



IWLC
International Water Levels Coalition, Inc.
 An American & Canadian Association



Clayton, NY

Brockville, ON

July 25, 2006

International Joint Commission

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

International Joint Commission
 1250 23rd Street NW, Suite 100
 Washington, DC 20440

LAKE ONTARIO-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER STUDY COMMENTS

Three Canadians and three U.S. citizens founded the International Water Levels Coalition (IWLC) in 1999. The **Mission Statement** of this new organization was:

"To achieve and maintain water levels on the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario that are equitable for all affected interests."

The primary goal of the IWLC was to have the Orders of Approval of the International Joint Commission (IJC) amended to include recreational boating and the environment. The IWLC publicly advocated that any new plan should return the system to a more natural state and that any new plan must become a "living plan".

We recognized that before any significant changes could be made, an extensive in-depth study would be required. The IWLC lobbied very hard to initiate and to obtain initial funding for such a study. In December 2000 the Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Study was undertaken by the IJC.

The IWLC has remained active participating in and promoting this study to our members and to the general public. The IWLC currently has over eleven hundred members from twenty-eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces. We remain dedicated to our founding principles.

We have reviewed and analyzed the three resultant plans in great detail. While none of the plans presents a totally ideal solution, it is clear that Plan B⁺ best coincides with the objectives of the IWLC. Plan B⁺ provides relief to boaters' and marina owners' major complaint – the annual artificial draw-down of water levels in the late summer and fall, curtailing the boating season. Plan B⁺ also clearly meets our other objectives of restoring a more natural system and providing clear benefits to the environment. The IWLC urges the IJC to adopt Plan B⁺, along with the requisite well-defined adaptive management.

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By far the worst scenario would be the "do-nothing" option. The LOSL Study involved the dedicated effort of a great many people and the expenditure of \$20.7 million in public funds over the past five years. To acquiesce to political pressures and waste this valuable effort by remaining with the current outdated plan would represent an irresponsible abomination of the highest order and a betrayal of the public trust.

Sincerely,



Dalton P. Foster, President
International Water Levels Coalition

Endorsed by:
The Ontario Marina Operators Association (OMOA)
Boating Industry Association of Upstate NY (BIA)
Empire State Marine Trades Association (ESMTA)