

Recreational Boating and Tourism



3

How did we evaluate impacts?

We used a three-pronged approach to study the impacts of water level changes on recreational boating and related tourism. The Group used different methods for gathering information from boaters, marina and yacht club owners, and charter boat and tour operators.

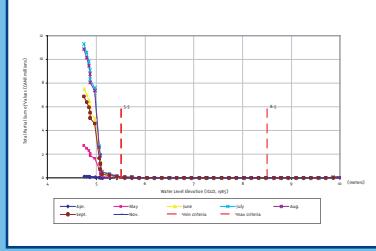
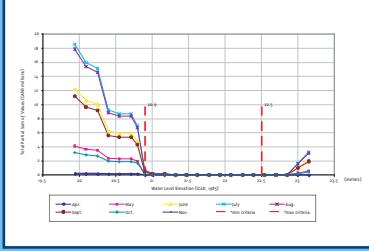
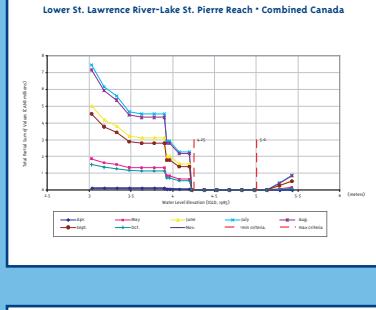
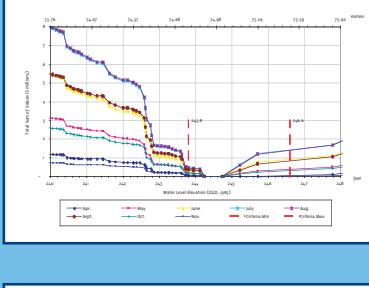
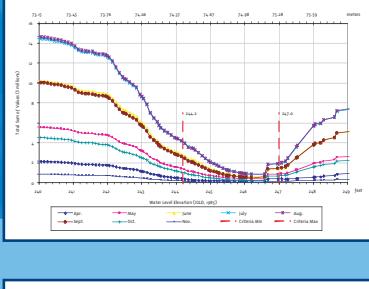
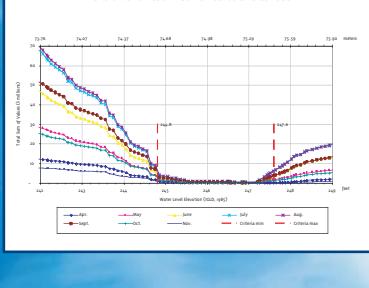
- We mailed a survey to boaters who use Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River to elicit specific information about expenditures and the impacts of high and low water levels on their use of the area. These users access the Lake and River via marinas and yacht clubs, private docks and launch facilities.
- We contacted Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River marina and yacht club owners in person to assess their impacts and take physical measurements of depths at slips and boat launching facilities.
- We surveyed charter boats and tour operators to assess the impacts on their businesses.

Water level – impact relationships were developed from the information gathered. Each relationship shows the effects in terms of performance indicators such as losses to the local economy and losses in days of use to the recreational community as the water level decreases or increases.

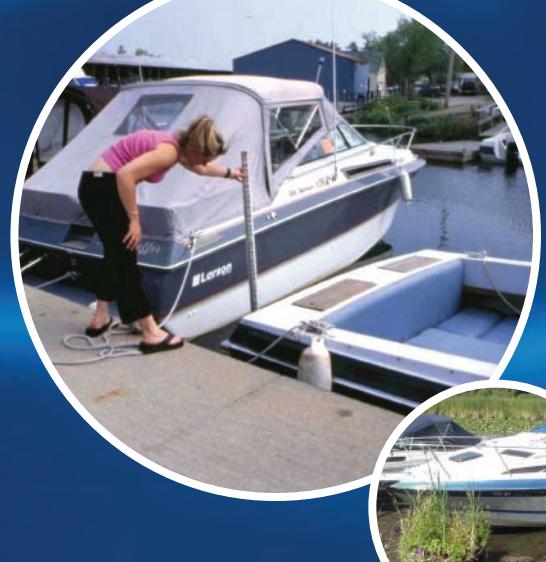
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What locations are we evaluating?

We collected, compiled, and analyzed data for six study reaches, three combined United States and Canada: Lake Ontario, upper St. Lawrence River – Alexandria Bay, and Ogdensburg; and three Canadian only reaches on the Lower St. Lawrence River: Lake St. Louis, Lake St. Pierre, and Montreal – Contrecoeur.



Water Level - Impact Relationship



Marina locations studied by Recreational Boating and Tourism

