

LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

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A Little Something for Everyone

Start of Upper Lakes Study Announced

The International Joint Commission of Canada and the United States (IJC) has announced that it is starting a major study of the upper Great Lakes. The study area includes lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and Erie, their interconnecting channels (the St. Marys, St. Clair and Detroit rivers) and the section of the Niagara River above Niagara Falls.

The IJC will draw on the results of the study, for which it has now received letters of support from the Governments of Canada and the United States, to determine whether the regulation of Lake

Superior outflows can be improved to address the evolving needs of the upper Great Lakes. The IJC will also determine whether it needs to update its Order of Approval governing Lake Superior outflow regulation in order to do so.

Major topics for investigation include determining the factors that affect water levels and flows, developing and testing the performance of potential new regulation plans and assessing the impacts of these potential plans on the ecosystem and human interests. Physical changes in the St. Clair River will be investigated early in the study as one possible factor that might be affecting water levels

and flows. Depending on the nature and extent of the physical changes, and their potential impact on water levels and flows, the study may also explore potential remediation options.

The IJC will now appoint a bi-national study board and public advisory group, and work with the Governments of the United States and Canada to put their funding mechanisms and other needed resources in place. The study is expected to take five years to complete and cost \$17.5 million.

For additional information please visit the Upper Lake Study's Web site at: www.ijc.org/upperlakes

Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	May 2006 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning of June 2006 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2005)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2005)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	14 cm below	7 cm below	13 cm below	5 cm below
Michigan-Huron	42 cm below	10 cm below	40 cm below	6 cm below
St. Clair	20 cm below	15 cm below	16 cm below	9 cm below
Erie	10 cm below	21 cm below	6 cm below	11 cm below
Ontario	17 cm below	27 cm below	17 cm below	17 cm below



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Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence Study Report Released

The International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study Board has released the final report for its comprehensive five-year study to assess and evaluate the current criteria used for regulating water levels on Lake Ontario and in the St. Lawrence River. Copies of the report can be found on the Study Board's Web site at www.losl.org/

...and Finally

The IJC's International St. Lawrence River Board of Control (the Board) would like to invite you to attend their annual meeting with the public on **Tuesday, June 20, 2006**. The evening event is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Municipal Building, 110 Walton Street, in Alexandria Bay, New York.

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Editor, Chuck Southam

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May Precipitation over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term May average:

Great Lakes Basin	135%	Lake Erie	128%
Lake Superior	143%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	144%	Lake Ontario	88%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information on the role and mandate of the Board with respect to the regulation of Lake Ontario outflows, and to discuss the impact of the Board's activities on residents around Lake Ontario and along the St. Lawrence River.

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Meeting Format

7:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

A member of the Board will provide information on the role, mandate and operations of the Board. The current and projected conditions on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River will be described, as will the Board's regulation strategy to deal with them.

7:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

The Board will hear and respond to comments and concerns from those in attendance.

RSVP

In order to facilitate logistical arrangements, please RSVP to one of the secretaries below as soon as possible.

May Outflows from the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term May average:

Lake Superior	91%	Lake Erie	94%
Lake Huron	89%	Lake Ontario	93%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary