

## Public Participation and Communication Plan

The International Joint Commission (IJC) and International Upper Great Lake Study Board (IUGLS) are committed to allowing the public the opportunity to have a voice in decisions that may affect them.

We have created a variety of policies, programs and activities aimed at **creating public awareness** and **encouraging public participation** whenever possible.

The IUGLS will create public awareness by:

- Issuing news releases that deliver and explain Study findings
- Enhancing the public's understanding of system variables and regulations
- Making the benefits and consequences of proposed solutions very clear

The IUGLS will encourage public participation by:

- Allowing the public to ask questions and express their views using one of the many resources we provide
- Inviting local expertise to contribute, and provide relevant information
- Conducting online forums and local consultation meetings to promote an open and live dialogue

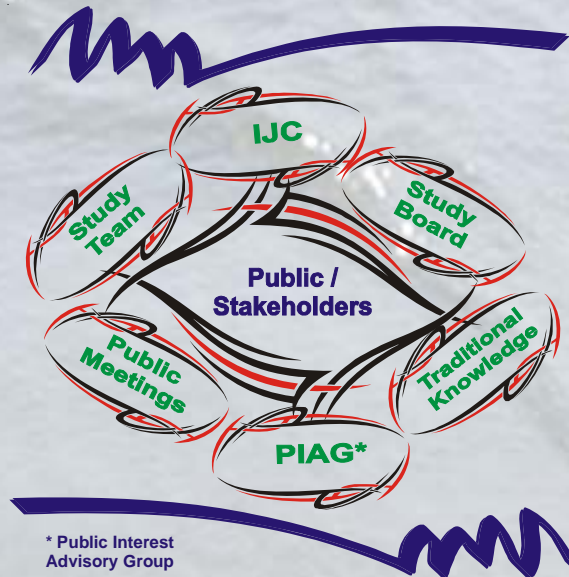
The IUGLS will provide the following resources to keep the public aware and involved:

- The IUGLS website ([www.iugls.org](http://www.iugls.org))
- Publicizing and distributing our mailing address for correspondence and submissions
- Promoting the use of a dedicated e-mail address ([info@iugls.org](mailto:info@iugls.org))
- Online forums and dialogue via our website

*"The IUGLS is dedicated to providing all relevant and useful information to the public. Public participation will be open, inclusive, fair and very much encouraged!!"*

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY!  
[www.iugls.org](http://www.iugls.org)

## Public Interaction with the Study



\* Public Interest Advisory Group

The IJC and IUGLS have **established a Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG)** to engage selected community members and public organizations in the Study, with the intent to give a louder voice to the public as a whole.

Members of PIAG, and of the public in general will be consulted at the beginning, and periodically throughout the Study to help identify:

- Principle issues, and Study priorities
- Available knowledge in the form of historical data, anecdotal information, and traditional wisdom
- Initiatives, activities, existing and future plans that could potentially be affected by levels and flows

### Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG):

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International  
Joint  
Commission



# International Upper Great Lakes Study



*Great Lakes .... a Legacy  
for our Children's Children's  
Children*

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# International Upper Great Lakes Study



The **International Joint Commission (IJC)** has announced the commencement of its **International Upper Great Lakes Study (IUGLS)**. This five-year Study will seek to determine whether the regulation of Lake Superior outflows can be improved to address the evolving needs of users on lakes Superior, Huron, Michigan and Erie. Physical changes in the St. Clair River will be investigated early in the study as one 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 IUGLS Board's Mandate is to: *"Undertake studies required to provide the Commission with the information it needs to evaluate options for regulating levels and flows in the Upper Great Lakes."* In doing so, the Board is also required to conform to the requirements of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909.

The IUGLS's main studies will include:

- Examining physical processes and possible changes occurring in the St. Clair River, and how this is impacting water levels of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron
- Reviewing the operation of current structures controlling Lake Superior outflow, and how such operations are impacting water levels and flows
- Assessing whether changes to the current regulation plans are meeting emerging needs and interests, and investigating preferences for managing the Upper Great Lakes System in a sustainable manner
- Evaluating all options identified to improve the operating rules and criteria governing the Upper Great Lakes System

The IUGLS will integrate as many relevant considerations and perspectives into its work as possible, including those that have not been

incorporated to date in the assessments of the Upper Great Lakes System regulation, to ensure that all significant issues are adequately addressed.



***St. Clair River at Blue Waters Bridge - Sarnia-Port Huron***

The IUGLS is implementing a variety of approaches to ensure that the quality of science, engineering, and key technical components are of the highest standard possible. These approaches include:

- An Independent Review Group will be appointed by the IJC to examine all methods used throughout the Study
- Two main Task Teams established by the IUGLS (One for Lake Superior, and the other for the St. Clair River) and a number of Technical Working Groups made up of experts from both Canada and the USA

The IUGLS has established Technical Working Groups in the following areas:

- Information Management (including physical data)
- Hydrology (including historical and climate change scenarios)
- Coastal Zone Management

- Ecosystems (including endangered species, flora and fauna, wetlands, fish and wildlife)
- Recreational Boating and Tourism
- Commercial Navigation
- Water Uses (including municipal, industrial and institutional uses, diversions etc.)
- Hydropower
- St. Clair River Data Collection, Analysis, and Monitoring
- Hydraulic Monitoring
- Sediment and Geomorphology of the St. Clair River

Other groups may be established for specific tasks not included above.



***Looking East at Lake Superior Outflow Control Works, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario & Michigan***

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY!

[www.iugls.org](http://www.iugls.org)

Can't find the information you're looking for? Contact:

[info@iugls.org](mailto:info@iugls.org)

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