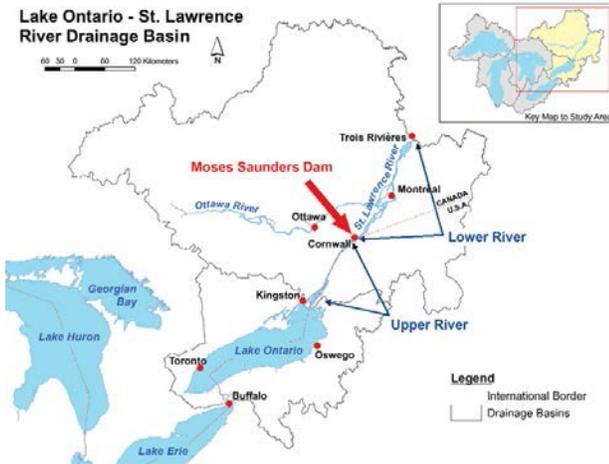


PLAN 2014

A GREAT LAKE AND RIVER

Shaped over thousands of years by the natural ebb and flow of water, the 650-mile coastline of Lake Ontario and the upper St. Lawrence River constitutes the largest coastal environment in Quebec, Ontario and New York State.



But **50 years of regulated water levels** - originally designed to benefit hydroelectric power generation and shipping - have **significantly altered the lake and river's natural habitats and processes and reduced critical natural services for people.**

Today, the International Joint Commission (IJC) and the governments of U.S. and Canada have **an historic opportunity to exercise principles of sound water management** for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River – **improving the resiliency of our shores**, ensuring the survival of birds, mammals, and fish, and benefiting the region's residents and businesses.

A BETTER CHOICE FOR THE FUTURE

Developed with the construction of the Moses-Saunders Dam in the 1950s, the current regulation plan for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River has reduced the range of water levels to the point of causing extensive damage to coastal wetlands that perform services like filtering water, providing habitat for fish and protecting communities from floods.

Referred to United States and Canadian Federal governments in June of last year, **Plan 2014** was formulated over the course of ten years with the input of more than 180 stakeholder representatives, experts, and scientists from government agencies, academia, NGO's and industry in New York, Ontario, and Quebec. A diverse coalition strongly supports 2014 as it will increase the overall health of coastal habitats and provide greater economic opportunities for people.

Plan 2014 will also enhance the resiliency of natural shorelines, helping to protect property owners in a changing climate.

BROAD SUPPORT

Citizen Support

- CCE petition signatures
- CCE letters
- The Nature Conservancy Save The River's petition signatures
- 553 Audubon New York petition signatures and letters
- Save The River telegrams

22,500+
expressions of Citizen Support

Environmental, Conservation and Sportsmen

- Coalition led by Audubon New York, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, The Nature Conservancy, Save The River and WWF—Canada
- Sportsmen groups include Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Lakeplains Waterfowl Association, Lake Ontario Fisheries Coalition, New York State Conservation Council
- Conservation groups include National Wildlife Federation, Environmental Advocates of NY, Onondaga Audubon Society, Izaak Walton League

42
organizations signed a letter of support

Businesses & Community Leaders

- Business Council of the State of New York
- Alcoa
- Anthony G. Collins, President of Clarkson University
- Cornelius Murphy, Jr. Ph.D. President of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

35
businesses signed a letter of support

QUICK FACTS ABOUT PLAN 2014

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Plan 2014 will replace over 50 years of water level management that has significantly altered the environment of the Lake and River and dramatically reduced habitat diversity. A healthy environment is the cornerstone of our economy and prosperity. Plan 2014 will enhance the quality of life benefits for all citizens of the lake and river watershed. It also will directly benefit migrating and nesting waterfowl, key wetland habitats, and beaches and dunes, which provide millions of dollars every year in outdoor recreation, flood control, and water filtration services.

Here are just a few indicators that signal an environment in trouble:

The Wet Meadow

The wet meadow is a major component of coastal wetlands, and its status tells us a great deal about the condition of the wetland ecosystem as a whole.

Current Regulation: -50%
Plan 2014: 40%
Increase from current conditions

Northern Pike

The Northern Pike is the top predator in coastal marshes. Their reduction affects the entire food chain and ecosystem.

Current Regulation: -70%
Plan 2014: 39%
Increase from current conditions

Black Terns

Marsh-nesting birds like Black Terns depend on diverse marshes interspersed with open water for nesting. New Yorkers spend \$660 million each year on trips within the state for wildlife viewing.

Current Regulation: -80%
Plan 2014: 16%
Increase from current conditions

ECONOMIC AND SHORELINE BENEFITS

The economy of the Great Lakes region depends on the health and beauty of its ecosystems. A 2007 cost-benefit analysis by the Brookings Institution demonstrates that each dollar of restoration brings two dollars of benefits to the economy of the Great Lakes region.

Hydropower

Hydro-electricity production will increase under Plan 2014. This low-cost power supports jobs in New York State.

\$5.3 M

every year in additional generation

Recreational Opportunities

Healthier Lake and River wetlands will support stronger populations of native fish and wildlife, improving the area's hunting, angling, and wildlife-viewing opportunities. The Nature Conservancy estimates economic benefits, just from improved wildlife recreation, of \$4.0 million - \$9.1 million per year.

\$9.1 M

every year in increased net economic value

Shorelines

Compared to the cost of protecting properties from erosion and flooding under unregulated conditions, Plan 2014 is estimated to save property owners on the lake \$25.2 million dollars a year. This may be \$2.2 million less than current savings, but the figure remains very significant.

\$25.2 M

every year in savings
when compared to no regulation