Meeting With The Public

International Lake Superior





Meeting Outline

- Welcome
- Presentation
- Teleconference to share thoughts among callers
- Participants identify and discuss local water issues
- Further Questions, evaluation, and closing



Presentation Outline

- The International Joint Commission (IJC)
- The International Lake Superior Board of Control (ILSBC)
- Lake Superior outflow regulation
- Current (and forecasted) levels and issues
- International Upper Great Lakes Study



IJC Responsibilities

- Independent organization established by the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909
- Operates from the Alaska-Yukon border to the Atlantic Coast
- Prevents and resolves disputes over shared water
- Seeks consensus and greater good of both countries

IJC Responsibilities (cont'd)

- Authorizes and supervises operations of projects affecting flows and levels in boundary waters
- Issues Orders of Approval to implement decisions
- Conducts studies for Governments







Orders of Approval

- Issued in 1914 for hydropower development in the St. Marys River in the U.S. and Canada
- Specify method of determining and allocating Lake Superior outflows
- Protect interests in both countries affected by changes in water levels and flows
- Established the International Lake Superior Board of Control

Updated Orders of Approval (1979)

- Maintain Lake Superior levels between 182.76 to 183.86 m (599.6 to 603.2 ft)
- Attempt to balance levels of Lake Superior and Lake Michigan-Huron
- If Lake Superior's level is below 183.4 m (601.7 ft), do not release more than "preproject" flow







Board Members

BG Margaret W. Burcham

Jaymie Gadal

Alt: COL Bob Peterson

Board Secretaries

John Kangas

Rob Caldwell

Regulation Representatives

LTC Rob Ells

Jacob Bruxer

Board members and staff serve in a personal and professional capacity and are not representatives of their employers.



Board Responsibilities

- Set Lake Superior outflows and allocate water to fisheries, navigation, and hydropower monthly
- Oversee all control works
- Assure accurate reporting of outflows
- Communicate with stakeholders
- Authorize ponding by hydropower
- Special studies

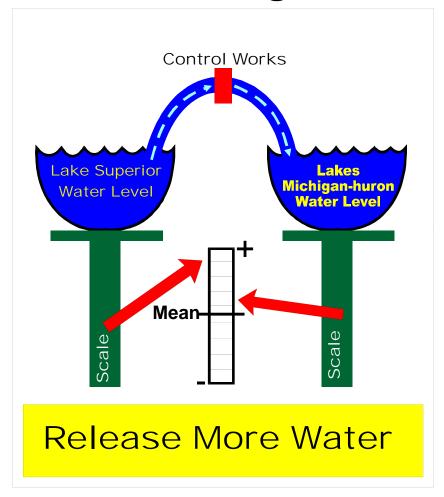


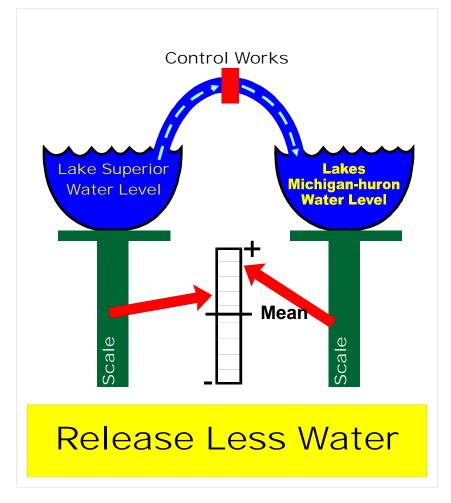
Lake Superior Outflow Regulation

- Outflows are set monthly according to an IJCapproved Regulation Plan
- First Regulation Plan developed in 1916
- Plan 1977-A: Current Regulation Plan
 - Considers levels on Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron
 - In use since 1990



Regulation Plan 1977-A



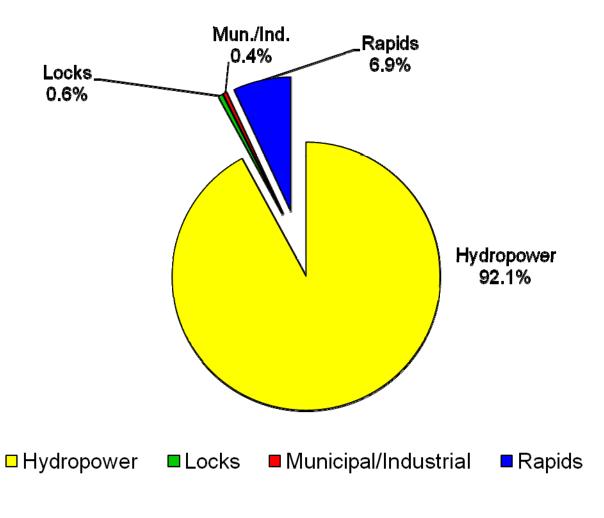




St. Marys River at Sault Ste. Marie



Lake Superior Outflow Water Usage at Sault Ste. Marie (Averages from 1990-2012)





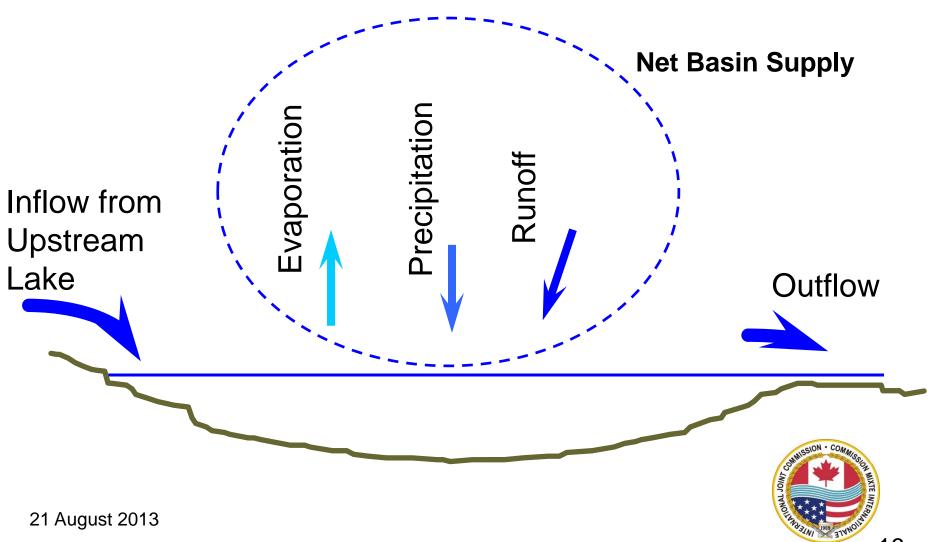




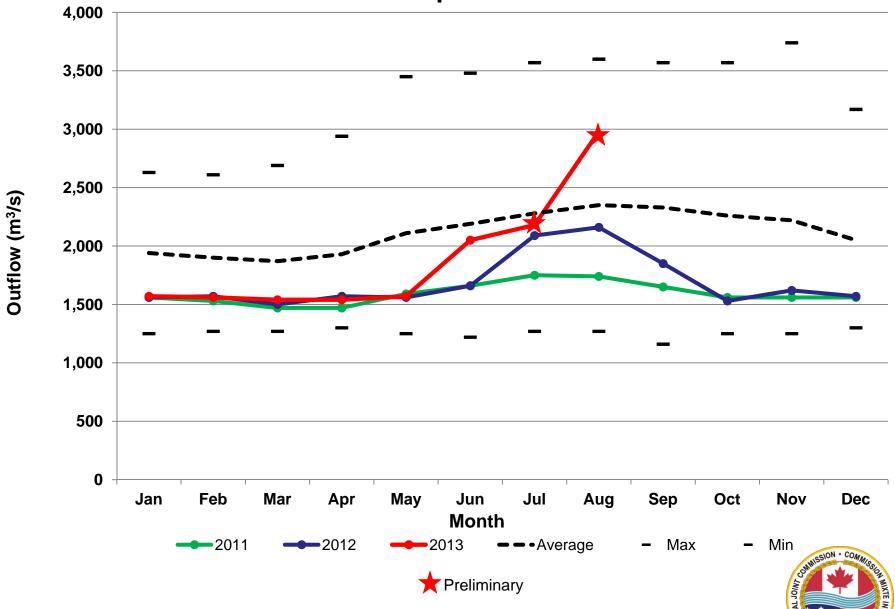


Great Lakes Water Supplies

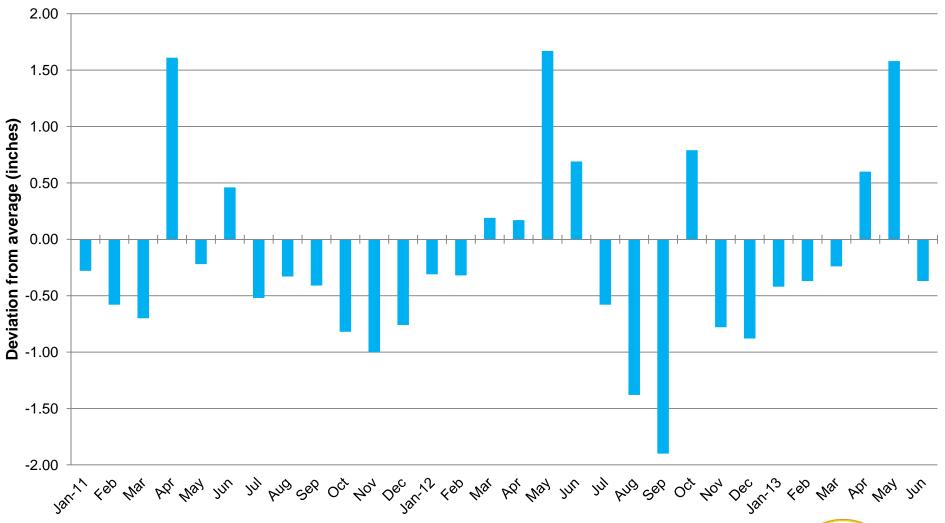
(Factors Affecting Water Levels)



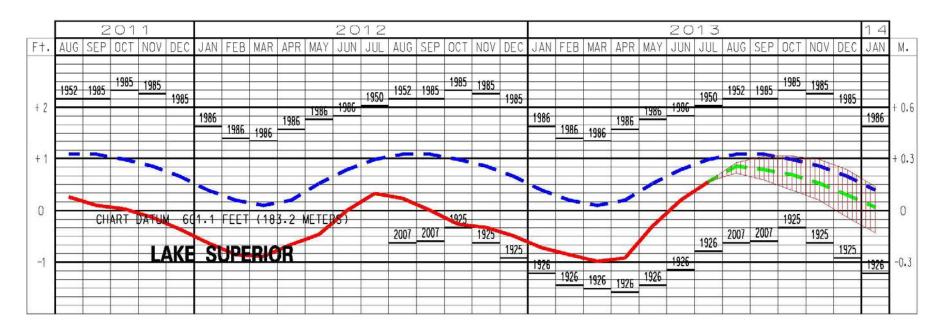
Lake Superior Outflows

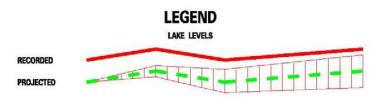


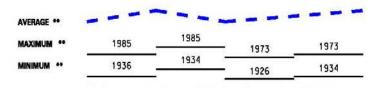
Lake Superior Precipitation



LAKE SUPERIOR WATER LEVELS - AUGUST 2013

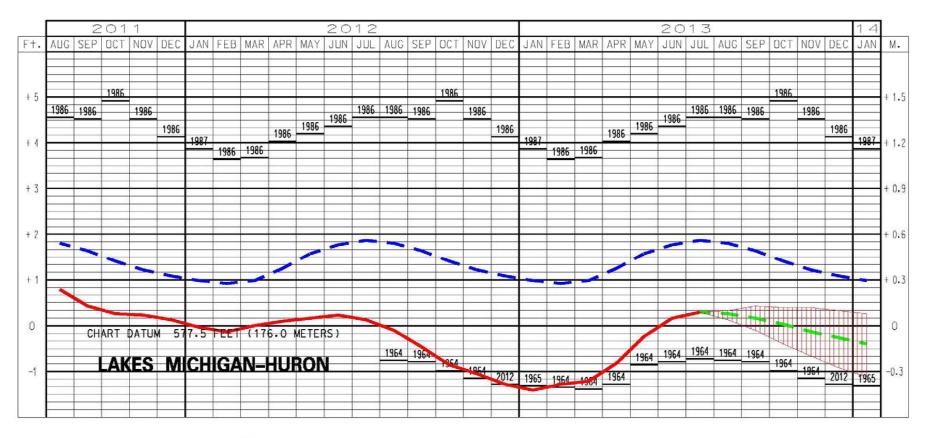






** Average, Maximum and Minimum for period 1918-2012

LAKES MICHIGAN-HURON WATER LEVELS - AUGUST 2013





** Average. Maximum and Minimum for period 1918-2012

Study of Gate Movement Rate Limits

- International Watersheds Initiative funding
- Following up on recommendation from IUGLS
- Establish field-verified limits to Compensating Works gate movement rates
- Goal: prevent harm to fish in the St. Marys Rapids due to stranding, flushing of fry, etc.
- Field data collection scheduled for Fall 2013;
 analysis to follow

Update to Lake Superior Regulation

- International Upper Great Lakes Study
 - Completed in March 2012
 - Evaluated options to improve rules and criteria governing Lake Superior regulation
 - Recommended adoption of Plan 2012
- IJC public hearings (2012) showed support for Plan 2012
- Implementation of Regulation Plan 2012
 - IJC advised the public and governments in April 2013 that we will implement Plan 2012
 - IJC is updating its Order of approval
 - Board staff currently preparing for implementation
 Check www.ijc.org for more info

Comments and Questions?

