Public Interest Advisory Group Report on Public Outreach Activities

A report to the Study Board and to the International Joint Commission regarding the work of the Public Interest Advisory Group in Year 1 and Year 2 of the Study.

December 15, 2009

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For More Information
For more information on the International Upper Great Lakes Study or to review copies of the reports and background documents on the St. Clair River report, please visit the Study's website: www.iugls.org.

1. Executive Summary

In 2007, the International Joint Commission of the U.S. and Canada (IJC) created the International Upper Great Lakes Study (the Study) to review the orders of operation for the structures in the St. Marys River at Sault Ste. Marie that control outflows from Lake Superior and to determine if improvements might be made to provide additional benefits and to take into consideration climate change. In addition to this key mandate, responding to concerns raised by the public, the Study was charged with determining if possible ongoing physical changes in the St. Clair River were affecting levels in the upper Great Lakes. If the impacts of possible changes were significant, this binational team of scientists and other experts was asked to evaluate potential remedial options.

Since public participation is a critical element of all work under the Boundary Waters Treaty, the IJC appointed a binational Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG) charged with providing advice to the Study regarding opportunities for interested individuals and groups to learn about the Study and to provide input regarding their views. This report highlights the activities of PIAG over the first two years of the Study and provides a synthesis of the public response to the Study's draft report, which was released on May 1, 2009.

The Study found that a series of mostly natural changes to the river bed increased the conveyance or water-carrying capacity somewhat, accounting for about 7-14 centimeters (cm) of the drop in head (difference in water levels) between Lakes Michigan-Huron and Lake Erie between 1962 and 2006 (total drop of 23 cm). This finding was based on 15 different analyses conducted by experts from multiple scientific disciplines. The Study also determined that the river bed has been fairly stable since 2000 with actually a small decrease in conveyance capacity, indicating the riverbed is accreting and not eroding as determined from bathymetric data. The Board made a decision that the conveyance changes were not ongoing or substantial enough to warrant immediate remediation. This decision was based on such factors as:

- no evidence of ongoing bed erosion;
- the magnitude of the permanent conveyance change is relatively small;
- much of the change is transient and due to climate variability; and,
- the large scientific uncertainty associated with the basic findings make it difficult to attribute causality to any particular changes, as there is evidence that it may be the result of many different factors.

Of key importance, the Study found that variations in climate patterns affecting water supplies were the main driving force determining levels in the upper Great Lakes and had increased importance in recent years. Given these findings, the Study recommended against remediation at this time but did recommend further examinations of potential mitigation in the light of future analysis of the implications of climate change.

Over the past two years, PIAG members have played an important dual role. They advised the Study Board based on their experience, expertise and interests on issues related to the Great Lakes. They also served as a channel for the Study to reach out to key constituencies concerned

about Great Lakes water levels, through various outreach activities, including presentations on the Study at dozens of fora around the basin. Through these efforts, PIAG reached hundreds of Great Lakes activists from many key interest groups and geographic areas. PIAG presentations gave these geographic and interest-based groups regular opportunities to engage in dialogue with the Study on their respective concerns and viewpoints.

From the beginning, PIAG members were actively engaged in the Study, receiving briefings from the Study Board and engaging in the activities of the Technical Work Groups and Task Teams. With the advice of PIAG, starting in late 2007 and throughout 2008, the Study Board participated in 17 public meetings to explain the scope and objectives of its work. With PIAG members serving as hosts, these meetings were attended by nearly 1,500 residents throughout the upper Great Lakes basin.

Following the release of the draft report, PIAG participated in special briefings held for officials in various levels of government, nongovernmental organizations and the media. To inform the public and encourage input, PIAG helped to plan and host an additional 17 public meetings that were held at a wide range of locations on all the lakes.

This series of public sessions brought to more than 40 the number of Study-sponsored formal opportunities for interaction with the public, including standard "townhall" type meetings and smaller, targeted workshops. In all, nearly 2,000 people participated in meetings that were arranged and facilitated by the Study with the support and advice of PIAG.

The extensive public consultation activities, the many newspaper articles written about the Study and the nearly three million hits received by www.iugls.org suggest that the public was well aware of the Study and the report. Just as important, the key finding of a written survey of public meeting participants was that a majority of respondents (52 percent) were confident that the Study would achieve its objectives. Less than one-third (29 percent) were uncertain and a minority (11 percent) indicated a lack of confidence that the Study would achieve its objectives. In addition, more than 80 percent were satisfied with the clarity and technical nature of the presentations at the public meetings and nearly two-thirds of respondents said that their questions had been answered during the meetings.

Even with extensive efforts to encourage public participation and to solicit comments, the responses are snapshots in time that have limitations based on current water levels, the level of awareness and understanding of key scientific issues, the degree of participation of various interests and their perceived stake in the outcome. For example, commenters with interests in the Georgian Bay region of Lake Huron and some areas of Wisconsin were critical of the findings and strongly disagreed with the recommendation against remediation. However, this view was not shared broadly across the upper Great Lakes basin.

Based on an analysis of views provided by the public that participated in the consultation process regarding the draft St. Clair River report supplemented by the knowledge and experience of PIAG members regarding their respective regions and interest groups, it appears that the public, with some exceptions, is generally satisfied that the findings and recommendations are acceptable given the Study mandate and are the result of a technically sound and unbiased

process that engaged a broad range of interests and achieved the Study's objectives. Two PIAG members do not agree with this assessment of the degree of public acceptance of the Study.

Input from PIAG members and public comments also contributed to the undertaking of additional studies and analyses that are reflected in the final report. In particular, both peer reviews and public comments resulted in substantial revisions, additions and improvements to the report.

Looking ahead, members of PIAG will play an increasingly important role in the Study as experts and the public engage in further dialogue regarding potential alternative Lake Superior regulation plans. At the same time, further analysis and understanding of climate change impacts will demand even more input from the public as an adaptive management strategy is developed.

2. Public Interest Advisory Group

Article XII of the Boundary Waters Treat of 1909 (the Treaty) requires that the public "be given a convenient opportunity to be heard." This strong commitment to public engagement has been a hallmark of the decision-making and joint fact-finding processes that the International Joint Commission of the U.S. and Canada (IJC) has developed and improved throughout its one hundred years of work under the Treaty. Just as independent experts provide consensus advice to the IJC regarding their scientific findings, the views of the public play an important role in helping the IJC and its advisory bodies strengthen policy recommendations so as to increase the likelihood such recommendations will be implemented.

Recognizing the many interests concerned with the future of water levels in the upper Great Lakes, the IJC appointed a binational Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG) to provide advice and support in the development and implementation of the Study Board's public involvement activities. The mandate of this body is clearly defined as advisory and not decision-making, with specific limitations to issues relating to communications and outreach, rather than science:

> PIAG is a forum to advise on and support the Study Board's public involvement activities. PIAG is a component of the Commission's strategy to increase transparency and public involvement through the consultation processes in connection with the Study.[1]

With the advice of PIAG members, a senior communications advisor from the Washington section of the IJC (John Nevin) worked with the public information officer for the Study (in the first year, Tom Black, and in the second year, Jill Wingfield) to develop and update an ongoing communications strategy for the Study. These staff members also worked with PIAG to implement those plans.

2.1 Membership

PIAG members (for current membership, see Table 1) are appointed by the IJC and drawn from a wide range of groups with an interest in the Great Lakes. The Terms of Reference allow for 10 members from each country, to be appointed for two or three-year terms and also for the appointment of "ad hoc" members for specific topics for a defined short duration. The co-chairs of the group, one Canadian (Dr. James Bruce) and one American (Ms. Kay Felt), serve as members of the Study Board – an arrangement that provides PIAG direct connection to the decision-making processes of the Study.

Fifteen PIAG members (nine from Canada and six from the U.S.) were appointed by the summer of 2007 when the group first met in Ann Arbor, Michigan on July 31 and August 1. The final four U.S. members were appointed by the end of 2007.

[1] Public Participation Terms of Reference. See Appendix 2.

Table 1 - Public Interest Advisory Group Members

Canada	United States
Co-Chair Dr. James P. Bruce Ottawa, ON	*Co-Chair* Kay Felt Detroit, MI
James S. Anderson Ducks Unlimited Renfrew, ON	Kate Bartter [2] Ohio State University Columbus, OH
Doug Cuddy Lake Superior Conservancy and Watershed Council Sault Ste. Marie, ON	David Irish Marina Operator Harbor Springs, MI
Richard Hibma Conservation Ontario Owen Sound, ON	David L. Powers Save Our Shoreline Bay City, MI
Kenneth Higgs Property Owner Port Severn, ON	Roger J. Smithe International Great Lakes Coalition Saugatuck, MI
William Hryb Lakehead Shipping Company Ltd. Thunder Bay, ON	Dr. Alan Steinman Grand Valley State University Muskegon, MI
John Jackson Great Lakes United Kitchener, ON	Dan J. Tadgerson[3] Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Sault Ste. Marie, MI
Donald L. Marles Lake Superior Advisory Committee Sault Ste. Marie, ON	Dan Thomas Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council Elmhurst, IL
Mary Muter Georgian Bay Forever[4] Toronto, ON	James Te Selle[5] Wisconsin Great Lakes Coalition Oostburg, WI
First Nations Representative (vacant)	Jeff Vito City of Superior Superior, WI
Ad Hoc Member Native American & First Nation Interests Frank Ettawageshik Petoskey, MI	Glen Nekvasil[6] Lake Carriers' Association Rocky River, OH

[2] Ms. Bartter replaced Sam Speck, who served from 2007 until he was confirmed as a member of the International Joint Commission in May of 2008.
[3] Mr. Tadgerson resigned due to new work commitments.
[4] Previously known as the Georgian Bay Foundation
[5] Appointed on October 23, 2009.
[6] Replaced James Weakley, President, Lake Carriers' Association in September, 2009

The engagement of First Nations and Native Americans with an interest in lake levels in the Study area is a priority for the IJC. On the United States side, a Native American (Dan Tadgerson) participated as a member from 2007 before resigning in August of 2009. Following his resignation, well known Native American leader, Frank Ettawageshik was appointed in late October, 2009, on an ad hoc basis to focus on tribal issues. Previously, Mr. Ettawageshik played a key role in negotiations regarding the Great Lakes Compact.

On the Canadian side, an open letter of invitation was sent to the Chiefs of Ontario and to the Métis Nation of Ontario, and one position remains vacant for appointment of a First Nations representative. A workshop was held in the fall of 2008 with a number of First Nations representatives to determine how best to obtain their input to the Study and to identify a potential representative. Filling this vacancy remains a goal of the Study, but to date, this invitation has not been accepted. Two "Circles of Influence" workshops were held with First Nations representatives, in Toronto and Walpole Island (see 2.4).

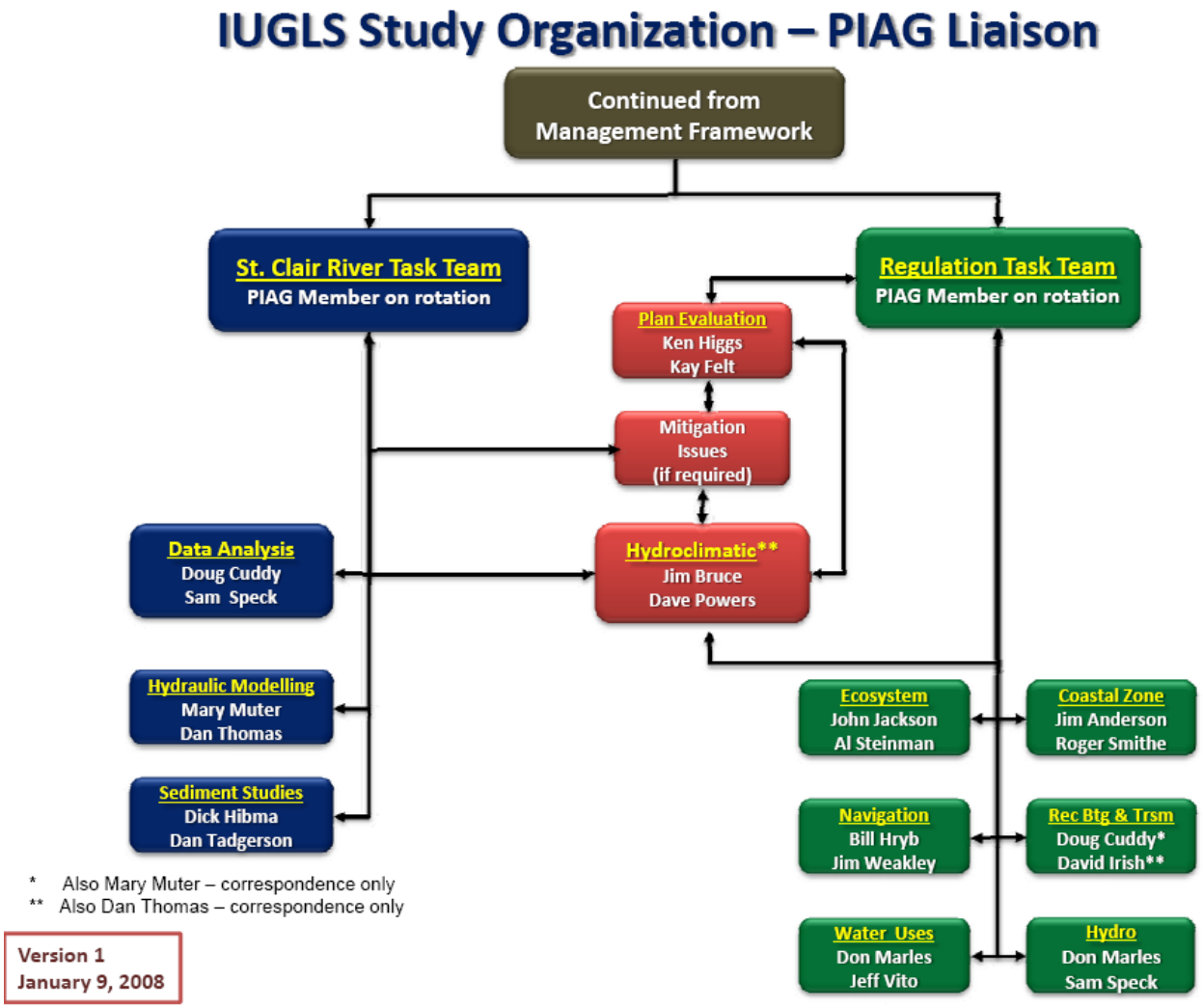
2.2 Liaison to Technical Work Groups and Task Teams

The primary research work of the Study is undertaken by several Technical Work Groups (TWGs) that include experts from federal, provincial, state agencies and academic institutions. Taking into consideration their background experience, PIAG members serve as liaisons to the TWGs that address issues in which they have a particular interest (see Figure 1). In this role, members provide the benefit of their local or specialized knowledge to the TWG. In addition, PIAG liaisons regularly report back to PIAG as a whole regarding TWG activities. This interaction has often generated ideas and adjustments to Study Board strategies that not only improve engagement with the public but also help to make sure that Study strategies are fully informed regarding public expectations. For example, coastal property owners have specific concerns with respect to how both high and low lake levels affect the value of their property and that these impacts should be reflected in any evaluation of regulation changes. Likewise, ecosystem interests are concerned that a static water level will impair the ecological health of coastal wetlands.

As shown in Figure 1, the various TWGs are supervised by either the St. Clair Task Team or the Lake Superior Task Team and, on a rotating basis, PIAG members are invited to participate in task team meetings and subsequently to report back to PIAG on how the studies are being conducted and whether the concerns of PIAG members are being reflected in the work that is being carried out.

Late in 2009, the PIAG liaison assignments are being updated to reflect the completion of work on the St. Clair River Report and the creation of new TWGs as the Study is intensifying work on the Lake Superior phase of its work.

Figure 1 – PIAG LIAISONS



2.3 Scientific Briefings

Early on, PIAG was briefed on the scientific questions being addressed by the Study and on the various approaches being undertaken to address them. At each of its meetings, PIAG was updated on the status and results of key scientific research, the peer review process and important decisions by the Study Board. At these meetings, PIAG members often commented on how they appreciated the fact that Study Board members did not "dumb down" the science and presented very detailed technical information. PIAG also commented on how complex science issues could best be presented to the public.

2.4 Circles of Influence Workshops

As shown in Table 2, starting in the spring of 2008 through the summer of 2009, seven "Circles of Influence" workshops were held to bring together small groups of either geographic or issue-based interest groups. These workshops allowed experts from the Plan Evaluation Technical Working Group the opportunity to provide information about potential regulation plans and to collect information from participants that would help them assess and rate competing plans. In addition, all PIAG members were interviewed to collect similar information.

The Circle of Influence concept is designed to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to help formulate specific performance metrics that can be applied in the Study evaluation process. For example, stakeholders might suggest the threshold below which water levels become critical for residents and other users in a given area under given applications, such as commercial navigation, recreational boating, shoreline enjoyment/damage, municipal water access and so on.

Circle of Influence workshops should be considered complementary to the broader public input and allow for gathered stakeholders to evaluate the Study by the metrics they helped formulate. Of key importance, PIAG advised the plan evaluation experts that they needed to be careful not to give Circles of Influence participants the unrealistic expectation that their ideal water levels could be achieved.

Table 2 Circles of Influence Workshops

DATE	LOCATION	FOCUS
May 3, 2008	Muskegon, MI	Lake Michigan shoreline property interests, environmental interests
October 16, 2008	Ann Arbor, MI	Environmental organizations
October 16, 2008	Harrison Township, MI	Lake St. Clair shoreline property interests
November 20, 2008	Toronto, ON	First Nations
May 20, 2009	Walpole Island, ON	First Nations
June 16, 2009	Sault Ste. Marie	Environmental interests, Lake Superior and St. Marys River shoreline and recreational boating interests
August 12, 2009	Cleveland, OH	Commercial navigation interests

2.5 Public Meetings

Advice from PIAG members played a critical role in the development of the schedule for informational public meetings held starting at the end of the 2007 and throughout 2008 (a total of 17 meetings, Table 3a) and also in planning the public meetings that were held as part of the 90-day consultation period following the release of the draft St. Clair River report on May 1, 2009 (another 17 meetings, see Table 3b).

In this regard, PIAG members discussed whether it would be most beneficial to schedule public meetings in association with other scheduled events or rather to hold stand alone meetings. Consensus developed that while synergies with other events would be welcomed, the general strategy would focus on stand alone meetings to maintain the independence of the Study. Significant outreach was undertaken so that this approach would generate a wide range of participants.

2.5.1 Meetings Held in 2007-2008

As the majority of meetings were focused around Lake Michigan-Huron, with several others on Lake Superior, PIAG members strongly advised that the Study Board hold an additional meeting in 2008 in the Lake Erie basin. As a result of this recommendation, a meeting in the Toledo area (Oregon, Ohio) was held, providing a key opportunity for downstream interests to participate.

Table 3a
Informational Public Meetings Held in 2007 - 2008

	DATE	LOCATION
1	December 12, 2007	Sault Ste. Marie, ON
2	February 18, 2008	Grosse Pointe Farms, MI
3	February 19, 2008	Detroit, MI
4	February 21, 2008	Point Edward, ON
5	April 28, 2008	Bay City, MI
6	April 29, 2008	Port Huron, MI
7	May 3, 2008	Muskegon, MI
8	June 16, 2008	Duluth, MN
9	June 17, 2008	Thunder Bay, ON
10	June 19, 2008	Sturgeon Bay, WI
11	June 20, 2008	Mequon, WI
12	August 9, 2008	Little Current, ON
13	August 9, 2008	Parry Sound, ON
14	August 10, 2008	Midland, ON
15	August 12, 2008	Collingwood, ON
16	August 12, 2008	Owen Sound, ON
17	November 19, 2008	Oregon, OH

At a subsequent PIAG meeting, PIAG members who hosted the public meetings reported on key outcomes. For example, the Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan meeting attendees wanted to see the science carried out to the fullest degree. Attendees in the Lake Superior region were generally not interested in hearing about the St. Clair River and largely expressed the view "don't mess with Mother Nature." In contrast, water diversions (such as the Chicago diversion) were a major topic in Little Current. Attendees in Parry Sound were outspoken regarding their concerns about low water levels and urging the Study Board to "act quickly and do something" whether it was in regard to the increased conveyance capacity found by the Study or to remediate for previous dredging projects.

In addition, coastal property owners expressed concern about the problems created by low levels in both Georgian Bay and throughout the Door County (WI) and Saginaw Bay (MI) regions of Lake Michigan-Huron. Other participants recalled the extreme damage caused by record high lake levels in the mid-1980s and wanted protection from high water levels. Some expressed concerns about downstream effects in Lakes St. Clair and Erie of possible mitigative measures in the St. Clair River on ecosystems and coastal properties. There was also a general awareness and concern regarding the ecological importance of more naturally fluctuating water levels.

PIAG members also reported that turnout was generally good with a total of nearly 1,500 attendees. However, attendance at the first public meeting held on June 2008, in Thunder Bay, Ontario, was affected by a simultaneous meeting dealing with severe flooding problems (a meeting that drew more than 300 attendees). In addition, attendance in Duluth was limited, possibly because St. Clair River concerns seem remove to that end of the basin. Press coverage was fair to excellent at most locations, including preview stories in newspapers, as well as TV and radio coverage.

2.5.2 Meetings Held in 2009 (Consultation on the draft St. Clair Report)

PIAG provided extensive advice in the selection of sites shown in Table 3b where the public would be able to receive a briefing on the draft St. Clair Report and provide their comments. Communications advisors also solicited PIAG's views on a proposal to link upstream and downstream meetings using video-conferencing technology (see Figure 2). This communications tool was chosen to help achieve a key goal identified in the IJC Guidance to the Study Board on Communication and Public Participation (Appendix 3):

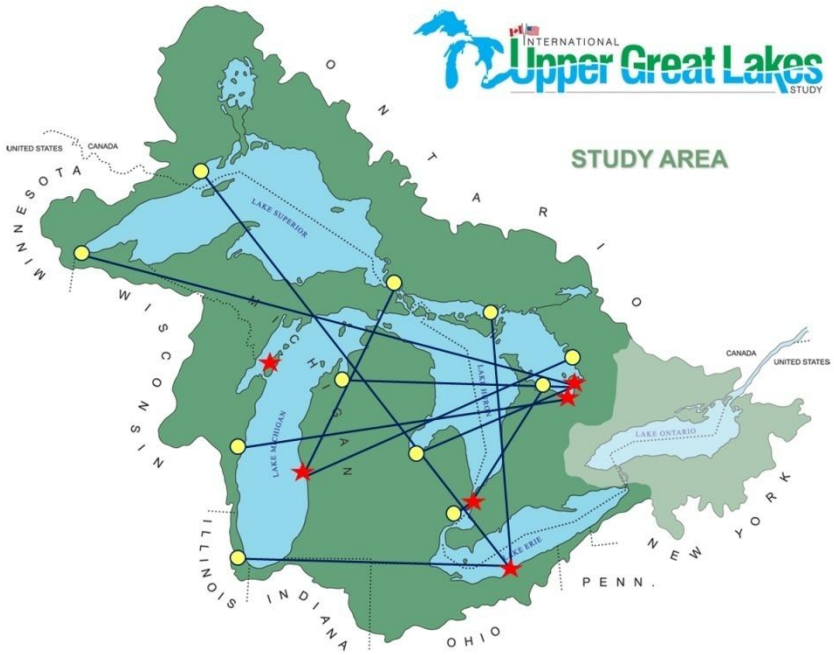
> Disseminate plain language information to enhance public understanding of the causes of problems related to fluctuating water levels and of the consequences of proposed solutions.

Communications advisors believed, and most members of PIAG agreed, that it was important for upstream and downstream interests to have the opportunity to learn about the concerns of the other, expressed in their own words. As an added benefit, the technology allowed for Study officials to cover a large amount of territory and hold additional meetings. Not all PIAG members, however, were completely satisfied with the meetings schedule. For example, meetings in Georgian Bay were considered by one member to be held too early in the season.

Table 3b
Public Meetings Held Following Release of the Draft St. Clair River Report

18	May 19, 2009	Sarnia, ON
19	May 19, 2009	Grosse Point Farms, MI
20	May 19, 2009	Owen Sound, ON
21	May 20, 2009	Cleveland, OH
22	May 20, 2009	Little Current, ON
23	May 20, 2009	Evanston, IL
24	May 20, 2009	Thunder Bay, ON
25	June 9, 2009	Muskegon, MI
26	June 9, 2009	Parry Sound, ON
27	June 9, 2009	Sault Ste. Marie, ON
28	June 11, 2009	Midland, ON
29	June 11, 2009	Traverse City, MI
30	June 11, 2009	Superior, WI
31	June 11, 2009	Bay City, MI
32	July 7, 2009	Fish Creek, WI
33	July 8, 2009	Town of the Blue Mountains, ON
34	July 8, 2009	Mequon, WI

Figure 2 – Connecting Public Meetings



Using videoconferencing technology, five "hub" locations [Muskegon, MI; Sarnia, ON; Midland, ON; Town of the Blue Mountains (Collingwood), ON; and Cleveland, OH] were connected to eleven "satellite" locations [Bay City, MI; Traverse City, MI; Grosse Pointe Farms, MI; Owen Sound, ON; Little Current, ON; Thunder Bay, ON; Parry Sound, ON; Sault Ste. Marie, ON; Superior, WI; Mequon, WI; and Evanston, IL]. There was one stand alone meeting in Fish Creek, Wisconsin.

PIAG members served as hosts at each session, providing welcoming remarks and moderating the question and answer period. The Study's public information officer worked with each member prior to each meeting and provided materials (e.g. flyers announcing the meeting for posting at local sites) to facilitate outreach efforts in their area to encourage robust turnout at the meetings.

While PIAG advised that an extensive series of public meetings was essential because of the importance of the topics to be addressed, they did accurately predict attendance would not be as large as in 2008 and would be quite sparse in several of the more remote locations, especially on Lake Superior, partly because by this time lake levels had risen to closer to average.

As the Study Board prepared for the public meetings, PIAG was asked to identify key questions and concerns that would likely be raised. The Study Board was correctly advised that many participants would raise concerns about water quality (despite the fact that it is outside the Study mandate) and that in some areas rising water levels were now a concern. In addition, PIAG provided advice to the Study Board that helped in preparation of the presentation, including how best to present technical information while also using plain language. Further, members of PIAG provided extensive comments and suggestions that were incorporated into the **Summary Report** (provided in both English and French) that highlighted the St. Clair report in less technical language for a general audience.

Once the consultation was underway, concerns were expressed that no meetings had been scheduled in Wisconsin on Lake Michigan. Based on the advice of key PIAG members, additional meetings were scheduled in Fish Creek and Mequon, Wisconsin. In order to maintain balance in the consultation between the two countries, another meeting was scheduled in Town of the Blue Mountains, Ontario.[7] PIAG also endorsed extension of the comment period from an initial 30 days to 60 days, then ultimately to 90 days.

Attendance at the public meetings on the draft report in mid-2009 was smaller than during the preliminary meetings in 2008 (approximately 400 people in 2009, compared to more than 1,500 in 2008). This trend may have been due to the fact that low water levels in 2008 had generated considerable interest and concern among residents of communities along the lakes, while water levels in the upper Great Lakes were rebounding in 2009, possibly reducing the level of public concern. In addition, turnout may have been depressed on Lake Superior because the May 2009 meetings were focused on the St. Clair River, which may seem distant from Lake Superior concerns.

The Study also provided an opportunity for members of the public to submit questions and comments regarding the draft report via e-mail, regular mail and a form on the Study website. Comments were actually accepted well beyond the close of the 90-day comment period, although submissions with technical questions that came in after September 1 would be acknowledged, but only answered before December 1 if time permitted. Given the intensity of interest in the early phase of the Study when levels were low, the number of comments submitted was

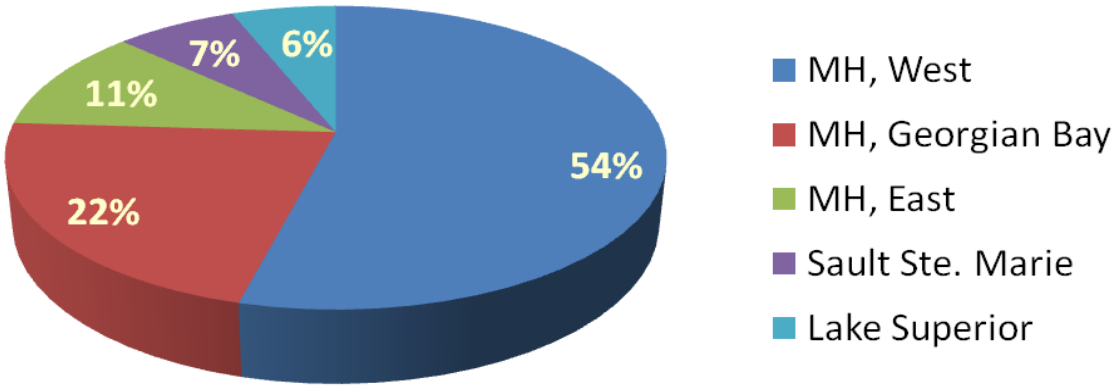
[7] There were some complaints about logistics regarding the meeting held in the Town of the Blue Mountains. In a letter to the local newspaper, the PIAG co-chairs apologized for the lack of handicap accessibility and for some confusion regarding the meeting site.

relatively small (less than 50) despite the significantly extended time frame, reflecting the return of water levels to near average and the exclusive focus on the St. Clair River.

2.6 Evaluation/Response Form

At all 17 public meetings during the draft report consultation period, responding to a suggestion from a member of PIAG, a ten-question survey was distributed to participants that asked for specific response on issues ranging from the clarity and technical nature of the presentation to their confidence in the ability of the Study to achieve its objectives and answer the key scientific questions. As shown in Figure 3, more than three-quarters of respondents came from Michigan-Huron, two-thirds of that group coming from the west on Lake Michigan and one third in the east on Lake Huron. The complete survey and highlights of responses are provided in section 4.4 and a complete report is provided in Appendix 4.

Figure 3
Geographic distribution of respondents (129 individuals)



Michigan-Huron West: Evanston, IL; Fish Creek, WI; Mequon, WI; Muskegon, MI; Traverse City, MI. **Michigan-Huron East**: Bay City, MI; Grosse Pointe Farms, MI; Sarnia, ON.
Michigan-Huron Georgian Bay: Midland, ON; Parry Sound, ON; Owen Sound, ON; Little Current, ON; Town of the Blue Mountains.
Lake Superior: Superior, WI; Thunder Bay, ON.
Note: No response forms were completed by attendees at the Cleveland meeting.

2.7 Government Briefings

The IJC guidance on public participation makes it clear that government officials are important members of the public. As a result, throughout the Study, PIAG members, especially the co-chairs, were very diligent in joining the Study Board to brief both elected and appointed officials at all levels of government. For example, in addition to briefing the media and various interested constituent groups, following the release of the draft St. Clair River report, briefings were provided for:

- U.S. Federal Great Lakes Interagency Task Force

- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
- Council of Great Lakes Governors
- U.S. Congressional members and staff
- Canadian Parliamentary members and staff
- Michigan legislative committees
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ontario Premier's Office

Generally, the response from governments to date has been uniformly positive and supportive.

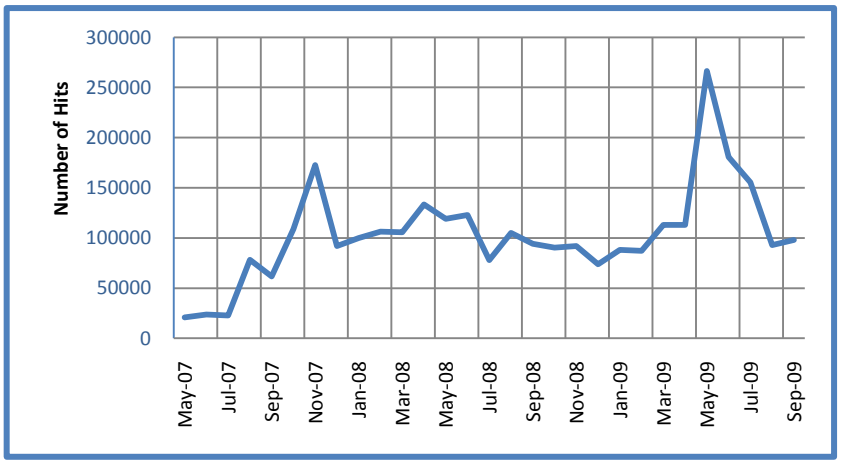
2.8 Study Website

In an effort to open up the consultations to people and organizations unable to attend the public meetings, the Study Board established a website that was constantly updated to provide convenient access to various Study reports and documents. Individuals and organizations with an interest in Great Lakes water levels were also able to submit comments on the draft report by means of a comments form on the Study's website.

The website had the most "hits" or viewings (266,429) during May 2009. In particular, May 1, 2009 – the day the draft St. Clair River Report was released – was the most active day, with more than 33,000 hits. Since the beginning of the Study, the website has had nearly 3 million hits (Figure 4). On average, following the release of the draft report, the website had approximately 50 visitors each day.

The Summary Report (noted above) was the most widely referenced document from the website, with more than 1,500 downloads. Volume 1 of the report was downloaded nearly 1,000 times, while Volume 2 was downloaded just over 500 times. Communication products such as the newsletter, *On the Level*, Fact Sheets and various press releases were also referenced fairly extensively. Of the more than 40 technical reports posted, very few were downloaded more than 50 times.

Figure 4 - Number of Study Website "Hits"/Month



2.9 Other Outreach by PIAG members

As noted previously, PIAG members often talked about the Study in speeches to civic organizations or other groups in promoting participation in the consultation process. However, throughout the past two years, members also gave presentations about the Study for many organized groups throughout the basin. These events included major conferences such as the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, the International Association for Great Lakes Research, the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, the North American Benthological Society and the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium. In addition, many PIAG members provided briefings on the draft report to local organizations and clubs both in their geographical areas and at meetings of their respective interest groups. A partial list of these events is provided in Appendix 5.

PIAG members also toured the control structures at Sault Ste. Marie, learned about the operation of the power dams and received a briefing regarding biodiversity concerns in the St. Marys River.

3. Important Issues Addressed by PIAG

3.1 Changes in the Study Timetable

In the fall of 2007, when water levels were quite low, there was much interest from the public and from elected officials in accelerating the St. Clair River portion of the Study and moving up the spring 2010 publication date of the draft report. PIAG members heard this from many of their constituents and were generally—but not unanimously— supportive of the IJC's decision in October to accelerate the draft St. Clair River by nearly a year. Subsequently, PIAG was also supportive of pushing back the release of the draft report from February to May of 2009 and the release of the final report from October to December of 2009. In particular, these delays were acceptable because they would allow additional time for public comment even beyond the extension of the public comment period from 60 to 90 days. The new timetable was also needed to allow for delays in receiving independent peer reviews and the time necessary to complete and evaluate additional research.

3.2 The Study Mandate

Given their close relationship to the Study, PIAG members were very clear on the Study mandate, understanding that in the St. Clair River portion that the analysis was limited to assessing any ongoing changes in the river bed since the last major dredging project was completed in 1962. As a result, review or debate about whether anything should be done about previous uncompensated dredging or sand and gravel mining that were the subject of agreements between the U.S. and Canada was not part of the mandate. Throughout the period, some PIAG members shared the public's frustration in this perceived limitation. Most however, understood that the Study must focus on exactly what the IJC and the governments have asked them to do.

3.3 Independent Peer Review

As noted previously, PIAG was regularly briefed on the status of the independent peer review process. A few members expressed concern that with the earlier date for release of the draft report, the peer review process and public review process would occur concurrently. However, the general view was that given the high regard for the scientists and engineers involved in the Study and the public desire to expedite their work, it was a better option to give the public additional time to comment rather than waiting and leaving the public out of the process. This view also reflected the fact that the IJC would be holding public hearings regarding the final St. Clair Report that would allow the public ample time to comment once all the revised technical reports and peer reviews were released. The final St. Clair River report has been modified from the May 1 draft report in light of public and peer review comments.

4. What We Heard

This section summarizes what was heard from the public during the consultation process regarding the draft St. Clair River report. This includes comments spoken at public meetings, provided in writing via regular mail and via email or the form on the web page.[8] From PIAG's perspective, this synthesis identifies the key issues raised during the consultation. These include areas in which there was broad consensus among the participants, as well as specific issues that were points of concern or were specific to certain groups or residents of specific geographic areas.

4.1 Key Issues Identified in the Consultations

The following section identifies key issues identified by participants in the consultations focusing on the key interest groups and geographical areas which largely dominated the consultation process (coastal property owners in Georgian Bay and on Lake Michigan).

Coastal Property Owners:
Though they do have some common concerns, property owners around the lakes are affected by lake level fluctuations in strikingly different ways. In the past, they have suffered damages from both high and low water and fear that further changes could increase damage and permanently affect their way of life. Property owners from around the lakes expressed great concern regarding how climate change could potentially reduce mean Great Lakes levels, though they are divided on what action should be taken.

The primary issue raised by many homeowners around Lake Michigan is erosion due to high water levels. Many are concerned that any structure placed in the St. Clair River to control outflow would further increase property damage to coastal residents. In particular, they recall the extensive damage caused by record high levels in the mid-1980s and fear that any remedial measures would exacerbate the losses when high levels return. Most recently, as levels have

[8] Including both formal presentations and informal comments.

rebounded from a near record low, they have also experienced extensive loss of beach area, negatively affecting the tourism industry.

Residents and recreational boaters on Georgian Bay expressed most concern regarding low water levels. The east and north coasts are accessible by water only and so residents are dependent on the boating channels to navigate by boat. When water is extremely low, they are unable to access many areas in the bay at all. In some areas it would be impossible to blast and dredge to gain access due to the costs and inability to get permits for such extensive underwater work. On the south end of the bay, the loss of a few inches in water level can move the shoreline back hundreds of feet, reducing the value of homes that were once on the shore. Coastal residents also observed losses to wetland habitat and fisheries. Some of these property owners are among the most vocal supporters of the Georgian Bay Association and believe that the Study has not adequately considered the impacts of changes in the St Clair River nor properly determined whether significant erosion has occurred since 1962.

Property owners from around the lakes have requested the IUGLS to expand its research to include the impacts of dredging prior to 1962 on lake levels. There is a broad concern over the privatization of Great Lakes water, particularly the export of bottled water. Residents from Lake Superior do not want their lake water to be used to compensate for falling levels in the downstream lakes, and are concerned with navigation issues. Property owners generally expressed the desire to avoid future diversions of water from the Great Lakes basin.

Environmental Organizations

Great Lakes United, the National Wildlife Federation and Georgian Bay Forever submitted extensive comments regarding the consultation process and the draft recommendations as well as more technical scientific questions.[9] In particular, these groups urged the Study Board to undertake further examination of the benefits, costs and downstream impacts of potential remedial measures in the St. Clair River.

Highlights by Geographic Area:

The great majority of meeting participants were coastal homeowners, many of whom also represented local environmental organizations, sports fishing associations, and civic clubs. Their opinions are organized here by geographic location.

Participants from around the Georgian Bay region of Lake Huron were concerned with the following issues:

- the perception that there is ongoing erosion in the St. Clair River and water loss from the upper Great Lakes;
- the need for remediation to mitigate the impact of low levels on important ecological functions and economic activities;
- the threshold at which the Study would recommend remedial action;

[9] All of these groups (and all public comments) received specific responses to their questions and the final St. Clair Report reflects those comments, where appropriate. All comments and responses are posted at www.iugls.org.

- the need for examination and implementation of flexible, interim control structures to regulate flows in the St. Clair River;
- the need for a control board to monitor Lake Huron outflows;
- concern over the lengthiness of the process surrounding government action;
- immediate availability of all technical and peer review reports and dissatisfaction that the peer review was still underway at the time of the public meetings;
- due to low water levels, commercial navigation difficulties severely affect the shipping industry with economic losses because ships are not able to load to their designed capacities;
- questioning if the ice jam in 1984 was indeed a natural occurrence or caused by ice breakers;
- the long term impact on conveyance of the 1962 dredging of the St. Clair River;
- the need to protect the Great Lakes from future efforts to divert water from the basin;
- a desire to see 3-D modeling of changes in the St. Clair River;
- the impact of deforestation on lake levels;
- serious water quality concerns including repeated outbreaks of toxic blue green algal blooms in enclosed bays with less exchange of water;
- significant loss of wetland and fish habitat;
- decreased boating and fishing impacting marinas;
- high costs of dredging and blasting to maintain access
- loss of property value in some places by as much as 50 percent;
- many of the main boating channels had low water markers placed in the middle of the channels by the Coast Guard where they were unable to move the channel to deeper water, making some channels treacherous particularly during high winds and waves; and,
- loss of revenue by some marinas due to inability to maintain boating slips due to low water and loss of income due to less recreational boating in what had been the busiest boating channels in Canada.

Also, some comments from Georgian Bay area meetings noted satisfaction with the scientific approach to addressing their concerns and appreciation for the opportunity to learn about concerns elsewhere regarding high water levels.

Participants from around Lake Michigan were concerned with the following issues:

- the need to maintain a natural hydrograph with fluctuating water levels to maintain the health of coastal wetlands;
- erosion of lakefront property caused by high water levels;
- losses to the tourism industry caused by beach erosion;
- navigation of commercial ships and continued accessibility of commercial ports;
- how jetties affect sand supply leading to erosion of Lake Michigan beaches;
- the need for restoration of eroded shorelines;
- three decades of high levels ending in the late 1990's caused major erosion; if remedial action were taken, it would cause further damage to the Lake Michigan shoreline;
- whether the data were sufficiently rigorous to support the ice jam theory;
- the impacts of dredging prior to 1962; and,
- impacts of low water levels in aggravating water quality problems in some bays.

Participants from around Lake Superior were concerned with the following issues:

- compensating for falling levels in other lakes by drawing down levels in Lake Superior;
- water quality;
- habitat protection;
- climate change;
- integrity of the shoreline;
- navigation problems and economic losses experienced by the shipping industry due to low water levels; and,
- interest in the possibility of holding back water on Lake Superior in the event of low levels.

4.2 Areas of Consensus

The feedback received in the public meetings and submissions identified a number of areas where there appears to be a general consensus on the Study's findings among parties with an interest in Great Lakes water levels. These included:

- the need for decision making by the Canadian and U.S. governments on the St. Clair River to be based on sound science using the best available technology and models;
- that any consideration of remedial options in the St. Clair River take into account the full range of economic, social and environmental interests in the entire upper Great Lakes basin, including Lakes St. Clair and Erie;
- opposition to a permanent fixed structure in the St. Clair River;
- the recommendation to consider the potential future effects of climate change on upper Great Lakes water levels in Report 2 of the Study, now underway and to be completed in 2012;
- Study Board recommendations regarding the need for continued data collection, monitoring and coordination of U.S.-Canada water management efforts to support adaptive management;
- concern over lakeshore integrity, threatened by both high and low levels;
- the continued ability of large commercial vessels to navigate and access ports;
- the complexity of the issues surrounding lake level fluctuations and the need to continue the Study;
- the need to better communicate the high degree of uncertainty in predicting future fluctuations, particularly in reference to climate change and in predicting the potential effects of remedial action; and,
- the importance of habitat protection for native species and ecosystem function requiring fluctuating lake levels.

4.3 Points of Concern

The consultations identified some issues for which no broad consensus emerged or that were specific to a certain group or region. On these issues, some interests raised specific concerns or challenged specific findings of the Study, while other interests failed to agree with these

concerns or agreed with the Study's findings. The following is not a comprehensive list but simply highlights key items where differing views were expressed:

- The recommendation against immediate remedial measures in the St. Clair River was the primary point of difference among some participants.
    a) Residents near Lake Huron in general and the Georgian Bay in particular were anxious about low levels and in favor of remedial action.
    b) Many residents near Lake Michigan have experienced damages due to high levels and were opposed to any structure in the St. Clair River that might lead to further property damage and beach loss.
- Residents near Lake Superior were opposed to having water from Lake Superior used to compensate for falling levels in downstream lakes.
- A number of commenters concerned about conditions in Georgian Bay expressed support for "flexible" or "temporary" remedial structures in the St. Clair River, while some environmental interests wanted further examination of nonstructural approaches.
- Some commentators expressed support for the use of more data-intensive scientific approaches such 3-D modelling to examine changes in the St. Clair River.
- Some commentators expressed the desire to stop studying and just "do something." This view also reflected a belief that the causes of low levels are unimportant and what's important is to act to raise them.
- There also was some criticism of the Study's processes. These individuals were concerned that the public review and independent peer review proceeded concurrently and that final versions of the technical reports were not yet posted on the Study website because of delays in the peer review process. Some of these commenters also were critical of the Study's assessment of and distinction between human-caused or natural-caused changes to the bed of the St. Clair River.

4.4 Who Commented, and Who Didn't

Of the six key interest areas identified in the Plan of Study, the vast majority of comments (submitted at public meetings and via the website and mail) could be considered as coming from only three groups (Coastal Zone, Ecosystem and Recreational Boating and Tourism,). In contrast, the other three interests (Commercial Navigation, Water Uses, and Hydropower), while represented at many of the meetings, did not submit formal comments.

A majority of comments also came from individuals or organizations associated with the Georgian Bay region of Lake Huron. While it might be reasonable to assume the views of these commenters could potentially be representative of property owners in that area, it would be unreasonable to assume that the comments provided were representative of the wide spectrum of interests throughout the upper Great Lakes basin.

Indeed, given the general level of awareness about the report and its findings among all groups, the relative lack of comment may suggest at least a minimal level of satisfaction regarding the Study's findings and recommendations. This may be a reasonable explanation given that the recent rise in water levels has allayed public concern regarding low levels. Alternatively, the

lack of comment could reflect a number of other factors, including lack of interest, failure to engage specific demographic groups (such as younger people) and the public's frustration that their views would not be considered.

4.5 Results from the Evaluation/Response Forms

As noted previously, attendees at the public meetings were given the opportunity to answer a short survey. There were 129 respondents out of the roughly 400 attendees at the meetings. (A more detailed discussion of results and the list of questions are provided in Appendix 4.) The results that follow cannot be generalized to the public as a whole, but the responses do provide helpful insights into the perceptions of some attendees. As shown in Figure 5, more than 80 percent of respondents were satisfied with the clarity of the presentation at the public meetings. Similarly, more than 85 percent were satisfied that the technical level was appropriate. In addition, about two-thirds of respondents felt their questions were answered.

As shown in Figure 6, more than half of respondents said they were either completely or fairly satisfied that the Study would achieve its stated objectives. On the other end of the scale, only 11 percent said they were minimally or "not at all" confident. Reflecting the complexity of the subject matter, nearly 30 percent were uncertain.

Of those who expressed confidence that the Study could meet its goals, the most cited reason was the quality of the science and the researchers. For those who were not confident, reasons included the limited mandate of the study and disagreement with the results.

Figure 5 – Satisfaction with the Public Meeting Presentation

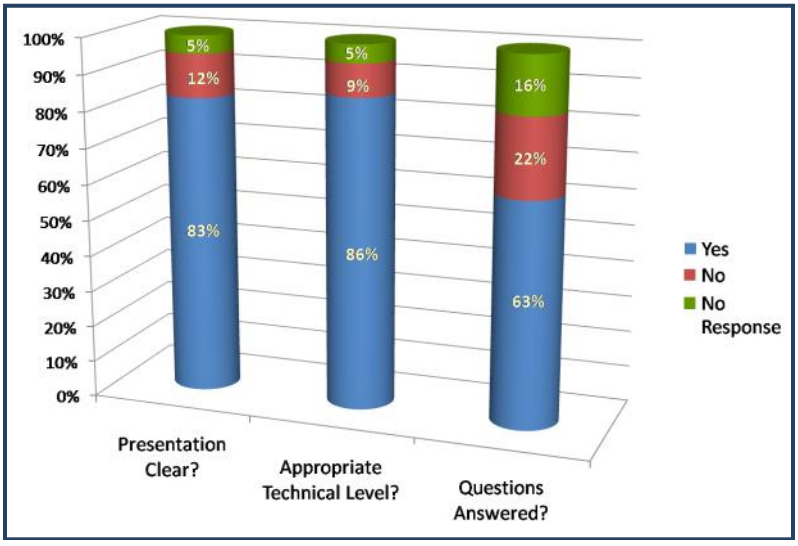
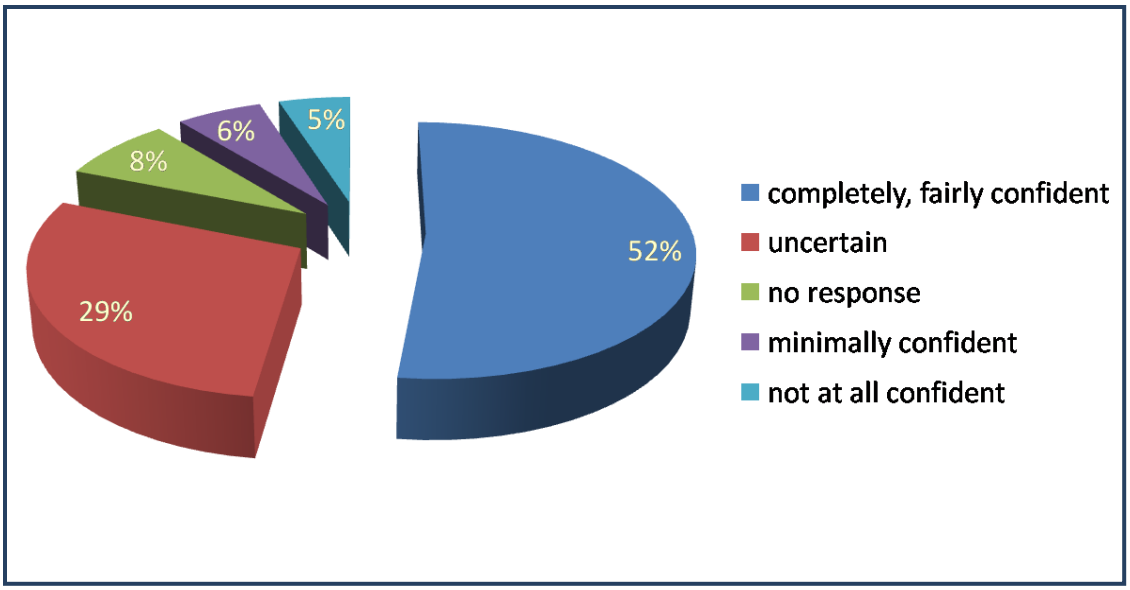


Figure 6 – Public Confidence in Achieving Study Objectives



4.6 Impacts on the St. Clair River report

Questions, ideas and concerns raised both by PIAG members and by the public are reflected throughout the final report. In fact, queries raised at public meetings led to extra work examining dredging effects, particularly maintenance dredging. Public questions also led to further study of the role of navigation and vessels traversing through the St. Clair River, institutional analysis regarding the steps needed to implement a remediation project and examination of how lake level regimes stabilize to minimize flows through the channel. In addition, concerns raised by the public resulted in limited 3-D modelling that was undertaken to confirm that 1-D and 2-D modelling were suitable to answer the science questions being tackled by the Study.

Finally, in their role as public liaisons to the technical work groups, PIAG members routinely contributed suggestions for additional analyses, sites to be studied and explanations of issues that were being examined.

4.7 Summary of "What We Heard"

Generally, PIAG believes that the public engagement process to date has been effective in both informing the public and soliciting their views. Yet, they are aware that efforts to encourage public participation and to solicit comment are snapshots in time that have limitations based on current water levels, the level of awareness, the degree of participation of various interests and their perceived stake in the outcome. For example, commenters with interests in the Georgian Bay region of Lake Huron and some areas of Wisconsin were critical of the findings and strongly disagreed with the recommendation against remediation. However, this view was not shared broadly across the upper Great Lakes basin.

Based on an analysis of views provided by the public that participated in the consultation process regarding the draft St. Clair River report supplemented by the knowledge and experience of

PIAG members regarding their respective regions and interest groups, it appears that the public, with some exceptions, is generally satisfied that the findings and recommendations are acceptable given the Study mandate and are the result of a technically sound and unbiased process that engaged a broad range of interests and achieved the Study's objectives. Two PIAG members do not agree with this assessment of the degree of public acceptance of the Study.

Despite their extensive outreach efforts, members of PIAG understand that compared to the entire population, the number of people who engaged in the outreach process was small. Moving forward, PIAG is committed to engaging more people, especially younger citizens, in the Study.

5. Where We Go From Here

The IJC has announced it will hold public hearings in 2010 before making any recommendations to the governments regarding the findings and recommendations in the St. Clair report. As a result, the public will have another opportunity to comment with full and transparent access to all reports, peer reviews and other public comments. Certainly, members of PIAG will play a role in that process.

Upon completion of the St. Clair River report, the Study Board will turn its full resources and attention to completion of the Lake Superior regulation review component, with a final report scheduled for early 2012. The role of the Public Interest Advisory Group will continue to grow throughout this period.

The Study is planning extensive consultations with the public in 2010 and 2011 as alternative potential regulation plans are developed. These efforts will include social media and new web-based communications tools. The public will have numerous opportunities to learn about and discuss an adaptive management strategy the Study will be developing to help communities throughout the upper Great Lakes cope with potential lake level effects of climate change. Indeed, by providing their input on this critical issue, the public can help the Study make recommendations to the IJC that reflect an engaged and thoughtful public dialogue that includes the broadest possible range of views.

Appendix 1 Study Background

1.1 History

Funded equally by the U.S. and Canadian governments, the Study is being conducted by the bi-national, independent International Upper Great Lakes Study Board. The authority for the IJC to undertake such work is found in the *Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909* (the Treaty) that gives the IJC jurisdiction over the use, obstruction or diversion of water in specific cases. In this instance the IJC first issued Orders of Approval authorized construction of compensating works in the St. Marys River affecting outflows from Lake Superior in 1914. The St. Clair River report is the first report of the Study. Report 2, to be completed early in 2012, is examining whether the regulation plan for outflows from Lake Superior through the compensating works and power dams on the St. Marys River at Sault Ste. Marie might be improved to take into consideration changing interests and changing climate.

1.2 Scope and Mandate

The geographic scope of the Study consists of the upper Great Lakes basin from the headwaters of Lake Superior downstream through Lake Michigan-Huron to Lake Erie and including the interconnecting channels (St. Marys, St. Clair and Detroit Rivers and the Niagara River to Niagara Falls).

While dredging and other man-made changes to the St. Clair River have changed water levels since the mid to late 19th century, the Study mandate was limited to examining changes since the last dredging project in the channel was completed in 1962. This limitation in the first phase of work was made clear in a directive to the Study that specified a focus on "ongoing" physical changes in the river bed. However, with respect to the analysis and recommendation of potentially new regulation plans for Lake Superior outflows, the Study has more latitude to consider other factors influencing levels.

1.3 Objectives – Answering Key Science Questions

At the request of the International Joint Commission of the U.S. and Canada (IJC), the Study is addressing important questions regarding the St. Clair River system (consisting of the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River):

- Has the conveyance or water-carrying capacity of the St. Clair River changed, and if so, why?
- What effect could an altered flow have on water levels in the upper Great Lakes?
- What other factors (such as climate) may be affecting the change in water levels?
- What actions, if any, should be taken by governments to remedy concerns about low water levels?

More information on the Study and the full scientific draft report are available at the Study's website: www.iugls.org.

1.4 Study Participants

The International Joint Commission appointed a 10-member bi-national Study Board to be responsible for the Study's overall planning and management. Members were drawn from the two federal governments, state and provincial governments, and universities.

Over the past two years, more than 100 scientists and engineers from governments, academia and expert private contractors in both countries have worked together to plan and undertake the necessary investigations, analyze the results, and prepare the Study's findings and recommendations.

1.5 Independent Peer Review

The International Joint Commission contracted with the Environmental and Water Resources Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Canadian Water Resources Association to independently review the work plans and products of the Study. With about 21,000 and 1,300 members, respectively, these organizations were also able to draw upon expertise beyond their membership, if necessary. The peer review groups operate independently of the Study and provide their views directly to the International Joint Commission.[10]

As a result, the Study has been subject to a high level of independent scientific scrutiny. The St. Clair River portion of the Study represents the first time in the history of the IJC that a bi-national study has benefitted from ongoing independent scientific review at all stages, from the development of its work plans through to the completion of its reports.

The independent peer review process was complemented by an extensive internal review process involve the Technical Work Groups, the St. Clair River Task Team and the Study Board itself. Moreover, work by various government officials involved in Study was reviewed through rigorous processes in their respective agencies.

1.6 Preliminary Findings and Recommendations

The Study's May 1st Draft Report presented the following preliminary findings:

- Erosion is not ongoing in the St. Clair River.
- Between 1971 and 2000, conveyance capacity of the river did increase, possibly because of an ice jam and record high flows in the mid-1980s. The average increase in outflows from Lake Huron is a tiny fraction of the capacity increase because flows return to equilibrium within a few years as lake levels re-adjust.
- Conveyance capacity appears to have decreased since 2000.
- Changes in climatic patterns and resulting variations in water supplies are the main driving factors affecting water levels. For example, over the period 1996 through 2006,

[10]Information on the peer review process and biographies of peer reviewers are available at the ASCE-Environmental and Water Resources Institute website: http://content.ewrinstitute.org/committees/IUGLS.cfm

> Lake Michigan-Huron fell 83 cm. Of that change, study scientists attribute about 6 cm to conveyance change and 77 cm to climate conditions that restricted water supplies to the upper lakes.

Based on these findings and support by consistent analyses in a wide range of scientific approaches, the Study Board recommended that remedial measures not be undertaken on the St. Clair River at this time. The Study Board also recommended that mitigative measures in the St. Clair River must be examined as part of the comprehensive assessment of the future effects of climate change as part of the next phase of the Study examining whether improvements can be made to Lake Superior outflow regulations.

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Appendix 2 Public Participation Terms of Reference Public Interest Advisory Group

Preamble

The International Upper Great Lakes Study (Study) Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG) is a forum to advise on and support the Study Board's public involvement activities. PIAG is a component of the Commission's strategy to increase transparency and public involvement through the consultation processes in connection with the Study.

2.1 Mandate

To provide advice to the Study Board relating to the planning and management of its public involvement and communications activities.

To provide advice to the Study Board on how to increase the effectiveness of its communications and information dissemination to the public.

To provide advice to the Study Board on issues related to the Study.

To carry out specific activities that the Study Board may request from time to time.

2.2 Membership

PIAG members are appointed by the Commission for terms of two or three years and may number up to twenty individuals, including two Co-Chairs, at any one time. A member's term may be extended for an additional term. The Commission endeavors to ensure that appointments of members are scheduled to allow for continuity and systematic rotation of membership. Members are drawn from groups representing the various sectors identified in the Commission's document entitled *Public Participation: Guidance to the Study Board*, which also includes knowledgeable members of the general public.

An individual may withdraw as a member from the Committee at any time upon written notification to the Commission with a copy to the PIAG Co-Chairs and Study Co-Directors. Membership may be terminated at any time upon written notification from the Commission in consultation with the PIAG Co-Chairs and Study Co-Directors.

Members who are absent from three consecutive PIAG meetings are requested to discuss their continued membership in PIAG with the Study Co-Directors.

Members from the United States and Canada are equal in number. One United States and one Canadian member will be appointed as Co-Chairs and will also be members of the Study Board.

In addition to the standard complement of PIAG members, Ad Hoc members may be invited to serve for a specific topic or group of topics for a defined short-term duration and will be

recommended by the PIAG Co-Chairs, in consultation with the PIAG members, for appointment by the Commission.

Study Board staff will not serve as members of PIAG but will provide secretariat support, respond to questions, and provide information at the call of the PIAG Co-Chairs.

2.3 Reporting Structure

The PIAG reports through the PIAG Co-Chairs directly to the Study Board and also functionally to the Study Co-Directors.

2.4 Management and Administration

Commissioners, members of the Study Board and relevant Commission staff are invited to any meetings of PIAG but, for purposes of ensuring independence and objectivity, PIAG may meet in camera from time to time.

PIAG meets face-to-face at least twice per year. Additional meetings, including teleconferences, may be held at the request of the Commissioners, Study Board or PIAG Co-Chairs.

Study Board members, PIAG members and Study Board staff are canvassed for agenda items at least six weeks in advance of regularly scheduled PIAG meetings. The agenda is then developed by the PIAG Co-Chairs and approved by the Study Co-Directors. Where possible, information is provided in advance of the meeting.

Discussion during PIAG meetings is open, frank and free-flowing. All members of PIAG have equal status during discussion and are expected to demonstrate fairness and a commitment to in-depth examination of matters under review. Topics that do not fit within the mandate of PIAG should not be discussed.

Minutes of PIAG meetings are prepared and certified for accuracy by the PIAG Co-Chairs. Minutes are kept to the minimum detail required to summarize effectively the proceedings and to reflect advice offered. There is no attribution of comments unless specifically requested by a member. PIAG Co-chairs will be responsible for the approval and distribution of the minutes, with the assistance of the Study Board staff. The minutes will be posted to the Commission website, as authorized by the Study Co-Directors.

2.5 Roles and Expectations of PIAG Members

Members carry out the mandate of PIAG by:

- demonstrating preparedness for meetings
- fostering and contributing to an open, collaborative climate
- actively providing constructive input to the deliberations

- drawing on their knowledge, contacts and experience to provide informed input into discussions
- communicating with the sector they represent, as appropriate
- maintaining a good attendance record

2.6 Compensation

Unless other arrangements are made with the Commission, members of PIAG shall make their own arrangements for reimbursement of necessary expenditures for travel or other related expenses. Members are not remunerated for services rendered.

Approved on February 7, 2007.

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Appendix 3 Guidance to the Study Board on Communication and Public Participation

Preamble

The International Joint Commission (Commission) is committed to the principle that the public should have a say in decisions that affect it. Therefore, the Commission promotes policies and programs aimed at enabling all community members to influence Commission decisions that may have an impact on them[1]. This Guidance is hereby issued to the Study Board in order to facilitate public participation in the International Upper Great Lakes Study (Study), the mandate of which is set out in the Commission's Directive to the Study Board, dated December 2005.

3.1 Public

For purposes of this Guidance, the public means any person, association, organization or group that is affected, likely to be affected by, or has an interest in the Study and any decisions that may ultimately be taken by the Commission in response to the findings or recommendations of the Study.[2] The public includes, but is not limited to, the following sectors:

- Federal, provincial, state, regional and local governments.
- Tribes and First Nations.
- Environment.
- Commercial navigation and recreational boating.
- Hydroelectric power generation.
- Water supply and stormwater/sewage treatment.
- Riparians.
- General Public.

3.2 Public Participation

Public participation will be open, inclusive and fair. For purposes of this Guidance, public participation means:

- Making the public aware of the Study by:
    - explaining the decision-making process of the Study;
    - broadly disseminating Study findings as they become available; and
    - enhancing the public's understanding of system regulation, Study findings, and the consequences of proposed solutions.
- Providing opportunities for the public to participate in the Study by:
    - expressing its views of the principle issues, questions, and Study objectives;
    - expressing its priorities and preferences; and
    - contributing local expertise and information.

3.3 Proposed Activities

In conducting its communications and public participation activities, the Study Board will:

- Recommend for appointment two Co-senior Communications Advisers (one Canadian and one U.S.) to develop a comprehensive, multi-year communications plan as specified in the Directive.
- Through the Co-senior Communications Advisers, make the public aware of and provide it with information about the Study by, among other means: issuing news releases, backgrounders and updates as appropriate; responding to media inquiries and correspondence from the public; and establishing and promoting a Study information portal on the Commission's web site.
- Invite comments from the public on specific or general issues associated with the Study, and providing opportunities for the public to express its views by, among other means: publicizing a mailing address for correspondence and submissions; establishing and promoting the use of a dedicated e-mail address; hosting a web-based dialogue; and conducting consultation meetings, as appropriate.
- Engage representatives of the public in the Study on an ongoing basis through the Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG), established by the Commission in consultation with the Study Board, to advise on the Study Board's public participation activities set out in the PIAG Terms of Reference.

The Study Board is responsible for developing and implementing the public participation program with input from PIAG and the Co-senior Communications Advisers. The Co-senior Communications Advisors will liaise with the Commission's Public Information Advisers in Ottawa, Washington and Windsor for advice, support and coordination, as appropriate. The Co-senior Communication Advisors will also liaise with the PIAG in designing and implementing the communications plan.

In order to inform and provide context for the technical investigations associated with the Study, the public will be consulted at the beginning of the Study to help identify the:

- Principal issues, questions and Study objectives.
- Available knowledge in the form of historical data, anecdotal information, traditional wisdom.
- Existing or future plans, activities and initiatives that could potentially be affected by levels and flows.

Public participation activities will be conducted at strategic junctures throughout the Study to:

- Identify and utilize local expertise and information.
- Consult on critical or potentially controversial study findings before these Study components have been finalized.

- Disseminate plain language information to enhance public understanding of the causes of problems related to fluctuating water levels and of the consequences of proposed solutions.
- Enhance public understanding of proposed regulation strategies on downstream and upstream water levels.
- Identify the public's priorities and preferences as alternatives are defined and optimized.
- Consult on Study Board findings, conclusions and recommendations before they are final.

To encourage public participation, some meetings of the Study Board and the PIAG may be open to the public, announced in advance and held at different locations across the basin in order to provide opportunities for members of the public to attend and observe.

During the Study, the Commission may conduct its own public participation activities related to:

- The review of the Orders of Approval for outflows from Lake Superior, including regulation strategies and the operation of structures controlling the outflow.
- The results of the examination of physical processes, possible ongoing St. Clair River changes in the St. Clair River and potential remedial action, and their impacts on the levels of Lakes Michigan and Huron.

Reports and other documentation intended for the public will be made available in English and French.

3.4 Coordination

Public participation activities under the Study should be coordinated with those of the International Lake Superior Board of Control, the International Niagara River Board of Control, the Remedial Action Plans and the Lakewide Management Plans in order to avoid confusion and better inform the public.

Information and findings generated by the Study should be made available to the International Lake Superior Board of Control and the International Niagara River Board of Control as they become available, but the mandate of these Boards will remain unchanged unless amended by the Commission.

Approved February 7, 2007.

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Appendix 4 Results and Interpretation of Public Meeting Response Forms

Overview

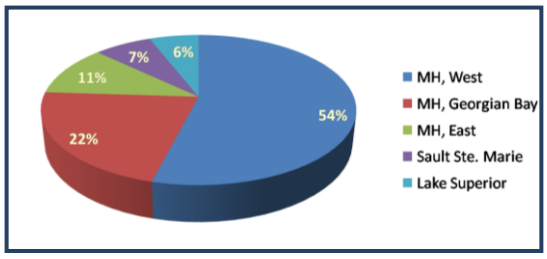
Response forms were made available at each of the 17 public meetings held by the IUGLS Study Board in May – July 2009. Attendees were asked to fill in the response forms (Attachment #1) and return to a Study representative at the meeting or return by mail (note: all of the surveys returned were done so in person at the meetings; none was returned by mail). Questions on the response forms covered topics including: meeting logistics, presentation of information, and personal satisfaction and degree of confidence with the Study. While the respondents to this survey do not represent a random sample of the Great Lakes population, the results of the survey do offer valuable insight in evaluating the progress of the Study thus far and will help guide future outreach and consultation activities. In the future, it may be useful to conduct a scientifically valid survey for additional guidance on these issues.

Rate of Return

Approximately 400 people attended the 17 public meetings and 129 response forms were returned. The rate of return, 32%, could have been influenced by several conditions including the placement in the room, staff availability, and verbal directions provided by the meeting hosts and Study representatives. The response forms, sign-in sheets, fact sheets, and other information were also available at tables positioned near the entrance to the room so that attendees had to pass by before entering the meeting. At several of the meetings, a member of the Study staffed the table and verbally directed attendees to the response forms. At the majority of the meetings, however, extra personnel were not available to continuously staff the table. After the first round of meetings (seven locations), a tent card that read, "YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Please fill out and return this response form to help guide future Study efforts," was placed near the response forms. At all of the meetings, the host of the meeting directed attendees to the response forms at the beginning of the meeting during the welcome address and also at the conclusion of the meeting during the closing remarks.

Participant Profile

Location. The 17 meeting sites throughout the Great Lakes basin were categorized into five regions: Michigan-Huron West, Michigan-Huron East, Michigan-Huron Georgian Bay, Lake Superior, and Sault Ste. Marie[11]. More than half (54% = 70 respondents) of the returned response forms were completed by attendees at meetings held on the western side of Lake Michigan-Huron. Attendees from the meetings held in Georgian Bay



[11] **Michigan-Huron West**: Evanston, IL; Fish Creek, WI; Mequon, WI; Muskegon, MI; and, Traverse City, MI. **Michigan-Huron East**: Bay City, MI; Grosse Pointe Farms, MI; and, Sarnia, ON. **Michigan-Huron Georgian Bay:** Midland, ON; Parry Sound, ON; Owen Sound, ON; Little Current, ON; and, Town of the Blue Mountains. **Lake Superior:** Superior, WI and Thunder Bay, ON. *Note:* No response forms were completed by attendees at the Cleveland meeting.

returned 22% (28 respondents) of the surveys while those who attended meetings on the eastern shores of Lake Michigan-Huron completed 11% (14 respondents) of the surveys. Attendees in Sault Ste. Marie returned 7% (9 respondents) of the surveys and the remaining 6% (8 respondents) were completed by attendees at meetings held on Lake Superior.

Respondents from Canadian meeting sites made up 40% of the respondents while 60% were from the meetings held in the United States. The slightly higher response from attendees on the U.S. side is not entirely unexpected as nine of the meetings were in the U.S. while eight were in Canada. The meeting held in Fish Creek, WI had the highest number of attendees (~90) followed by the Midland, ON meeting (~75 attendees). The lower response rate in certain regions of the basin is likely due to the number of meetings (for example, the Lake Superior category includes two meetings sites while the MH, West category includes five meetings sites) as well as the factors discussed above (see Rate of Return).

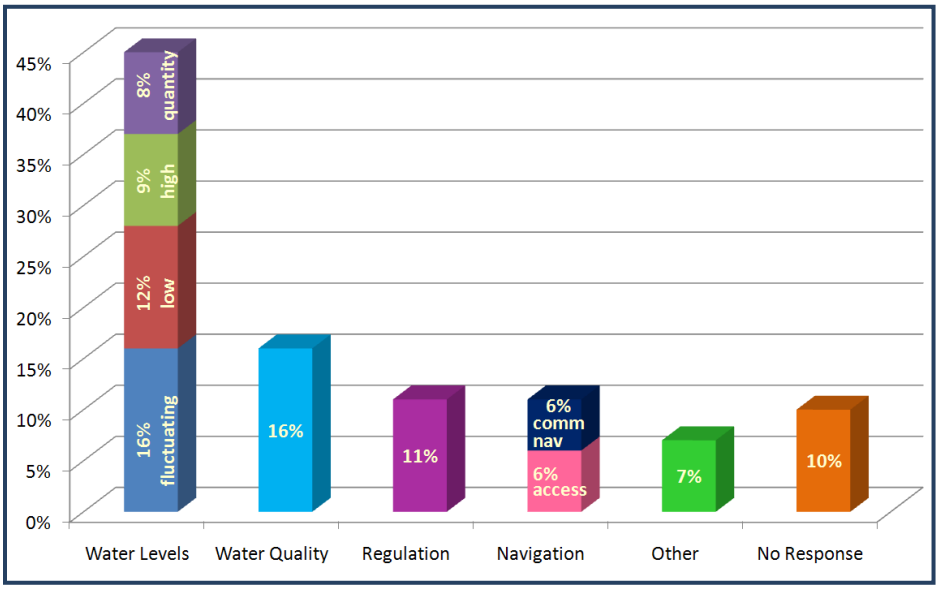
Perspective. Respondents were asked to identify their perspective by checking all categories that applied to their situation: Boater (30%), Marina Owner (6%), Coastal resident (53%), Municipal/Industrial (6%), Navigation (9%), Environment (30%), and other (9%). 36% of respondents selected more than one category while 29% of respondents did not select any of the categories.

Clearly, the majority of the attendees at the public meetings were people who live on the lakeshore. This is likely due, at least in part, to the fact that all of the meetings were held in coastal cities. In the future, it may be useful to experiment with holding a public meeting at an inland location. While those who live on the lakeshore are certainly a target audience for the Study, many people that rely on the Great Lakes for employment, recreation, and aesthetic enjoyment are not coastal residents.

Reason for attending. Participants were asked to provide their primary reason for attending the IUGLS public meeting. Responses to this question were quite varied; however, it was clear that while most attendees were concerned about the lakes and water levels, the extreme alarm exhibited at meetings when water levels were near record lows was not expressed at meetings this summer. Participants primarily stated they were at the public meeting for general information (31%), because they were concerned about the status of water levels and the well-being of the lakes (22%), or because they were interested in the findings and recommendations of the Study (7%). In addition, 18% of participants stated they were either lakeshore residents or professionals in a business that relied on the lake levels and a healthy system (e.g. marina owners/operators). Finally, a number of participants (10%) were in attendance in their professional capacity while 12% of participants did not respond to this question.

Primary issues of concern. The primary issues that participants expressed concern about on the survey when asked "What issue concerns you most regarding water levels in the Great Lakes," were fluctuating levels (16%), extreme low (12%) and high (9%) water levels, and water quantity issues (8%; e.g. diversions). Comments addressing water quality issues, including environmental concerns such as productive fisheries and healthy wetlands, pollution, and the use of Great Lakes water as a source of drinking water comprised 16% of the comments received. Concerns about navigation were paramount

according to 12% of participants; 6% expressed concern about the impacts that commercial navigation and dredging have on the Great Lakes while 6% stated boat access to their residence, beach or favorite fishing spot was a primary concern. Comments regarding the regulation of water levels, primarily against human intervention, were expressed as the primary issue of concern by 11% of participants while 7% of participants stated other reasons and 10% did not respond.



Meeting Evaluation

Advertisement of Public Meetings. Significant outreach efforts preceded each public meeting. Local newspapers were contacted and provided with a one-page flyer that provided background on the Study, outlined the objectives of the meeting, and identified the date, time and location of the meeting(s) to be held in the area. In most cases, a request to include this information in a calendar of events (or comparable notice) was positively received. In some cases, particularly on the advice of PIAG members, advertisement space was purchased and an ad was developed to announce the meeting (see ad on right, published in the Bruce Peninsula Press). Other daily and weekly print media, such as community bulletins and local club newsletters, were also contacted for each area. Information about all of the public meetings was also publicized on the Study website and reminders were posted prior to each round of meetings on the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN). Further, a number of PIAG members sent, or asked the Study to send, personalized invitations to various concerned constituents in their area. For example, hundreds of personalized invites were sent out for the Thunder Bay, ON, Muskegon, MI, and Fish Creek, WI meetings. Radio and television stations were also contacted in each area. While we do not have documentation of television coverage resulting from the Study's outreach efforts, a number of radio stations did report on the Study and the public meetings, and in several cases, an interview with a Study representative was arranged.

International Upper Great Lakes Study

Notice Of Public Meeting

A draft report released by the International Upper Great Lakes Study (IUGLS) has determined that erosion of the St. Clair River is not ongoing and recommended that "remedial measures not be undertaken at this time."

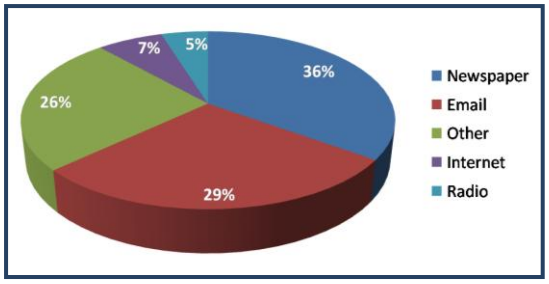
After an exhaustive effort to collect and verify historical data, conduct new research and analyze results, three key factors were identified as contributing to the decline:

- A change in the conveyance of the St. Clair River (deepening of the river bed) accounts for about 10 to 12 cm (3.9 to 4.7 in); a relatively dramatic and rapid change in conveyance appears to have occurred in the mid-1980s, possibly resulting from a single event, such as a major ice jam. This change in conveyance resulted in a temporary increase in flows, which returned to pre-change conditions by the end of the decade.
- Changes in climatic patterns (less water being supplied to Lake Michigan-Huron and Lake Superior) account for about 9 to 27 cm (3.5 to 10.6 in); this factor has become even more important in recent years, accounting for an estimated 75 percent of the decline between 1996 and 2005.
- Glacial isostatic adjustment (the rebounding of the earth's crust after the retreat of the glaciers) accounts for about 4 cm (about 1.6 in), but varies greatly throughout the basin. For example, this effect is much larger (11 cm or 4.3 in) in Parry Sound on Georgian Bay with respect to the outlet at Lakeport, Michigan, where it is negligible.

A concise summary report is available at www.iugls.org

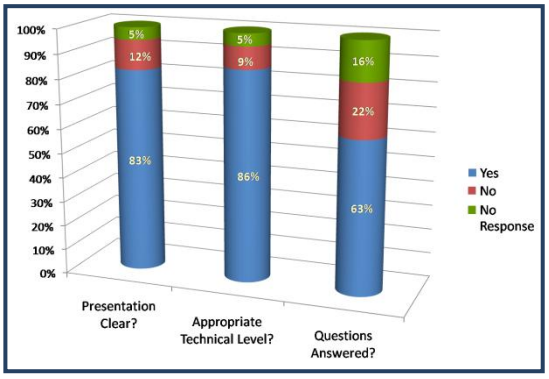
The Study Board will be providing in-depth briefings and receiving comments at fourteen public meetings throughout the upper Great Lakes basin in May and June. Comments can also be provided via the Study website sited above. The schedule for the public meeting is:

Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands
Recreation Centre
9001 Hwy. 6 South
Little Current, Ontario
7:00 – 9:00 pm



Attendees were asked how they found out about the public meeting they had attended and were given the following options: email, newspaper, radio, TV, Internet, other. Newspapers (36%) and email (29%; e.g. notices sent through GLIN) were the primary methods for informing members of the public about the meetings. The Internet was the source of information for 7% of respondents (e.g. the Study website) while 5% heard about the public meeting on the radio. Multiple answers were provided by 7% of respondents indicating they had heard of the public meeting through several avenues while 5% did not answer.

This information will be useful in refining the Study's outreach plan to ensure an effective and cost efficient strategy is employed prior to future public meetings. For example, half of the participants from the Thunder Bay, Ontario, meeting stated they learned of the meeting from the newspaper, which indicates that the ad space purchased by the Study was an effective communication tool and good use of funds. Clearly, newspapers – both ad space and local calendars of events – are still an important means of communicating with the public. Electronic communication, via email and the internet, are also effective means of reaching out to the public; in the near future, the Study will invest additional effort to examine the potential of using other social marketing tools, such as a blog-style web page, a Facebook page, web-based video, and other steps designed to build an online, interactive community interested in Great Lakes water levels.



Presentation. Participants were asked a series of questions regarding the presentation delivered by the Study Co-Chairs at the public meetings and were asked to answer each by checking either "yes" or "no." The first question was, "Was the presentation clear?" to which 83% answered yes, 12% answered no and 5% did not respond. Participants were then asked, "Was the presentation at an appropriate technical level?" In response to this question, 86% answered yes, 9% answered no and 5% did not respond. The last question in the series was, "Were your questions answered?" In response, 63% of participants said "yes" while 22% said "no" and 16% did not respond.

Participants were then provided with space to write in any "…recommendations on improving the presentation or suggestions regarding items that should be included or removed." While responses to this question were quite diverse, 17% of participants indicated improvements could be made concerning the meeting logistics such as more advertising of the meetings, improving the web-conferencing technology, and shortening the delivery of the presentation. It is important to note that most of the comments concerning the technology were submitted from attendees at the first round of public meetings. In addition, 10% of participants stated the presentation could have been improved by providing more information on certain aspects of the Study and the process undertaken by the Study Board. These comments addressed issues such as the peer review process and release of reports, 3-D modeling and the presentation of the Study Board's recommendations at the end of the presentation. Comments that the presentation was too technical were submitted by 9% of participants while 7%

stated they were pleased with the presentation and did not have any suggestions for improving the presentation of information. Finally, 57% of participants said "no comment" or did not provide a response.

Key message. Responses to the question "What is the most important message from this public meeting that you will take with you" were highly variable with no one message dominating. Grouping similar responses revealed that 14% of participants provided comments that addressed the future direction and research needs of the Study and the lakes in general. As all of the secondary recommendations of the Study addressed future studies and research, this was one of the key messages intended by the presentation. Not surprisingly, 13% of participants offered comments concerning the public involvement aspect of the Study stating it was both appreciated and a critical component of the process. The comprehensiveness of the Study was the key message according to 13% of participants; these comments primarily focused on the positive implications of the extent of research, qualifications of the researchers involved, and the quality of science and review that is being conducted. Identification of natural processes, including the increasing role of climate change, as the leading factors affecting lake levels was the key message identified by 11% of participants. Frustration and dissatisfaction with the process undertaken by the Study and with the resulting recommendations not to remediate at this time was expressed by 10% of the participants. The key message taken from the public meeting for 9% of the participants was that the water level issue was very complex and that there are a number of affected interests that must be taken into account. Finally, 4% provided other responses while 26% did not provide a response to this question.

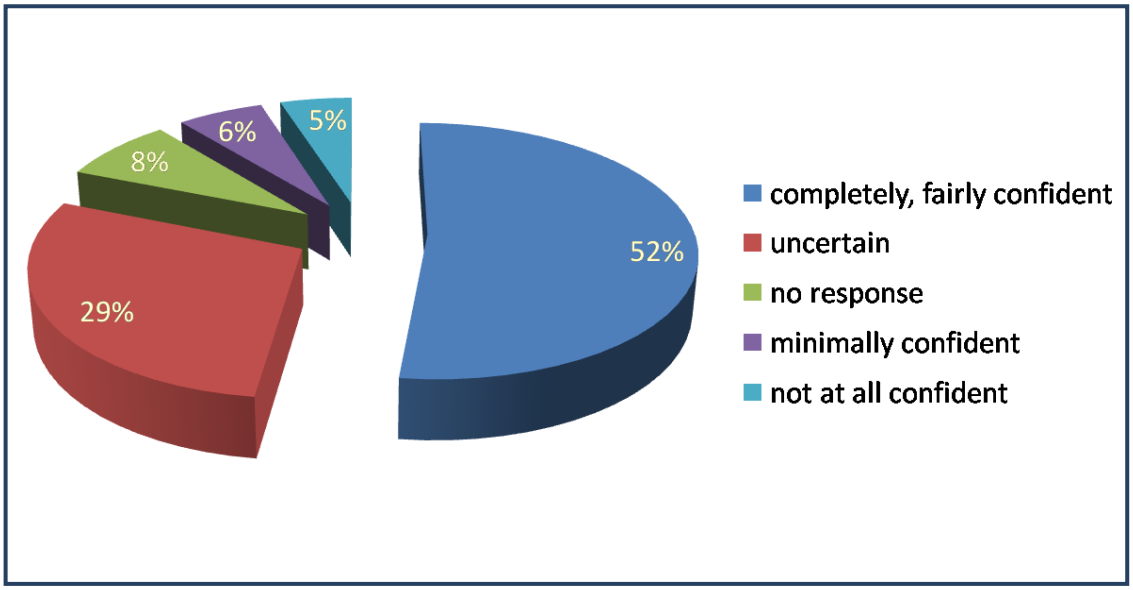
Study Assessment

The two objectives of the Study[12] were included on the response form for participants' information. They were then asked, "Based on this meeting, how confident are you that the Study objectives will be achieved?" Participants were asked to rate their degree of confidence by selecting one of the following options: completely confident, fairly confident, uncertain, minimally confident, and not at all confident. A majority (52%) of participants stated they were either completely (14%) or fairly (38%) confident that the objectives would be achieved. Reflecting the complexity of the science, 29% stated they were uncertain. On the other end of the satisfaction scale, 6% of participants were minimally confident while 5% stated they were not at all confident that the objectives would be achieved. No response was received from 8% of participants.

Following the confidence levels ranking question, participants were asked to write in what factors influenced their level of confidence.

[12] 1. Examine physical processes and possible ongoing changes in the St. Clair River and their impacts on levels of Lake Michigan-Huron and, if applicable, evaluate and recommend potential remedial options.

2. Review the regulation of Lake Superior outflows and assess the need for changes to address the evolving needs of and conditions affecting the interests of the upper Great Lakes.



Completely, fairly confident (52% = 67 respondents). Of the participants who stated they were completely or fairly confident that the objectives of the study would be achieved, 33% (22 respondents) cited the quality of the science and researchers as well as the peer review process as factors that influenced their level of confidence. The clarity of the presentation and the information provided during the meeting was the primary factor for 13% of participants (9 respondents) in this category while 3% (2 respondents) said the broad scope of the Study contributed to their level of confidence. Other factors (e.g. political will) were important to 6% (4 respondents) while 45% (30 respondents) provided no response to this follow up question.

Uncertain (29% = 37 respondents). Participants that expressed uncertainty when asked to rank their degree of confidence that the Study objectives would be achieved cited questions and concerns with the science (11% = 4 respondents), the complexity of the issue including the multiple interests involved (11% = 4 respondents) and a need for more information and follow-up to the presentation (8% = 3 respondents) as being the influential factors contributing to their uncertainty. Additionally, 5% of participants stated the role of the governments in the Study (5% = 2 respondents) and the overall Study process (3% = 1 respondents) as influencing their uncertainty. No response was received from 62% (23 respondents) of respondents in this category.

Minimally confident (6% = 8 respondents). Overwhelmingly, the majority of participants (63% = 5 respondents) that stated they were minimally confident that the objectives of the Study would be achieved due to the scope of the Study and the role of the governments in directing the Study. Written comments included statements that the scope of the Study is too narrow and the government mandate to the Study Board is too limited. The manner in which the information was presented influenced the minimal level of confidence. No response was received from 25% of participants (2 respondents) in this group.

Not at all confident (5% = 7 respondents). Of the participants who stated they were not all confident that the Study objectives would be achieved, 42% (3 respondents) stated this was because they did not agree with, or were frustrated by, the findings and recommendations of the Study. The process undertaken by the study, including the incomplete status of the peer review and ongoing research was

cited by 29% (2 respondents) of participants. No response was received from 28% (2 respondents) of participants in this category.

Summary and Conclusions

- Responders were largely lakeshore residents with a slight tilt to Lake Michigan-Huron West residents.
- Responders had diverse reasons for attending, based largely on a general interest in and concern for the Great Lakes.
- Both high and low levels were a concern among respondents, but so were many other issues, including water quality.
- Extensive public outreach effectively informed meeting participants; responses will help guide and improve effectiveness of future outreach efforts.
- There was general satisfaction among respondents with the clarity and technical nature of the presentation.
- Key messages the respondents took from the meetings were diverse and reflected the findings and recommendations of the draft report.
- Confidence in the Study's ability to achieve its basic objectives was high though a significant amount of uncertainty among respondents was recorded.

Appendix 4 Attachment #1
IUGLS Public Meeting Response Form

Study Objectives

1. Examine physical processes and possible ongoing changes in the St. Clair River and their impacts on levels of Lake Michigan-Huron and, if applicable, evaluate and recommend potential remedial options.
2. Review the regulation of Lake Superior outflows and assess the need for changes to address the evolving needs of and conditions affecting the interests of the upper Great Lakes.

Participant Profile

1. How did you find out about this meeting? ☐ email ☐ newspaper ☐ radio ☐ TV ☐ Internet ☐ other_____
2. What was your primary reason for attending?

3. What issue concerns you most regarding water levels in the Great Lakes?

Meeting Evaluation

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4. Was the presentation clear? ☐Yes ☐ No
5. Was the presentation at an appropriate technical level? ☐Yes ☐ No
6. Were your questions answered? ☐Yes ☐ No
7. Do you have any recommendations on improving the presentation or suggestions regarding items that should be included or removed?

8. Based on this meeting, how confident are you that the study *objectives* (see above) will be achieved?
   ☐ Completely confident ☐ Fairly confident ☐ Uncertain ☐ Minimally confident ☐ Not at all confident
   What factors influenced your level of *confidence*?

9. What is the most important message from this Public Meeting that you will take with you?

Going Forward

As noted in the second objective, the Study is examining whether the regulation plan for Lake Superior outflows might be improved, with a final report expected early in 2012. To model and evaluate potential plans, Study scientists need public input regarding your ideal range of water levels. The host at the meeting will provide the lake level information needed to help you answer the following question.

The long term mean lake level for this time of year in your area is _____. The current lake level is _____ Based on your experience with the lakes, what would be an ideal lake level or range of lake levels in your area? _____
Please indicate your perspective (check all that apply).
☐ Boater ☐ Marina Owner ☐Coastal resident ☐ Municipal/Industrial ☐Navigation ☐ Environment ☐ other _____

Please, provide any other comments on the reverse side of this survey, including the implications of water levels outside the range you noted.

Appendix 5 PIAG Participation at Public Events

5.1 IUGLS Public Meetings

DATE	LOCATION	PIAG HOST(s)
December 12, 2007	Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario	
February 18, 2008	Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan	Kay Felt
February 19, 2008	Detroit, Michigan	Kay Felt
February 21, 2008	Point Edward, Ontario	James Bruce
April 28, 2008	Bay City, MI	David Powers
April 29, 2008	Port Huron, MI	Kay Felt
May 3, 2008	Muskegon, MI	Alan Steinman
June 16, 2008	Duluth, MN	Jeff Vito
June 17, 2008	Thunder Bay, Ontario	William Hryb
June 19, 2008	Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin	Dan Thomas
June 20, 2008	Mequon, Wisconsin	Dan Thomas
August 9, 2008	Little Current, Ontario	Doug Cuddy
August 9, 2008	Parry Sound, Ontario	Mary Muter
August 10, 2008	Midland, Ontario	Ken Higgs
August 12, 2008	Collingwood, Ontario	Ken Higgs
August 12, 2008	Owen Sound, Ontario	Dick Hibma
November 19, 2008	Oregon, Ohio	Kate Bartter
May 19, 2009	Sarnia, Ontario	James Bruce and John Jackson
May 19, 2009	Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan	Kay Felt
May 19, 2009	Owen Sound, Ontario	Dick Hibma
May 20, 2009	Cleveland, Ohio	Kate Bartter and James Weakley
May 20, 2009	Little Current, Ontario	Doug Cuddy
May 20, 2009	Evanston, Illinois	Dan Thomas
May 20, 2009	Thunder Bay, Ontario	William Hryb
June 9, 2009	Muskegon, Michigan	Roger Smithe and Alan Steinman

June 9, 2009	Parry Sound, Ontario	Jim Anderson and Mary Muter
June 9, 2009	Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario	Doug Cuddy and Don Marles
June 11, 2009	Midland, Ontario	Kenneth Higgs and Mary Muter
June 11, 2009	Traverse City, Michigan	David Irish
June 11, 2009	Superior, Wisconsin	Jeffrey Vito
June 11, 2009	Bay City, Michigan	David Powers
July 7, 2009	Fish Creek, Wisconsin	Dan Thomas
July 8, 2009	Town of the Blue Mountains	James Bruce
July 8, 2009	Mequon, Wisconsin	Dan Thomas

5.2 Other Events

PIAG MEMBER	DATE	FORMAT	LOCATION	ATTENDEES	FORUM	DESCRIPTION
Dick Hibma	Spring 2008	Presentation	Walkerton	8 county councilors + staff	Bruce County Council meeting	
Dick Hibma	May 2008	Presentation	Port Elgin	~150 people	Lake Huron Center for Coastal Conservation Biannual Conference	
Dick Hibma	Summer 2008	Presentation	Owen Sound	~60 people	Silver C's	senior's/service club - linked to Kiwanis Club
Dick Hibma	November 2008	Presentation	Town of the Blue Mtns	~50 people	Grey Bruce Community Foundation Environmental Forum	Workshop format
Dick Hibma	October 24, 2009	Presentation	Port Elgin	~40 people	Grey Bruce Community Foundation Environmental Forum: Go Green at Saugeen	Linking preliminary findings and conclusions to climate change and local impacts and implications for Lake Huron.

Dick Hibma	Periodically (2-3 times per year)	Presentation		~60 people	Conservation Ontario Council Meetings	
Dick Hibma	Periodically (3-4 times per year)	Presentation		8 directors	Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board Meetings	
Jeff Vito	October 8, 2009	Presentation	Superior, MN		Citizens Advisory Panel, Superior Murphy Oil USA	
Alan Steinman	April 2008	Presentation	Muskegon, MI		Muskegon Rotary	
Alan Steinman	April 2008	Presentation	Grand Rapids, MI		Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, Regional Issues Council	
Alan Steinman	April 2008	Presentation	Muskegon, MI		First Presbyterian Church	
Alan Steinman	August 2008	Presentation	Montague, MI		Dirt Dauber Garden Club	
Alan Steinman	September 2008	Presentation	Spring Lake, MI		Christ Community Church	
Alan Steinman	October 2008	Presentation			Mona Shores High School	
Alan Steinman	November 17, 2008	Podcast	Muskegon, MI		Inside Muskegon Podcast Program	http://www.insidemuskegon.com/podcast/inside_muskegon_122.mp3
Alan Steinman	April 2008	Column	Muskegon, MI		MiBiz – News One, Inc.	http://www.mibiz.com/pdfs/quarterlies/Labwork5-28-08.pdf
Alan Steinman	April 2008	Presentation	Muskegon, MI		Muskegon Rotary	

Alan Steinman	June 15, 2008	Newspaper Interview	Muskegon, MI		Muskegon Chronicle	http://blog.mlive.com/chronicle/2008/07/big_lake_level_jumps_in_june.html
Alan Steinman	May 20, 2009	Presentation	Grand Rapids, MI		57th Annual Meeting of the North American Benthological Society	Title: Managing Water Levels in the upper Great Lakes; Gene Stakhiv co-author
Alan Steinman	November 18, 2009	Presentation	Allendale, MI		Grand Valley State University's Fall Science Update	
Jim Anderson	August 15, 2009	Briefing			Ducks Unlimited	Conservation planning/senior management/government relations
Mary Muter		Briefing	St. Clair River		Journalism Workshop aboard the Pride of Michigan	
Mary Muter		Briefing			Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline	Attendees included property owners associations
Mary Muter		Radio Interview	Collingwood, ON			
Mary Muter		Presentation	New York, New York		Waterkeepers Alliance Annual Conference	
Mary Muter		Presentation	Georgian Bay		Cognashene Association	Georgian Bay Environment Day
Mary Muter		Presentation	Georgian Bay		Wah Wah Taysee Association Annual Meeting	

Mary Muter		Briefing			Collingwood Probus Club	
James Bruce	February 20, 2008	Television Interview	Grosse Pointe, MI		Great Lakes Log, WMTV5	Joint interview with Eugene Stakhiv
James Bruce	February 21, 2008	Presentation	Sarnia, ON		Conservation Authority	
James Bruce	May 21, 2008	Presentation	Peterborough, ON		International Association of Great Lakes Research	
James Bruce	September 19, 2008	Presentation	Cambridge, ON		Grand River Water Forum	
James Bruce	January 26, 2009	Presentation	Toronto, ON		Conference Board	
James Bruce	July 23, 2009	Presentation	Ottawa, ON		International Development Research Corp. and Canadian Red Cross	
James Bruce	October 10, 2009	Panelist	Madison, WI		Conference of Environmental Journalists	
Kenneth Higgs	June 4, 2009	Presentation	Midland, ON	~90 people	Midland Probus Club	Topic: The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin-- History of water levels and the St. Clair River Report
Kenneth Higgs		Briefings	Various		Marinas located around Georgian Bay	
Kenneth Higgs		Briefing			Mayor of Georgian Bay Township	Two briefings provided to date
Donald L. Marles	September 17, 2009	Presentation	Sault Ste. Marie, ON	20 people	St. Marys River BPAC	
Doug Cuddy	April 5, 2008	Presentation	Spanish, ON	30 people, including local provincial and federal elected officials	North Channel Marine Tourism council	AGM of council, primarily marina operators and/or managers from the North Channel of Lake Huron

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Appendix 6 Communication Products

6.1 Distribution of the Draft Report and Related Information

Prior to the commencement of the public review and comment phase, the Study Board made available on its website a number of important documents to help interested individuals and organizations access information regarding the objectives, scope, approach and preliminary findings and recommendations of the Study:

- **Volume 1** of the St. Clair River report, which provides comprehensive information on: the objectives and organization of the Study; background on factors affecting water levels in the upper Great Lakes; key analyses and findings; integration of Study results and conclusions; and Study recommendations. *Released: May 1st, 2009.*

- **Volume 2**, a compendium of summaries of the 47 applied research and related projects commissioned by the Study during preparation of the St. Clair River report. The project summaries allowed interested readers to learn more about the methodologies and findings that form the scientific foundation of the Study. *Released: May 15th*.

- A **Summary Report**, in both English and French, summarizing the St. Clair River report in less technical language for a general audience. *Released: May 1st (French version: May 15th*). Members of PIAG provided extensive comments and suggestions that were incorporated in this report.

- Extensive background reports and planning documents on the Study, including a powerpoint presentation on the draft report, as well as the Study's 2007 **Strategic Framework and Work Plan.**

Following peer review and completion of other technical reviews by the Study Board, the full reports of all of the Study's research projects were made available on the Study's website and revised as necessary based on the comments of peer reviewers.

6.2 Study Newsletter

Four editions of the Study's newsletter, On the Level, have been published to date:

- 04/2008: Volume One, Number One
- 07/ 2008: Volume One, Number Two
- 03/2009: Volume One, Number Three
- 05/2009: Volume One, Number Four

Copies of each edition have been widely distributed over the course of the St. Clair River part of the Study. The newsletter has been provided to libraries, posted online, and distributed to attendees at public meetings and at other Great Lakes events such as Lake Superior Day in Duluth, Minnesota.

6.3 Fact Sheets

Five fact sheets have been produced and distributed to attendees at public meetings and other events. Each fact sheet provides a brief overview of a critical element(s) of the International Upper Great Lakes Study.

- Fact Sheet #1: Study Overview
- Fact Sheet #2: The Role of the Study Board
- Fact Sheet #3: Public Interest Advisory Group
- Fact Sheet #4: Lake Level Fluctuations: Causes and Implications
- Fact Sheet #5: The Review Process

6.4 Press Releases

Press releases are produced periodically to announce important information related to the Study. Oftentimes these announcements center on achievement of a milestone, such as the release of a key report, or to inform the public of important changes to the timeline as outlined in the Plan of Study.

- December 11, 2007: Commission and Study Board Official to Share Nobel Prize for Seminal Role with Climate Change Panel
- November 20, 2007: MP's Briefed on Status of International Upper Great Lakes Study
- November 12, 2007: U.S. Congress Briefed on Status of International Upper Great Lakes Study
- November 1, 2007: International Upper Great Lakes Study Releases Progress Report: Work on St. Clair River Well Under Way
- August 24, 2007: Response letter Editors of the various newspaper articles
- August 2, 2007: International Upper Great Lakes Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG) begins its work
- December 19, 2008: Study Board Announces Revised Schedule for Release of St. Clair River Report
- May 1, 2009: Impacts on Upper Great Lakes Water Levels: St. Clair River
- September 23, 2009: International Upper Great Lakes Study Announces Release Date for Report on St. Clair River

6.5 Study Website

The Study Board developed and maintained a website [www.iugls.org] to disseminate information related to the implementation of the Plan of Study, and to encourage public discussion. The website provides a list of, and contact information for, each member of the Study Board and the Public Interest Advisory Group. In addition, all of the Study's communication products as well as reports, presentations and meeting minutes prepared by the Study Board are available. Further, video recordings of the draft report public meetings can also be downloaded from the website.