

Recreational Boating/Tourism

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[How are water levels in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River related to Recreational Boating and Tourism?](#)

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How are water levels in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River related to Recreational Boating and Tourism?

Low water levels result in:

- Insufficient depths for boaters to launch their boats in the spring, haul out in the fall and operate in shallow areas and entrance channels.
- Increased incidence of damage to propellers, shaft, and hull.

High water levels result in:

- Fixed docks and buildings becoming inundated
- Reduced bridge clearances and submerged water hazards.

Why was the Recreational Boating and Tourism Technical Working Group (TWG) created?

The Recreational Boating and Tourism Technical Working Group was created to establish water level criteria for recreational boaters.

If boaters are unhappy with their access capabilities as a result of high or low water levels, this has a direct impact on marina owners and the local tourism industry. Typical losses may include summer and winter storage, crane fees, service fees and in some cases, loss of retail sales.

Dredging and floating docks are corrective measures but may be too costly and time-consuming for some. Historically, boater reaction to water access constraints have included:

moving to another marina or area, quitting boating, or acquiring a smaller boat that requires less depth.

What are the Group's goals for the Study?

- To assess impact of water level according to boating activities and related tourism
- To assess impact of water level according to different boating related interest groups

How will the Group achieve these goals?

The Group will estimate gains and losses to boating activities by developing a water level – impact relationship model.

Completed and Ongoing Activities

- [Field Survey of Marinas/Yacht Clubs and Public Boat Launch Sites](#)
- [Ontario Marina Impact Survey](#)
- [New York State Inventory of Great Lakes' Marinas and Yacht Clubs](#)
- [Impact of Changing Water Levels on Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River Marinas and Yacht Clubs](#)