The Boundary Waters Treaty covers the fresh rivers between Canada and the United States. It was signed in 1909 by the two federal governments and entered into force in 1910. The Treaty establishes rights and responsibilities for the joint management of transboundary rivers and lakes and provides a framework for resolving disputes that may arise concerning the equitable utilization of those waters.

In 1938, the IJC approved the construction and regulation of levels and flows. In 1941, the IJC issued an order of approval to the Columbia River apparatus and to the Columbia River Hydroelectric Project. The Board also supervises the annual report on the effects of the operation of the apparatus. As required by the Treaty, the Board provides advice to the IJC on the Chippewa-Grass Island Pool control structure of Lake Superior. The Boundary Waters Treaty Board maintains continual surveillance of water quality and water quantity in the basin, particularly as it relates to its responsibilities for air quality along the length of the boundary.

The International Lake of the Woods Board of Control and Pollution Board work closely with each other, and with local stakeholders, to help address ecosystem issues under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the Little St. Marys River water quality agreement, the Boundary Waters Treaty, Articles III and IX of the Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement, and the Boundary Waters Treaty, Articles III and IX of the 1991 Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement. The Board provides advice to the IJC on the boundary waters, and acting under the direction of the IJC. After receiving an order of approval, the Board also supervises the annual report on the effects of the operation of the Lake Superior outlet of Lake Erie.

The International Rainy Lake Board monitors the implementation of the Boundary Waters Treaty, Articles III and IX of the Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement, and the Boundary Waters Treaty, Articles III and IX of the 1991 Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement. The Board provides advice to the IJC on the boundary waters, and acting under the direction of the IJC. After receiving an order of approval, the Board also supervises the annual report on the effects of the operation of the Lake Superior outlet of Lake Erie.

The International Kootenay Lake Board was established to implement the Final Joint Study on the effects of control structures on fish and wildlife, and to maintain the relative height of Lake of the Woods at the Sault Ste. Marie outlet of Lake Superior. The International Kootenay Lake Board provides advice to the IJC on the boundary waters, and acting under the direction of the IJC. After receiving an order of approval, the Board also supervises the annual report on the effects of the operation of the Lake Superior outlet of Lake Erie.

The International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control and Pollution Board work closely with each other, and with local stakeholders, to help address ecosystem issues under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the Little St. Marys River water quality agreement, the Boundary Waters Treaty, Articles III and IX of the Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement, and the Boundary Waters Treaty, Articles III and IX of the 1991 Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement. The Board provides advice to the IJC on the boundary waters, and acting under the direction of the IJC. After receiving an order of approval, the Board also supervises the annual report on the effects of the operation of the Lake Superior outlet of Lake Erie.

The Boundary Waters Treaty Board supervises the discharge of water from Lake of the Woods at the Sault Ste. Marie outlet of Lake Superior. The Boundary Waters Treaty Board provides advice to the IJC on the boundary waters, and acting under the direction of the IJC. After receiving an order of approval, the Board also supervises the annual report on the effects of the operation of the Lake Superior outlet of Lake Erie.

The International St. Lawrence River Board monitors the implementation of the Boundary Waters Treaty, Articles III and IX of the Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement, and the Boundary Waters Treaty, Articles III and IX of the 1991 Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement. The Board provides advice to the IJC on the boundary waters, and acting under the direction of the IJC. After receiving an order of approval, the Board also supervises the annual report on the effects of the operation of the Lake Superior outlet of Lake Erie.

The International Columbia River Board monitors the implementation of the Boundary Waters Treaty, Articles III and IX of the Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement, and the Boundary Waters Treaty, Articles III and IX of the 1991 Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement. The Board provides advice to the IJC on the boundary waters, and acting under the direction of the IJC. After receiving an order of approval, the Board also supervises the annual report on the effects of the operation of the Lake Superior outlet of Lake Erie.

The International Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the Little St. Marys River water quality agreement, the Boundary Waters Treaty, Articles III and IX of the Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement, and the Boundary Waters Treaty, Articles III and IX of the 1991 Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement. The Board provides advice to the IJC on the boundary waters, and acting under the direction of the IJC. After receiving an order of approval, the Board also supervises the annual report on the effects of the operation of the Lake Superior outlet of Lake Erie.

The International Rainy Lake Board monitors the implementation of the Boundary Waters Treaty, Articles III and IX of the Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement, and the Boundary Waters Treaty, Articles III and IX of the 1991 Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement. The Board provides advice to the IJC on the boundary waters, and acting under the direction of the IJC. After receiving an order of approval, the Board also supervises the annual report on the effects of the operation of the Lake Superior outlet of Lake Erie.

The International Kootenay Lake Board was established to implement the Final Joint Study on the effects of control structures on fish and wildlife, and to maintain the relative height of Lake of the Woods at the Sault Ste. Marie outlet of Lake Superior. The International Kootenay Lake Board provides advice to the IJC on the boundary waters, and acting under the direction of the IJC. After receiving an order of approval, the Board also supervises the annual report on the effects of the operation of the Lake Superior outlet of Lake Erie.

The International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control and Pollution Board work closely with each other, and with local stakeholders, to help address ecosystem issues under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the Little St. Marys River water quality agreement, the Boundary Waters Treaty, Articles III and IX of the Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement, and the Boundary Waters Treaty, Articles III and IX of the 1991 Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement. The Board provides advice to the IJC on the boundary waters, and acting under the direction of the IJC. After receiving an order of approval, the Board also supervises the annual report on the effects of the operation of the Lake Superior outlet of Lake Erie.
Canada-United States
transboundary drainage basins

This map depicts the transboundary basins based on a preliminary, non-technical portrayal of land in the Canadian and U.S. national drainage areas. The names, using a 1002
scale transparency, are from the 1989 United States drainage
basins, from national surveys. Continental elevation data at 1:4,000,000 scale, and additional
land cover data have been superimposed on base layers.

Statistics for the Canada-United States boundary
Total length of boundary on land: 5,061 kilometres (3,145 miles)
Total length of boundary on water: 3,830 kilometres (2,380 miles)

Length of boundary from Atlantic to Pacific Oceans
• 6,416 kilometres (2,878 on land, 3,538 on water)
• 3,987 miles (4,631 on land, 2,199 on water)

Length of boundary from Pacific to Arctic Oceans
• 2,475 kilometres (2,183 on land, 292 on water)
• 1,538 miles (1,357 on land, 182 on water)