, slightly above its historic level of 246.19 feet.