



LAKE OBSERVATIONS BY CITIZEN SCIENTISTS & SATELLITES



What Are Target Monitoring Dates?

These target dates are the list of dates that we would like to have lake height measurements for each of our lakes in Illinois.

Why Were These Dates Chosen?

These are dates when the Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) satellite will be passing overhead and taking measurements of our lakes. We will use these measurements, along with lake height measurements from citizen scientists, to monitor how the volume of water in the lake is changing.

Also, if all project lakes are measured on the same days, we can better understand if these lake volumes are changing in the same ways, or independently of each other.

What Time Should I Measure Lake Height?

Any time of day is good for measuring lake height, as long as you can clearly see the lake gauge, and you report the time when you make your measurement.

Can I Report Lake Height on Other Days?

Absolutely! The more lake height measurements we have, the better. Each measurement will help us better understand these lakes, so we can't have too many measurements.

However, measurements made on our target dates will provide the added benefit of ensuring lake height data can be combined with satellite

imagery. So if only 1 measurement can be made in a given week, it would be ideal if it is made on the target date.

For questions or problems, please email lakelevel@unc.edu

Target Monitoring Dates – IL

12/31/2025	1/11/2026
1/21/2026	2/1/2026
2/11/2026	2/22/2026
3/4/2026	3/14/2026
3/25/2026	4/4/2026
4/15/2026	4/25/2026
5/5/2026	5/16/2026
5/26/2026	6/6/2026
6/16/2026	6/27/2026
7/7/2026	7/18/2026
7/28/2026	8/8/2026
8/18/2026	8/28/2026
9/8/2026	9/18/2026
9/28/2026	10/9/2026
10/19/2026	10/30/2026
11/9/2026	11/20/2026
11/30/2026	12/11/2026
12/21/2026	1/1/2027
1/11/2027	1/21/2027
2/1/2027	2/11/2027