

News Release

International Lake Ontario- St. Lawrence River Study Board Submits Year Three Report

Embargoed until: 10 am Thursday, October 21, 2004

Ottawa, October 21, 2004 – The International Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Study Board submitted its Year Three Report to the International Joint Commission (IJC) and released it to the public today along with the Year Two and Three Report of the Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG). This report addresses issues related to environmental factors, recreational boating and tourism, coastal erosion and flooding, commercial navigation, water uses and power generation and includes information on the progress of the Study and data collected since the December 2000.

The Study Team, through the PIAG, is committed to involving the public by asking for their opinions and considering their input in light of the scientific information generated by nine Technical Workgroups.

The PIAG has finished this year's series of fifteen bi-national public meetings in cities around the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River basins.

The Study Board will submit a Final Report in 2005 to the IJC with proposed regulation Criteria and options for regulation plans. The Commission may then make recommendations to the Canadian and U.S. governments to adopt a new Criteria and regulation plan for water levels in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

The Year 3 Report and all other Reports of the Study are available on the Study Website at: www.losl.org.

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The Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study was set in motion in 2000 by the International Joint Commission to evaluate the Commission's Order of Approval used to regulate outflows from Lake Ontario through the St. Lawrence River. The Study is assessing the impacts of changing water levels on affected interests, including the environment, recreational boating and tourism, shoreline communities, commercial navigation, municipal and industrial water uses and hydropower. The Public Interest Advisory Group is a volunteer group appointed by the International Joint Commission to ensure effective communication between the public and the Study Team.