International Joint Commission

International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study

Public Interest Advisory Group

We are asking for your help in describing the water levels that affect you and your area within the Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River system. At this point we are specifically requesting your input in any (or) all of the following categories:

I. Coastal/Shoreline Erosion
II. Recreational Boating
III. Environment and Wetlands

It is important that members of the public contribute to the current Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River Study. You have essential information that needs to be included in the overall studies.

The following definitions have been developed to help you fill out the questionnaire. Please review them.

Critical High Water:

1) When water levels are sufficient to cause damage to shoreline property and/or erosion.
2) When water levels overrun docks causing damage or cessation of business operations.
3) When some shoreline environments can be damaged by high water, or suffer if they do not have high water levels.

Critical Low Water:

1) When low water conditions do not allow use of docks, prevents launching, causes boat damage in normally safe area, or curtails business operations.
2) When some shoreline environments can be damaged by low water, or suffer if they do not have low water levels.

Since the International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study Board is charged with evaluation of the problems associated with fluctuating water levels in the Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River system, it is important that you indicate the **DATE** and **LOCATION** of your observations.

Date: _____ **Location:** _____

(examples: In Lake Ontario – Toronto, Rochester, Kingston, Oswego, etc. St. Lawrence River – 1000 Islands, Brockville, Ogdensburg, Morrisburg, Cornwall, Montreal, Trois Rivieres, or distance in miles/kilometers upstream or downstream (N, E, S, W) from a well defined point on the lake/river.)

From where your water level is today – measure or estimate the vertical distance up to your critical high level and down to your critical low level. Please indicate inches (in) or centimeter (cm).

The distance from today's level ***up to my critical high level*** is approximately_____

The distance from today's level ***down to my critical low level*** is approximately_____

Additional questions and comments

Does the wind's direction have any effect on the conditions you observe? Yes ___ No ___
If so, from which direction? _____

Have you experienced shoreline erosion? Yes ___. No ___. If Yes, what year (s) did you experience the greatest erosion? _____. How many ft/m? _____.

Have you personally experienced shoreline property damage? Yes ___. No ___. Do you know the month/year? _____
Can you describe the damage?

_____

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Have you had problems with fluctuating water levels and the function of your recreational watercraft, docks or marina operations? Yes___ No___. Can you describe the problems and the dates they occurred?

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Are you aware of situations in which fluctuating water levels have an environmental impact in your location (such as in fish spawning beds, waterfowl nesting sites, dune erosion, wetland degradation, etc)? If so, please describe what you have observed. If you can, please indicate the type of wildlife or plants involved. Also include the month and the year of the observed impact.

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Additional comments on the above issues, or anything else you may be concerned about:

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Would you like to be informed of further developments regarding the International Lake Ontario/ - St. Lawrence River Study? Yes_____ No_____. If yes, please tell us how to reach you (Name/Address/Phone/Fax/E-mail).

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It is very important that the information you have provided be returned to the Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG) so we can make it available to the technical working groups researching this information.

Your information can be returned in any of the following methods:

1) Give it to the program director of the group/association sponsoring the PIAG program.
2) Give it to the PIAG member who just gave the program to your group/association.
3) Mail it to either chairmen of the PIAG. Their addresses are as follows:

United States Residents:
Dalton Foster
4 Butternut Ridge
Massena, NY 13662
Fax: (315) 769-6232
E-mail: dpfoster@twcny.rr.com

Canadian Residents:
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Thank you for your help!