

SOUTH BAY MARINA
Thousand Island Park, NY

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July 16, 2006

**International Joint Commission
U.S. Section
12050 23rd Street NW, Suite 100
Washington, D.C. 20440**

**International Joint Commission

ACTION: FB
INFORMATION: LB, JC, RT, CMRS
FILE:**

Dear Commissioners:

This is to support the adoption of Plan B+ as the new plan of control of the water levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

The letter is prompted now by reports of an organized letter-writing effort by interests that fear that any of the three proposed plans would cause periodic, destructively higher water levels on Lake Ontario and elsewhere and who argue that the trade-offs to improve the ecology of the river are based on "bad science," and not worth the risk.

My concern is that the Commission might decide to change nothing and continue in substance with the way things have been done. That would be a terrible disappointment to those like me who have spent many decades on the river and, in my case, run a small marina to provide dock space and who also care deeply about the environment.

First, I have attended every meeting I could and read the 'Final Report' carefully, all 146 pages, as well as the reviews or critiques from the Canadian and American organizations; and while the ecological studies might have been done better, I think the conclusions drawn were basically sound and present a good first start toward improved water-level regulation.

Continued study of the results with frequent reevaluations in the light of new data, a more flexible monitoring system and a willingness to change if new facts warrant it would be in order.

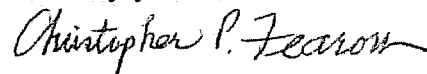
2.

Second, those who play down the ecological concerns are also trying to enlist boaters on the grounds that July and August water levels may be lower at times under Plan B+. Many of us who operate on the upper river believe water levels in mid summer will pose few or no problems. The benefits of extending the season through the end of October, on the other hand, are huge.

In strongly supporting plan B+, I must also request serious proposals to initiate compensation, remediation and support if some are in fact harmed by the negative trade-offs. If they must suffer for the greater good of the greater number what in their eyes are serious consequences of any of the proposed three plans, they should be guaranteed fair assistance. As one business man who can make more money if the season is extended, I am ready to contribute fairly to compensate anyone harmed sometimes by the regulations. Perhaps all parties should in some manner help build up an insurance fund, but further study of the best mechanism for fair assistance is clearly in order.

The Study Board, the Public Interest Advisory Group and all the citizens' groups like Save the River, The Thousand Islands Association, the International Water Level Coalition, PLAG and others have worked so hard and so long on the premise that the old Orders have not worked well enough, that it would be heartbreaking if the existing plan or one with little change were adopted. And what a waste of money! Plan B+ offers the best first step.

Sincerely yours,



Christopher P. Fearon
Owner, South Bay Marina