

Appendix A
Survey and Responses

1 Survey

The following is a copy of the St. Lawrence River Watershed Revitalization Survey. The survey was distributed to several stakeholder groups who were asked to share the opportunity with group members, neighbors, friends, and any of those who utilize the St. Lawrence River watershed to live, work, or play. The survey was also promoted via social media, newspapers, meetings, and NYSDEC's email blast. Ultimately, the survey received input from 1,447 recipients.

St. Lawrence River Watershed Revitalization Survey

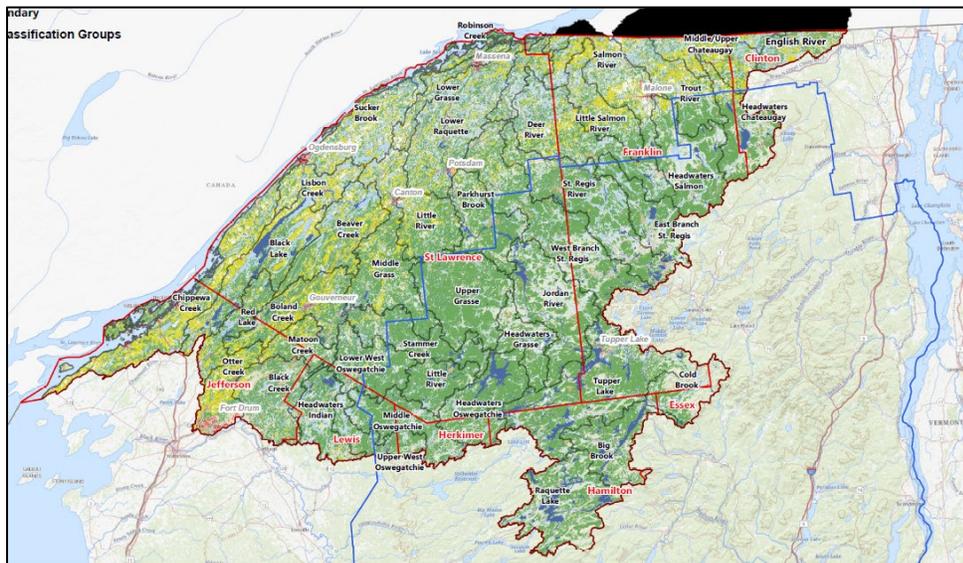
The St. Lawrence River Watershed Project is developing the *St. Lawrence River Watershed Revitalization Plan* and seeks your input in identifying concerns in the watershed and prioritizing steps that can be taken to advance a community vision for a thriving and sustainable future. The watershed planning process will give communities in the watershed a chance to consider projects that could spark economic investment, natural resource protection, regional sustainability, and community revitalization.

Please complete this survey to share your thoughts on:

- Recreation and waterfront revitalization
- Water quality conditions
- Economic issues related to waterways
- Plant and animal habitats
- Agriculture and forestry practices
- Flood-related issues



The survey should take less than 10 minutes of your time. All responses will be strictly confidential and presented only as aggregated information.



The St. Lawrence River watershed covers nearly 5,600 square miles of land area in northern New York State in eight counties, as well as 185 miles of St. Lawrence River shoreline.

BACKGROUND: The following questions will help us understand a little bit about where and how you use the watershed.

1	In what county or tribal area do you reside within the watershed? <input type="checkbox"/> Clinton County <input type="checkbox"/> Essex County <input type="checkbox"/> Franklin County <input type="checkbox"/> Hamilton County <input type="checkbox"/> Herkimer County <input type="checkbox"/> Jefferson County <input type="checkbox"/> Lewis County <input type="checkbox"/> St. Lawrence County <input type="checkbox"/> Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne <input type="checkbox"/> I do not live in the watershed
2	How long have you been living in and/or visiting the St. Lawrence River watershed area? <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> 10-20 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 years
3	I am (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> A year-round watershed resident <input type="checkbox"/> A seasonal watershed resident <input type="checkbox"/> A watershed business owner <input type="checkbox"/> A farmland owner/manager in the watershed <input type="checkbox"/> A woodland owner/manager in the watershed <input type="checkbox"/> Manager of public lands within the watershed <input type="checkbox"/> Active with a watershed-related advocacy group <input type="checkbox"/> A student in the watershed
4	Do you reside within the Adirondack Park? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

RECREATION AND WATER USE: The questions below will help us understand how you use water and recreational areas in the watershed.

5	Which lakes do you and your family use for recreation? (Check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Black Lake <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Mountain Lake <input type="checkbox"/> Butternut Lake <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Bonaparte <input type="checkbox"/> Long Lake <input type="checkbox"/> Raquette Lake <input type="checkbox"/> Tupper Lake <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Chateaugay <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____ (please specify)
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6	<p>Which rivers do you and your family use for recreation? (Check all that apply)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Chateaugay River <input type="checkbox"/> Grasse River <input type="checkbox"/> Indian River <input type="checkbox"/> Oswegatchie River <input type="checkbox"/> Raquette River <input type="checkbox"/> Salmon River <input type="checkbox"/> St. Lawrence River <input type="checkbox"/> St. Regis River <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____ (please specify)
7	<p>How often do you visit a lake, stream, or river within the St. Lawrence River Watershed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Daily <input type="checkbox"/> At least once a week <input type="checkbox"/> At least once a month <input type="checkbox"/> At least once a year <input type="checkbox"/> Never
8	<p>How do you use these waterbodies? (Check all that apply):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic enjoyment <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/Kayaking/Paddling <input type="checkbox"/> Motorized boating <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing <input type="checkbox"/> Ice fishing <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife viewing <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
9	<p>Do you perceive the watershed's lakes, rivers and streams as an asset to your community?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Definitely <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> A little <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all</p>
WATER QUALITY	
10	<p>How would you describe the water quality of the waterbody(ies) you use?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor</p>
11	<p>What is the biggest <i>challenge</i> to protecting the future uses of lakes, streams, and rivers in the watershed? (Rank 1-9, where 1 is the biggest challenge and 9 is the smallest.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient enrichment and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) <input type="checkbox"/> Erosion and sedimentation from land use practices <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Water level management and flooding <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal wastewater and private septic systems <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive species <input type="checkbox"/> Operation of dams <input type="checkbox"/> Contaminated sediment from industrial uses

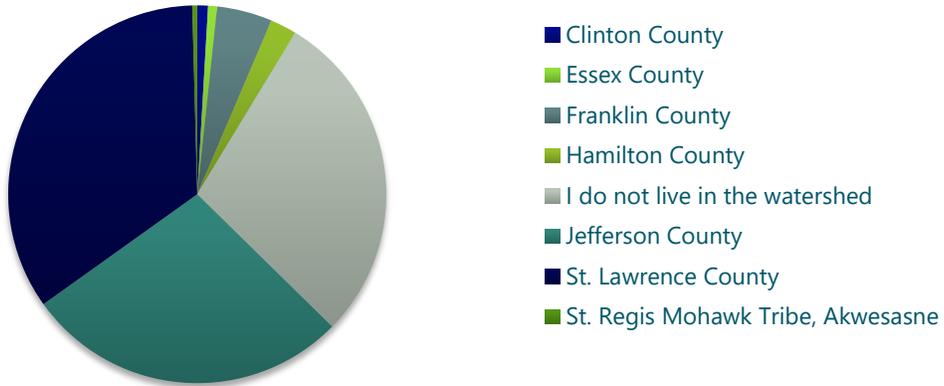
12	<p>What <i>types of pollutants</i> do you think pose the biggest threat to water quality? (Rank 1 to 10, where 1 is the biggest threat and 10 is the smallest.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Plastics and other solid waste <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy metals from atmospheric deposition (lead, mercury) <input type="checkbox"/> Oil, gas, and grease (from leaking vehicles and car maintenance facilities) <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticides/herbicides (used for agriculture and lawn care) <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmaceuticals and personal care projects (prescription pills and soaps) <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphorus and nitrogen (from wastewater/septic systems or agricultural/lawn fertilizer) <input type="checkbox"/> Road salt and sand (used for winter road maintenance) <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment (sand, gravel, clay from construction sites and erosion) <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic chemicals (from industrial operations) <input type="checkbox"/> Viruses and bacteria (from municipal/septic system wastewater discharges) 																																
13	<p>Which uses of the lakes, streams, and rivers do you think are most at risk in the watershed? (Rank 1 to 6, where 1 is most at risk and 6 is least at risk.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic enjoyment <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic life protection <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water supply <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat/hydrology <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation 																																
LAND USE PRIORITIES																																	
14	<p>There are various types of land uses in the St. Lawrence River watershed. For each of the following, indicate whether you would like to see less, more, or about the same of each in the watershed. (Check all that apply):</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;"></th> <th style="width: 16.6%;">More</th> <th style="width: 16.6%;">About the same</th> <th style="width: 16.6%;">Less</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Open space that is protected from development</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>River corridors in their natural condition</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outdoor recreational areas</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wildlife habitat</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban development</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Actively farmed agricultural land</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Managed forest lands</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		More	About the same	Less	Open space that is protected from development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	River corridors in their natural condition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outdoor recreational areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Actively farmed agricultural land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Managed forest lands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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15	<p>Please share any additional comments about the St. Lawrence River watershed: _____</p>																																

This survey was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

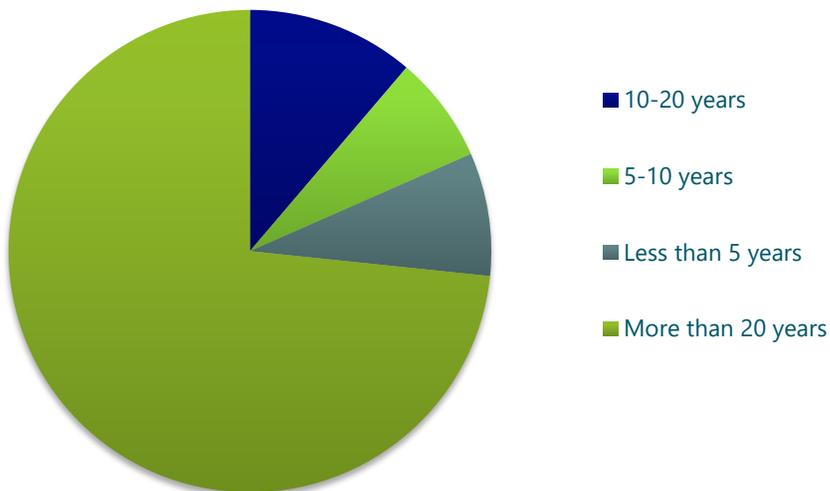
2 Survey Responses

2.1 Background

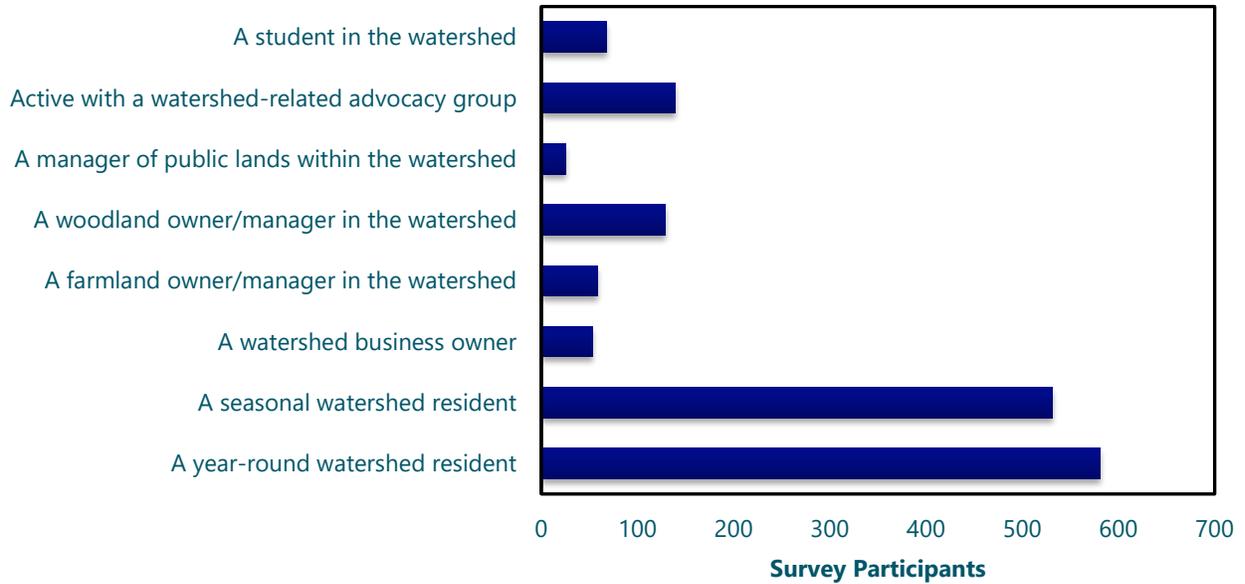
1. In what county or tribal area do you reside within the watershed?



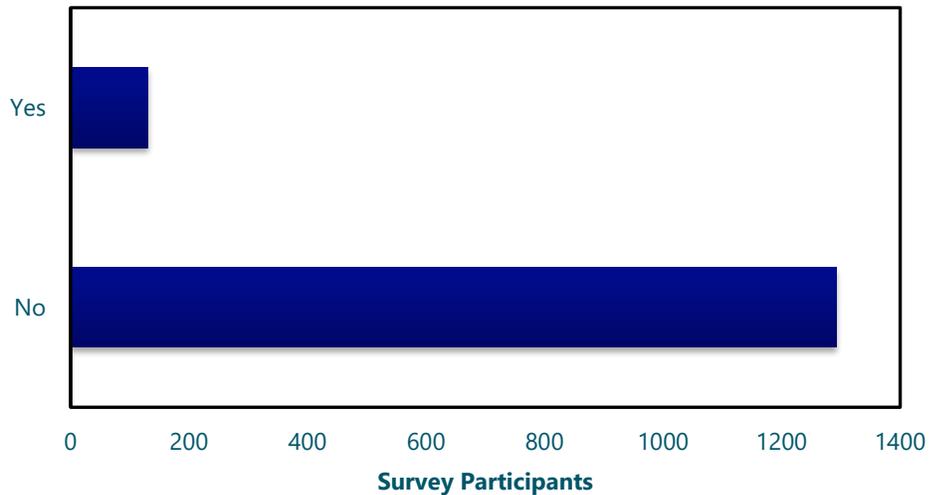
2. How long have you been living in and/or visiting the St. Lawrence River watershed area?



3. I am (check all that apply):

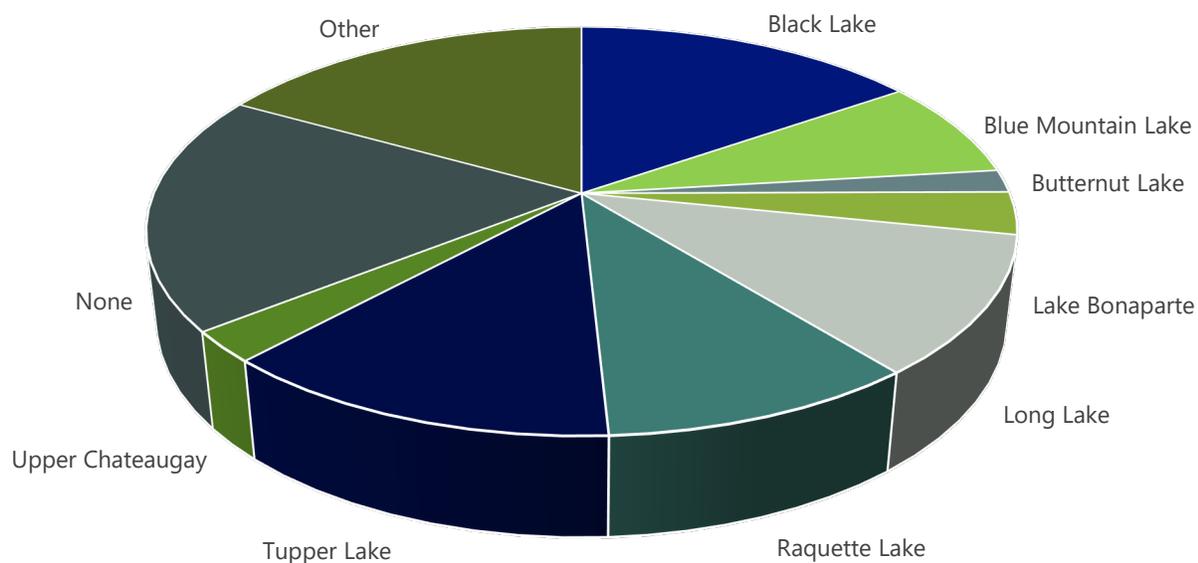


4. Do you reside within the Adirondack Park?

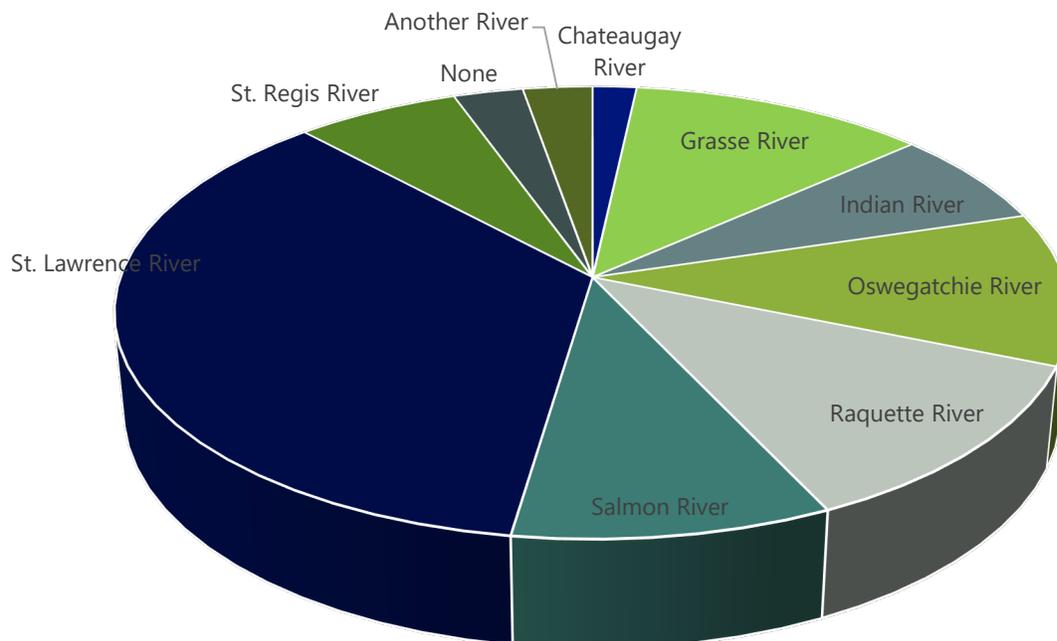


2.2 Recreation and Water Use

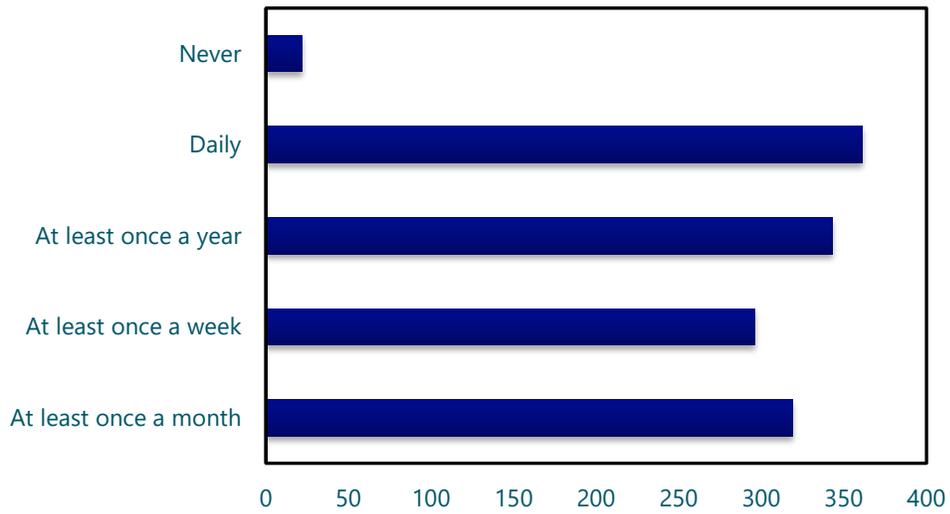
5. Which lakes do you and your family use for recreation? (Check all that apply.)



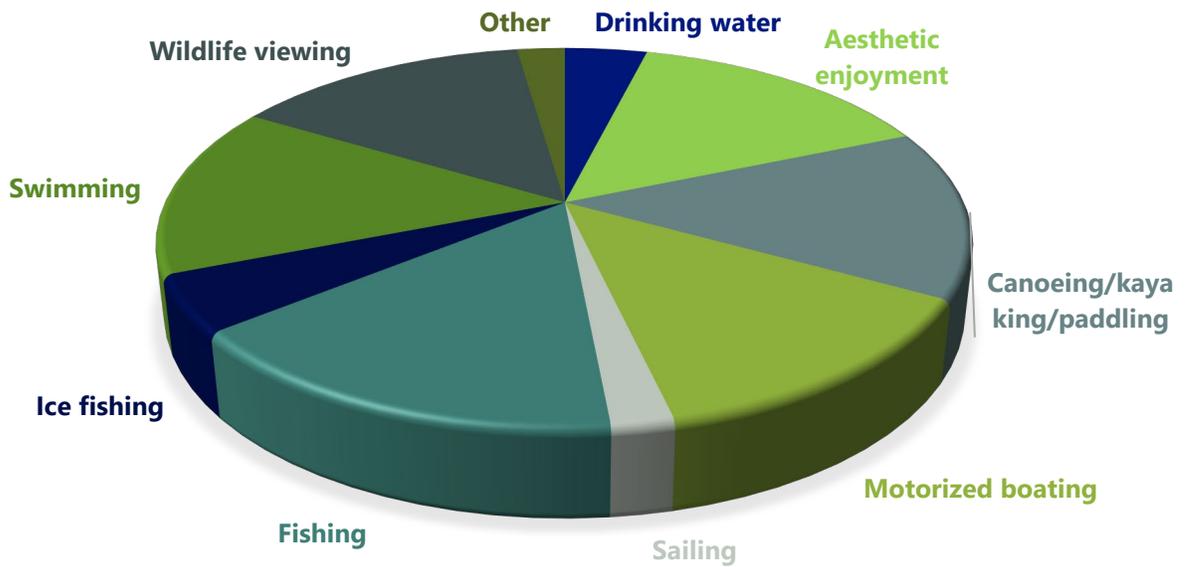
6. Which rivers do you and your family use for recreation? (Check all that apply.)



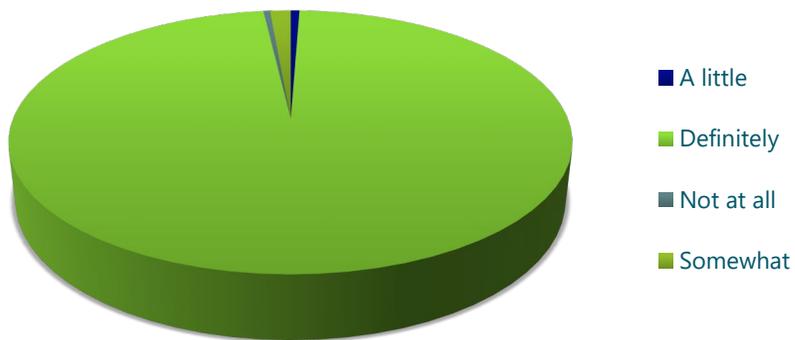
7. How often do you visit a lake, stream, or river within the St. Lawrence River watershed?



8. How do you use these waterbodies? (Check all that apply.)

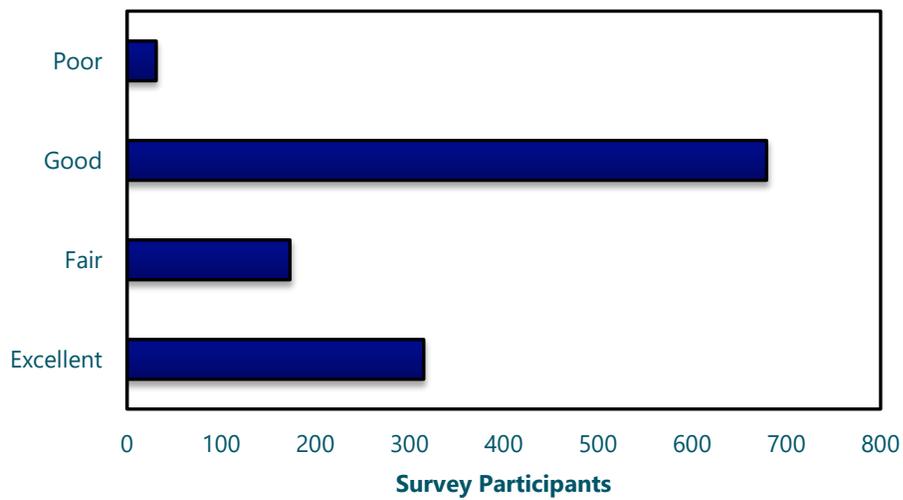


9. Do you perceive the watershed's lakes, rivers, and streams as an asset to your community?

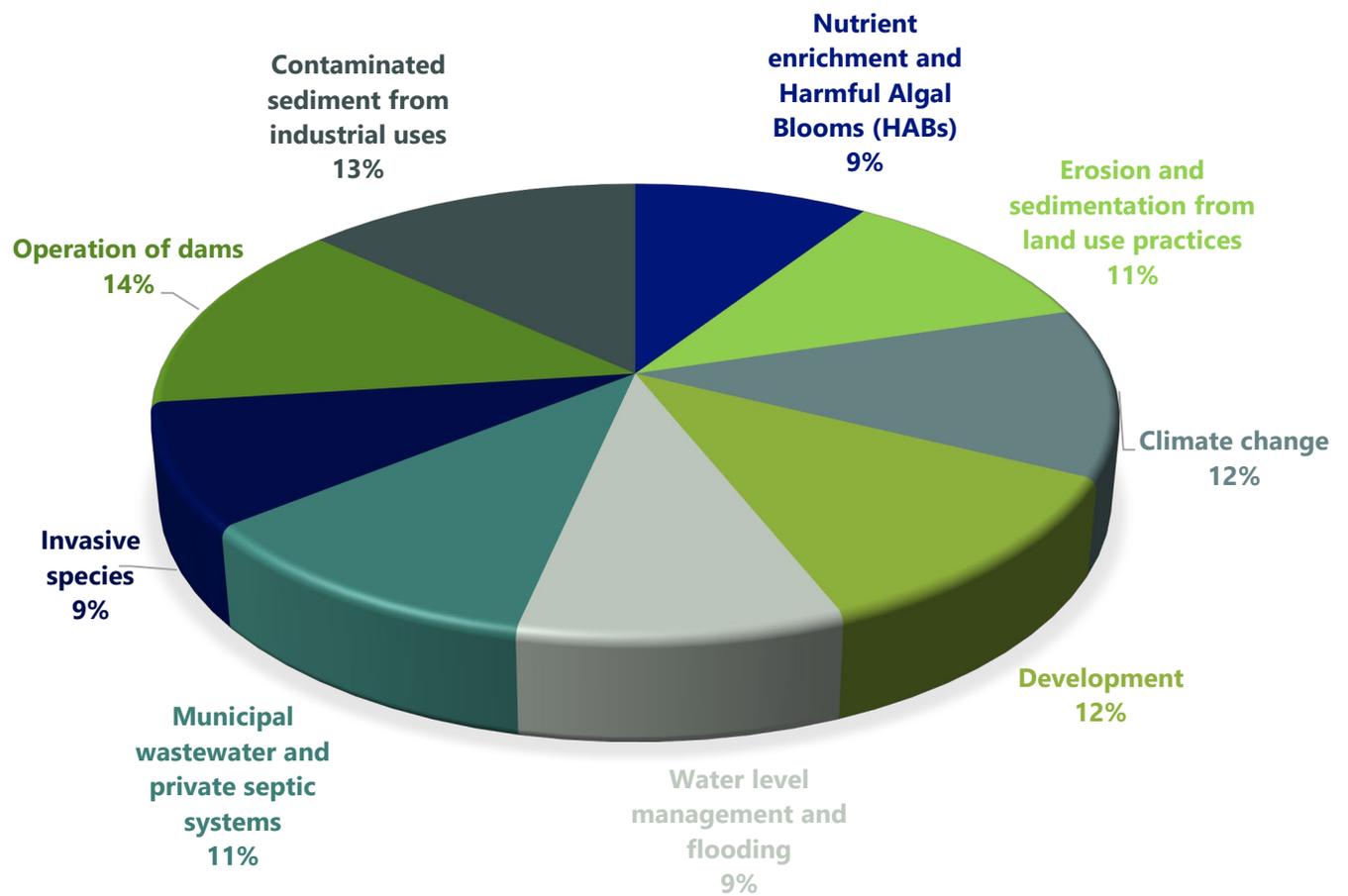


2.3 Water Quality

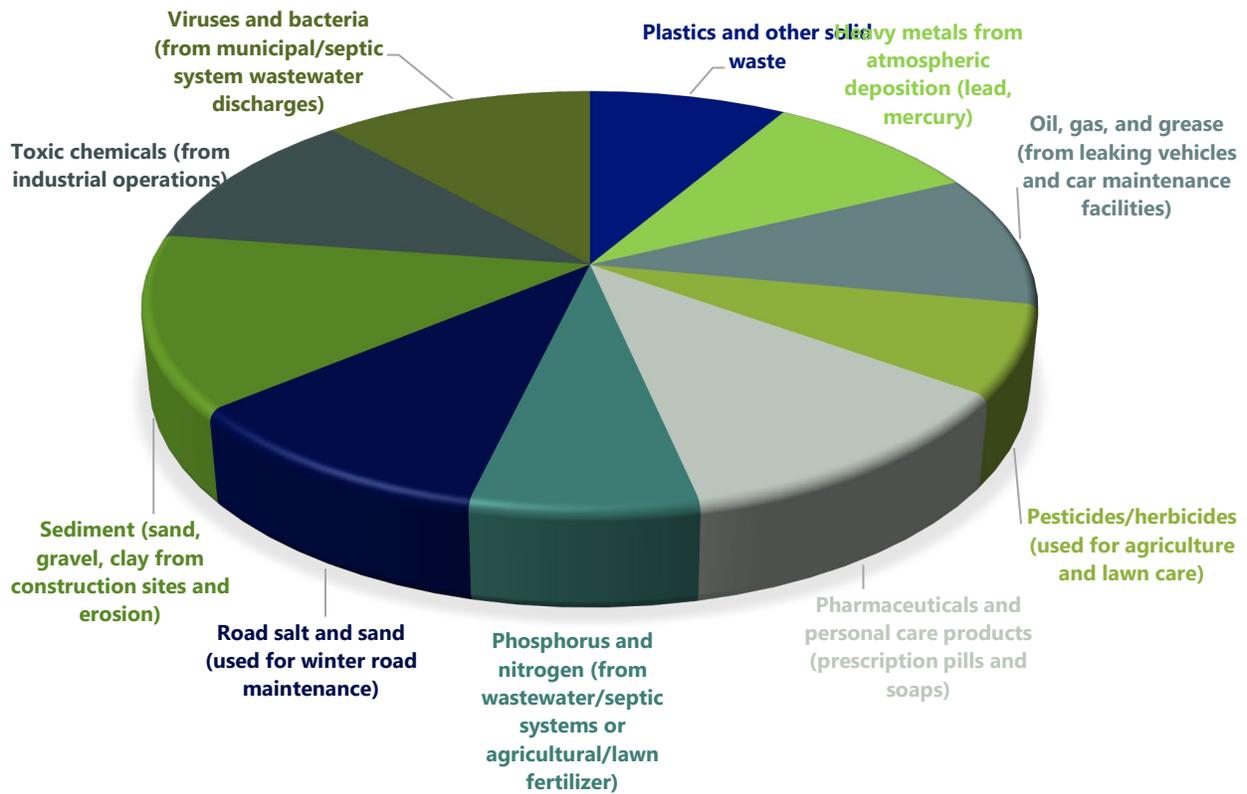
10. How would you describe the water quality of the waterbody(ies) you use?



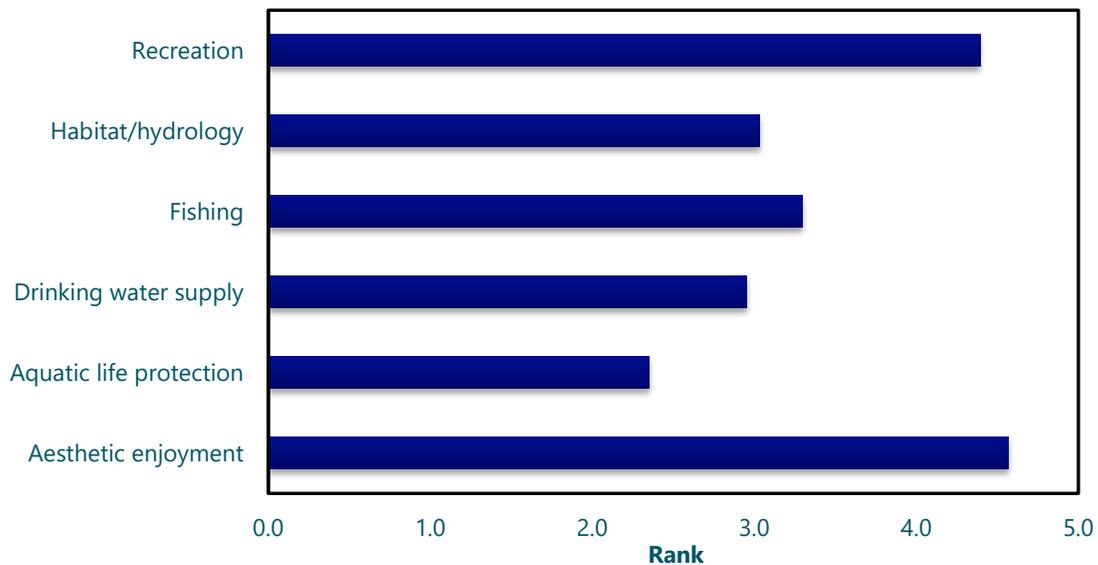
11. What is the biggest challenge to protecting the future uses of lakes, streams, and rivers in the watershed? (Rank 1-9, where 1 is the biggest challenge and 9 is the smallest.)



12. What type of pollutants do you think pose the biggest threat to water quality? (Rank 1 to 10, where 1 is the biggest threat and 10 is the smallest.)

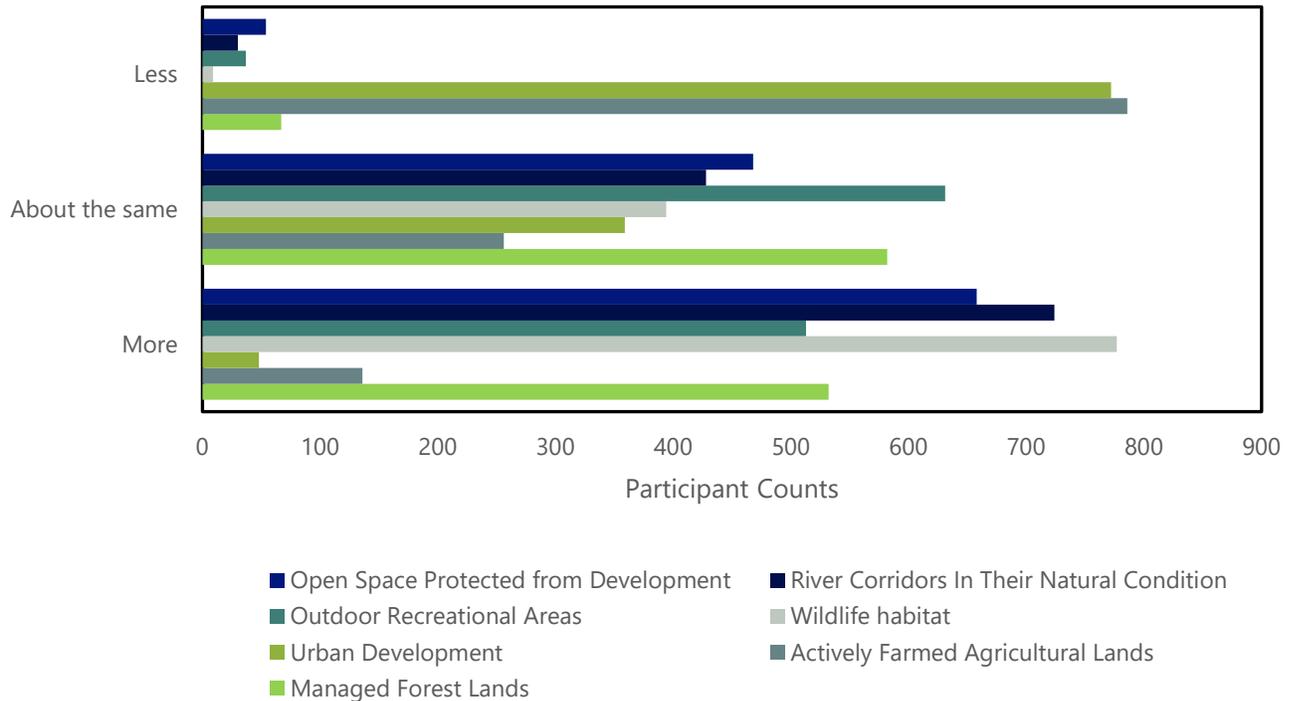


13. Which uses of the lakes, streams and rivers do you think are most at risk in the watershed?
 (Rank 1 to 6, where 1 is the most at risk and 6 is least at risk.)



2.4 Land Use Priorities

14. There are various types of land uses in the St. Lawrence River watershed. For each of the following, indicate whether you would like to see less, more, or about the same of each in the watershed. (Check all that apply.)



15. Please share any additional comments about the St. Lawrence River watershed.

Topic	Comment
Agriculture	BMPs for small ag operations - fence out the waterways & increase buffer zones
	the large CAFO farms need to be policed more as they are spreading manure in violation of the rules which is a major polluter to our resources in general.
	I live on the Grasse River. Would like to know more about impacts of large scale farming operations on the rivers of St. Lawrence County.
	Farmers get away with too much pollution. They need to be inspected more often and informed before it becomes a crime.
	small tributaries have little life downstream of any large farm due to run off.
	I'd love to see more active farming in the watershed, IF I believed that the farmers could afford to utilize sustainable practices without chemical fertilizer and weed killers.
Climate Change	Better water level control. I've lived on this River for more than 50 years 3 of those years we suffered from high water making docks and therefore watercraft unusable. In 2020 the forecast is for higher water than 1919 which set a record. Better control must be provider to insure continued use of this valuable shoreline.
	concerned about effects of acid precipitation deposition (not listed in your survey)

Topic	Comment
	<p>Overall, from information and studies being presented to the general public from Governmental and research groups it appears that overall, the greatest threat to the whole area is global warming. It would be helpful to hear more specifics about how the community, local agencies and state bodies are working together to counter this threat.</p> <p>one important issue, especially w regard to climate change, is to see how the SL watershed also serves to connect habitats separated by different land-use practices. check out the work of the A2A consortium (google it) for an important example. Also, forests are at particular, if not visually obvious, threat due to invasives, lack of regeneration, climate change, etc. we need \$ from the DEC for Local scientists (e.g. Clarkson, SLU, PSC) to study issues such as forest health, corridor development, etc.</p>
Collaborative Planning	<p>More comprehensive resource planning regionally, and updated resource planning at the township level</p> <p>Better management of Moses Dam. Upper St. Lawrence is flooding because of poor management of this dam.</p>
Cormorant	<p>cormorants are a real problem as well as HAB</p> <p>We need to start managing the Cormorant population in a responsible manner.</p> <p>Cormorants need to be either killed by the DEC or have a hunting season for them.</p> <p>We have a Cormorant problem, over population, destroying fishing and killing shoreline vegetation.</p> <p>We must get rid of the emerging Cormorant population on Black Lake or they will destroy the lake in a matter of a few years. The state must allow citizens to protect these vital areas from this destructive invasive species. They are a menace</p>
Development	<p>Currently management of the water levels in the St Lawrence are out of control. More attention needs to be taken by residents building close to the river and expecting not to have flooding conditions. Recreational river usage, that effects the economy of the area, is suffering due to high water levels. .</p> <p>I live on Chippewa point @ 15 Chippewa point Road East. A cottage directly upriver from my home used for personal and rental have been discharging their septic waste for many years into the river. Past response from the DEC have been extremely poor. Sewage on shoreline and dock, they depend on river ice etc. to remove. I have been a resident for 24 yrs., and this is getting out of control. Hopefully someone will read and help resolve. Girard Baechle</p> <p>Many acres in the Adirondacks are going to waste, not keeping up with use needs by growing populations. To many use restrictions.</p> <p>We are originally from the Allentown area but vacationed up here. We moved here 15 years ago to a less stressful area that is home to all sorts of wildlife. we noticed more and more people building on some of the lakes. It seems you don't realize what you have until it's gone. I would hate to see that happen here!</p> <p>Interior streams are still in pretty good shape, St. Lawrence River itself is at peril from invasives and development></p>
Economy	<p>the largest asset this region has is its natural beauty, Our very survival depends on improving the economy here while also protecting our open space and waters. For a poor area, it is crushingly expensive to live here and we need visitors to enjoy our area and spend money here that can help our long term situation improve and even thrive.</p> <p>The surrounding towns are killing existing homes and communities with ever increasing taxes. Abandoned homes are a bad sign and blight and environmental degradation soon follows.</p>

Topic	Comment
	<p>probably wondering why Urban development would be something I'd like to see more of? It's because I recognize how economically challenged some of these areas are and how difficult it is for local municipalities to mount resources. MAN is a critical part of the ST Lawrence solution - MAN could be doing better</p> <p>I am concerned about increase cost for recreational land/water use. My wife and I are recent retirees and like a lot of waterfront owners, we are concerned about being able to afford it. It should not be for the land of the rich.</p> <p>I would like to see more urban development in the form of economic stimulation without increasing the urban footprint or amount of untreated waste.</p>
Education	<p>Seaway shipping is important to the economy, but we need to preserve that which cannot be easily repaired. Namely the Environment.</p> <p>Educate watershed users, e.g., fishers, boaters, shoreline landowners, etc. re: ethical enjoyment and use lands and waters.</p>
Erosion	<p>The flooding and erosion need to be better controlled</p> <p>I believe the Power Authority has done more harm than anything else especially with their management of river levels. They also don't do enough to pay for septic system upgrades for property that exists along the St. Lawrence river and erosion management behind private property that existed in those locations prior to the dams existing but are now considered waterfront.</p> <p>In the last five years high water and erosion [lake view preserve] has caused 72 years of dune sand build up protection destroyed that I have seen. I am 77 years old and have lived there since age five.</p> <p>Control the lake level with a new regulation plan that stops erosion and flooding. If you want to recover wetlands than change the building codes.</p>
Fishing	<p>The St. Lawrence river is about to go to hell with all the major fishing tournaments they are bringing here, way too many fish killed and taken off their spawning beds to never return or just be killed</p> <p>Removal of dams is important for managing a healthy fishery.</p> <p>Muskellunge and Northern Pike habitat and protection in the St. Lawrence and Black Lake would be a great thing for the area. The Muskie fishing could be a major asset and destination. This would greatly improve tourism and dollars spent. I firmly believe slot limits on both species would be a fantastic thing.</p> <p>For years, I enjoyed fishing in the St. Lawrence River and the Salmon River. I no longer feel safe eating fish from any of our rivers and lakes.</p> <p>Upgrading fish hatcheries to improve trout rearing</p> <p>Lower the water Repeal plan 2014</p> <p>I love the River and miss the river quality from pre-zebra mussel times. I am very concerned over Asian carp and wish that the Great Lakes could be fully severed from the Mississippi rather than just an electric fence. The flood levels, which I believe we have more control of due to the dam system, cause a lot of extra pollutants to enter the river. At what point do we need to let Montreal flood vs. all the other communities upriver and on Lake Ontario? I have watched the flood levels break off pieces of wetland and redistribute them, per the water level environment plan. But by the end of the season they end up dried up and dead. I miss the river being a fishing wonderland. There isn't enough natural sediment anymore for the smaller fish to feed on and grow the larger fish too. More and more I hear fishermen getting skunked</p>

Topic	Comment
	<p>(no fish). More aggressive erosion control at state parks and campgrounds could prove useful. If grass won't grow, consider an alternative site cover option? Thanks for asking about the watershed. We love the river.</p> <p>Open catch and release</p> <p>Open up black bass season to include a catch and release season</p> <p>Greater use of wastewater facilities, in the area Southside of the villages along the River.</p>
Habitat	<p>I am very concerned about how water levels are being managed. Wildlife was flourishing before they changed the water level program. Why do they need to change it?</p> <p>Swan Bay, Alexandria Bay, is being allowed to fill in (sediment deposition). It used to have a natural flow outlet to downriver, and productive Pike and Bass spawning grounds. Bull heads now. Please return Swan Bay to its natural flow through and its quality fishery.</p> <p>Something needs to be done about all the native weed die off in Chippewa Bay Area there is large bare spots throughout and pike fishing in the area has suffered greatly over the years discussing to see this happen</p> <p>As a scuba diver, I've seen the growth of algae blooms and the death of fish during the spring runoff from chemicals. This has occurred throughout the water in NYS and is becoming more present in the St. Lawrence River. I'm unsure what to do about it. However, I'm willing to help preserve it in any way I can.</p> <p>The state should purchase properties that are on the lake/river shore that chronically flood, destroy the structures, and make riparian zones. Pay landowners to relocate. No more shoreline development.</p> <p>Aquatic weeds in Lake of the isles and other areas of the river is not even close to what it was in the 1990's.</p> <p>NYS Law needs to be amended to allow for forest management on state lands inside the ADK park. If you are looking at everything that effects the watershed you need to take a holistic approach at everything. The state forest lands inside the park are void of a healthy functioning ecosystem. Management of state lands inside the park is needed which in turn will have an effect (positive) on the overall St. Lawrence River watershed as well.</p> <p>Flooding/climate change is #1 concern</p>
Industry	<p>This survey wasn't little messed up. Some items would all be 6's. I live in St. Lawrence County, my camp is at loon lake Franklin County. The plants of Massena ruined our land, air and water in the 1950's onward. Barnhart isle, ruined. The dam at the Power Authority has also ruined a lot of natural habitat. Money and greed and nepotism are all to blame. Shameful.</p> <p>The St. Lawrence River is very contaminated. The lakes and rivers less so except for areas of high use in industrial, urban and agricultural concentrations.</p> <p>I have lived on the Raquette River for my whole life (30 years) I pay very close attention to the river since the activities that I participate in rely heavily on the water conditions. I have noticed since Brookfield Power has taken control of the power generation, there is significantly less consistency with the water conditions. The levels are 8-10" higher on average, and there have been two occurrences of significant flooding. Beforehand the water level was always consistent and there were never any significant flooding events. I believe these folks are creating many issues in regard to the pollution as a result of erosion, and also issues with allowing people to recreate on the water.</p> <p>I live on the Raquette River flow in Hannawa Falls and our biggest issue is Brookfield Power. They have surveyors coming down to our waterfronts right now and in our neighborhood...</p>

Topic	Comment
	<p>and it seems like whatever they're doing is going to lead to nefarious ends. The water is often strong and high, we've lost quite a bit of waterfront because of their practices.</p> <p>forests ought to be professionally managed to provide natural wood products in an environmentally sustainable manner</p> <p>Lake Ontario watershed is being destroyed owing to shipping. This has been the root cause of destruction for the last 70 yrs. Salmon industry permitting related to marina development destroyed acres of wetland. Lack of enforcement of ballast waters has wreaked havoc with the entire ecosystem. It is disheartening that shore owners have been targeted as sole cause of habitat destruction by some environmental groups. It has had the opposite effect of loss of support, specifically Nature Conservancy. Thank you.</p> <p>Please keep the watershed pristine with no further large industrial development.</p>
Invasive species	<p>We need to watch the invasives because the waterways are clean and vibrant, and they could destroy it.</p> <p>Need to get tanker ships to filter out ballast tanks to limit pollution and invasive species..</p> <p>invasive species inspections should be increased.</p> <p>Invasive species and flooding are the immediate threats to most of these waterways</p> <p>I would like to see mandatory boat washing and inspection at all lakes and waterways in the watershed area and more funds to fight invasive species brought by unclean boats.</p> <p>This watershed has very high biodiversity which is endangered by inappropriate development and invasive species.</p> <p>Black lake needs weed control, late summer, it is hard to even get off our dock , also the fishing derbies ruined the fishing for me as a Tax payer . have a seasonal home and pay high taxes, those people come in for one day don't spend any money for the economy of the area,</p> <p>Keep a close eye on the ships before they get into the Gulf of the St. Lawrence make sure there is no harmful ballast water.</p>
Municipal water	<p>The water levels two of the last three years have ensured that our septic system has leached into the SLR. This is a major problem that could have been prevented by an improved water management system.</p>
Pollution	<p>Keep cattle out of watershed - agricultural run off</p> <p>With proper management we could have a world class fishery here drawing in people from around the world. The Raquette River could be an unmatched tail water system. Access remains difficult in many of the sections due to odd public private access agreements. Need better parking, trail systems etc. Better information about access is needed as well. The DEC also utilized very outdated approaches to fishery management - rather than habitat improvement - they focus on a put and take fishery which is short sighted and undermines natural reproduction of native fish. Dams need dish passage - unbelievable that we don't have it here since we do have anadromous fish and of course the potential for robust tourism associates with it. Also, fish passage is critical to maintaining the population of those fish.</p> <p>People who release balloons for fun or parties should be fined or prosecuted.</p> <p>I took the best S.W.A.G. (Scientific Wild Ass Guess) at the rankings as I am really not a hard science trained recreational user. Long term pollutants scare me. I know there are many that just pollute because they just don't know what they are doing pollutes. I for one would value an educational effort that explains in layman's terms, just what pollutes and the effect upon the environment. I go back to the days of the pollution education that consisted of the Indian Brave paddling a canoe through polluted waters and shedding a tear. Then to "Woody's Owl" -</p>

Topic	Comment
	Give a hoot, don't pollute... We users need to be CONSTANTLY reminded how little it takes to pollute and how long the effects last. Thank you for your efforts.
Protection	<p data-bbox="380 321 1533 464">We have a responsibility to future generations to protect and enhance the watershed area. For too long it has been used as an industrial, farming, and personal sewer - throw stuff in and it "goes away." Everyone lives downstream from somewhere and someone else and we need to see and protect the big picture.</p> <p data-bbox="380 464 1533 537">I grew up in Massena and didn't realize until after I left what a tremendous area this is. I visit every chance I get.</p> <p data-bbox="380 537 1533 575">An incredible resource that needs all the protection we can provide!</p> <p data-bbox="380 575 1533 758">I have loved the St. Lawrence River and all the water bodies in Upstate NY I've had the good fortune to explore all my life! I KNOW we need to do all we can to ensure future generations can experience recreation and spiritual renewal in these great places too! Thank you for continuing to work towards this and increased community awareness of the treasures we have to protect in our back yards!</p> <p data-bbox="380 758 1533 795">beautiful area, keep it that way</p> <p data-bbox="380 795 1533 905">I see boathouses allowed to deteriorate into the river over and over, often with gas and oil filled watercraft allowed to collapse along with the structures. Perhaps landowners allowing pollution should be fined and fines attached to real property taxes.</p> <p data-bbox="380 905 1533 1902">This is one of the last areas of our country with significant freshwater resources. Protecting & preserving this from those who seek to poison or steal them and use them for their own financial gain is paramount. Not allowing the mid-western and western states & entities to tap into the great lakes and drain them for agriculture in the west which is on the brink of "disaster" yet again is a very serious concern. They have already stolen & depleted the Ogallala aquifer to get out of the 1930 dust bowl situation and without ANY real plan to stop depleting it. The west is dying of drought and will soon be looking for more water. Please, please seek protections against this very real threat. Also, keeping fracking water from PA and other states out of our area is a continual battle and another very real threat. The "experiment" done by the wastewater treatment plant on the black river in Watertown should be a clear example of why we do not want that "harmless water" in our systems in northern NY. That stuff wiped out all of the good bacteria in the wastewater treatment system and forced them to have to completely start over by releasing everything into the black river which then flowed into Sackets harbor bay and Lake Ontario. Developing the watershed is not what we should be seeking. Bringing more tourism & big business here will only do three things, raise taxes for the residents (due to tax breaks being given to companies), cause exorbitantly high power bills for the residents (due to bitcoin like companies sucking all the energy from the grid & not paying any tax) and cause overpopulation which will overtax our delicate ecosystem. This is not NYC, it's an agricultural & wildlife refuge area with delicate ecosystems that need protecting, careful management, and defending against the wolves of big business and development interests. Big business rarely spends & invests their money here for the long-term, they strip what they can from the local resources, pocket the profit, and move on like a pack of locusts. Keep the communities small, make them more self-reliant, and teach better green & organic practices to the agricultural community (make this a truly organic hub; outlaw non-organic practices). Some tourism is good but attracting those who wish to preserve and appreciate the area rather than use and abuse the area is a better plan. Stop letting "Big Ag" shove its horrible contaminating products down everyone's throats (literally in our food & ag supply; outlaw it). Think about laws requiring federally funded institutions to source any</p>

Topic	Comment
	locally available food from the local organic sources and only go outside the area for things that are not produced here. Keep milk products local, keep produce local, let cheap power generation be a benefit to all residents instead of giving it away and allowing big business 10 and 20 yr. tax breaks, which go bankrupt and reorganize only to seek another 10 or 20 yr. tax break, or only give temporary jobs or very few long term jobs (like many wind power projects). If we wish to preserve this extensive ecosystem all communities need to band together in unison to protect it, use it responsibly but with a frugal respect, and live within it symbiotically rather than rapaciously. There should be stiff & swift penalties for violators and laws with real teeth to protect our resources.
	I would like to thank you for gathering the thoughts of the local property owners and those that take lake and river management seriously
	We must be pro-active in all aspects of protecting the environment. Here and everywhere.
	THEY NEED TO LOWER THE LAKE ONTARIO WATER LEVEL. WE HAVE LIVED HERE FOR 50 YEARS AND NEVER HAS BEEN THIS HIGH. WE HAVE HAD MAJOR DAMAGE TO OUR SHORE LINE AND BREAKWALL!!!
	I was a full time resident of the North Country for many years during the 1990's and early 2000's. I was actively involved in Bald Eagle, Breeding Bird, Loon and Black Tern Surveys. I love the North Country.
	Please do all you can to protect this
	I think the DEC and New York State is on the right track in protecting this valuable resource.
	I used to spend a lot of time in the St. Lawrence River valley both for work and recreation. I worked with paper mills, landfills, colleges, aluminum plants, milk plants and other producers of wastes. They are all out serious efforts into keeping the river and its tributaries clean.
	A great area for outdoor recreation, Hunting. Fishing, Trapping, Canoeing, Boating. Anything to protect and enhance the watershed for the generations to come is a great idea.
	I just want us to protect nature, water, and air. I think smaller building, more community gardens, less gas powered vehicles and better politics than we have now.
	We love and have lived in or otherwise enjoyed the watershed for almost 80 years. It's worth protecting.
	Those of us living in the watershed tend to take this wonderful resource for granted. The rest of the world looks at this region with great envy. We need to recognize what we have - and PROTECT it.
	I own property in Canada on the St Lawrence River between Rockport and Gananoque since 1972.
	GREAT AREA KEEP IT THAT WAY.
	We have a unique environment, and we must protect it, but we also have to live here too.
	It is our responsibility to take care of our environment we all need to do our part
	I Love NY!
	While more a visitor than an inhabitant, I would be saddened if the area were not available to me or if its quality were severely impacted.
	A treasure that we are duty-bound to protect. The reason I live here and why I want to stay.
	Closure to the public of large private holdings should be studied. Areas need protection but they should be open to non-motorized unexploited access.
	I have always enjoyed that area as well as the rest of New York State. It's a Beautiful State and it should be looked after every day. Dan

Topic	Comment
	Can't wait to move up there permanently, it is a beautiful place
	The big push for tourism is, IMHO, a huge mistake. Having lived in a couple of tourist areas and seen another one (a small village) overwhelmed by tourists on a regular and increasing basis destroy the quality of life of those residing in those spaces like living in a fool's paradise. Keeping the Adirondacks pristine and in its natural state as much as possible is what makes the North Country a treasure. Start building and they will come...with no love/care/concern for the residents.
	One of the most pure and pristine watersheds in the world!
	The St. Lawrence River watershed is a major reason for me staying here. It is a vital and incredible resource that could definitely be better protected and better used.
	I think whether we are seasonal or full time residents - we LOVE THE RIVER- want to see it protected and should have equal access to funding when situations become dire.
	This is such an important resource and needs to be protected and shared!
	A beautiful area we must protect for future generations to enjoy
	Thank you for all you do, you are doing incredibly important work and I just wanted you all to know how grateful I am for what you do. love, an Adirondack semester alum (at SLU)
	This is a slanted study based on your own agenda and very disheartening. I have been on the St. Lawrence river for over 50 years. The recent attempt to control the water level to protect the wildlife has caused irreputable damage to homes, businesses, and livelihoods. It is very shortsighted on the part of the environmentalists. Have you considered all the trees sacrificed? All the lumber used on repairs, or additional manufactured plastics added to the environment. Not to mention, take a look at all the trees toppled over because their roots have been submerged in water for 2 years and cannot withstand a normal windstorm. How much fuel is being generated by the machinery being used to clean up and repair the devastation. Not to mention the now lack of shade lost due to all the fallen trees, let's contribute to global warming some more. It's time you listened to the old timers on the river who predicted this instead of your well-meaning, shortsighted college students. As a longtime member of the Adirondacks, I am offended by this survey which is prejudice and one sided.
Public awareness	The internet is a great place to make folks aware of what the watershed provides. See digthefalls.org. As an example.
	Stiffer fines for polluters and litterers.
	I grew up on the St. Lawrence River and I think too many people take for granted that it will always be the same or that we don't have to actively manage the watershed.
	Smaller lakes such as Pleasant Lake, located in Macomb, NY, could use more signage regarding algae bloom protection, boat washing, etc. (Thank you!)
	Increase educational environmental info to visitors to region.
	Would like to see regulations that do not allow folks to plant grass near water's edge and requirements to leave natural environment.
	I answered many the best I could, but don't feel they were particularly well-informed responses. Which is probably part of the problem....
	The key to saving the watersheds is to also develop urban spaces to enjoy the rivers---create a larger culture of those who care.
	Need to protect spawning bass via a later 'take' season opening. Catch and release, however, could remain open almost year round.
	more user friendly fishing areas

Topic	Comment
Recreation / Public access	Lack of recreational access has deterred people from staying in the area. Low water in 13 mile section of St Lawrence river after Iroquois lowered waterfront home values and deterred recreational opportunities. Extreme low water may cause future problems.
	Jet skis should be banned on all lakes < 1 sq mile.
	I would like to see the DEC coordinate with DOT to ensure that new bridge construction allows for prior recreational boating uses. Specifically, the West Branch of the Oswegatchie on Jerden Falls Rd. The new bridge construction removed and blocks off all access to the river.
	Need more public access places. Heavy fines for polluting.
	I would like to see connecting canoe/kayak portage trails from lake to lake where plausible/possible. Also designated canoe trails along the many slow winding streams that flow into Black Lake and the St. Lawrence River. Designated Parking areas could be lightly developed, and signage erected. And maps developed highlighting where these trails are and where put in and take out locations are. I would like to see common day use areas developed on Black Lake. Where boaters can stop for picnic lunches, swimming and just relaxing. Volunteers would provide simple initial landscape work. And picnic tables and a simple basic dock that would be pulled up on shore for the winter. One of these common areas could be the sandy east side of Indian river just below the rocks. Volunteers could remove the Poison Ivy and brush, put in picnic tables, and develop a swim at risk area along the sandy shore. Another common area would be the point at the northern end of Apple Island. With a dock on the quiet bay side and a picnic table up on the shore in the shade overlooking the lake. This is a shaded breezy rocky point that would make a very nice resting area for boaters. Another possible location could be where the Indian river enters Black lake. There is a nice mound that would be a good picnic area. A simple dock could be put in on the calm north east side. Again, volunteers could develop and supply all materials and manpower for these projects. Landowners could be contacted for possible sale of these parts of their property to the Black Lake association. Who would then oversee their maintenance and usage? Monies for purchase of these sites could be derived through petitioning the lake residents and possible grants. Also, landowners should be offered tax incentives, if possible, should they choose to donate a part of their land for such use. There are many other locations further up the lake that could also be used for such. These areas would allow a break for a day out on the lake and I believe they would enhance the overall quality of our beautiful lake.
	The watershed is under appreciated, despite heavy use. Counties must take a standby implementing water friendly practices and banning harmful ones. Interconnectedness is key. More incentives for citizen wildlife protection should be created, like sponsoring habitat creation and endangered species protection by small landowners. Create corridors and educate. Use public schools and spaces as pilot runs, with informational signs. Make recreational use handicap accessible. Take out all the dams.
Water Levels	Better controls on the water level of the St Lawrence River. IJC is a farce; and the public is aware.
	More stable water levels as in years past
	The high water levels of the last few years were difficult to predict but was a blunder on the part of the commission
	Managing water levels throughout the Great Lakes needs to become a top priority to avoid further damage to landowners' properties.

Topic	Comment
	Management of the river levels the past three years has been a catastrophe for the whole st Lawrence river basin. Anyone involved with the management should be held responsible and punished to the extent of the law
	The implementation of Plan 2014 for water level management of Lake Ontario by the IJC has resulted in devastating flooding of the shoreline of Lake Ontario and The St. Lawrence river in 2017 and 2019 and is poised to do the same in 2020. This has resulting in the destruction of shoreline property, the flooding of septic systems resulting in discharge into the lake and river and the release of sediment into the lake and river.
	Water levels of the St. Lawrence River must be managed better, The high water caused by the IJC's mismanagement cannot continue. It is ruining many homes, camps, fisheries, and recreational uses.
	Repeal Plan 2014 and revert back to the original since 1958.
	Water is way too high!
	I fear that the extra water running through the Robert Moses Dam will ruin fish spawning areas, this might happen at a time that more fishing tournaments are coming to our area that bring in much needed revenue.
	They better get control of the flooding or everything is doomed!
	For people to understand the logistics and facts of the St. Lawrence water flows. How can the dams change water levels when 4 of the Great lakes are 200 feet higher than Lake Ontario
	This survey is a farse!
	Excessive and poorly managed high water in the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario in particular is destroying habitat and wetlands, causing erosion on formerly beautiful, pristine DEC beaches; The DEC's Black Pond area is/was a hidden gem but high water has caused trees to fall over, dunes to be impacted - ruining the natural beauty that was there for all to enjoy. Having "higher highs" does not help our coastal wetlands -- it erodes and destroys these fragile and precious environments!
	The Oswego River, draining all of CNY, should be on your survey!!! It has significant impact on the St. Lawrence River water quality and levels.
	The winter draw down in lake St. Lawrence is killing the ecosystems of the shore and bays
	Our Dictator Governor has destroyed our fishing ecology with his ridiculous demands of fully opened dams in Massena, NY. We have mud everywhere within a week of opening the dams to so called alleviate Lake Ontario water levels!! We have lost our fishing spots entirely and not to mention the catastrophic loss of fish due to water loss! This is an ecological disaster! Thank you very much for caring!!! It will take a long, long time to recover after this disaster! Are you blind? Have you seen the damage? Drive through Waddington. Check out Coles Creek...Look at Waddington beach, Whalen Park, Louisville, NY is a mud pit that you can literally walk across to reach the shipping channel...all mud pits! The fish are dead when the water freezes, and they have little to no oxygen! I cannot believe that this was allowed to happen! Every single thing a Democrat touches is destroyed! Shame, shame, shame!
	Let nature run its course. Remove some dams from the Raquette. Stop construction along the St. Lawrence shorelines and work to stop the effects of air pollution. The park streams have been returning to normalcy. This should not be reversed by looser pollution standards. Allow water levels in the Great Lakes to rise even if it floods some property.
	St. Lawrence/Lake Ontario River levels are number one concern

Topic	Comment
	You need to lower lake levels to prevent flooding and damages to homes, businesses, and the tourist industry.
	The St. Lawrence River levels have to be stabilized to historic heights as this river is key to the economics of the whole area
	Less water fluctuations on the St. Lawrence
	Fix the flooding problems
	Tired of flooding
	High water and consumer use of the waterways does not get the priority from the landowners of all the great lakes and states. All states should be forcing the outflow to keep levels lower not just state by state
	There is impact all the way to the Lake Ontario watershed up into the lower Niagara River with regard to flooding and management of the water levels in the St Lawrence region. It has been extremely damaging over the past 2 seasons.
	St. Lawrence river water level should not change from historical levels
	Plan 2014 really sucks!
	Remove all dams except at Lowes
	Lower water levels back to what they were
	The 2014 plan is just trying to Saint Lawrence river and tributaries. I do not believe that it is climate change rather it's big business and politics ruining a natural resource.
	Water levels are too high forcing wildlife out of the natural habitat and into harm's way and making septic systems leak into the waters shed!!!!
	I think it is great that the watershed is restoring historic seasonal hydrology to the river to allow for the natural water level fluctuations that are necessary for the life cycles of many native species. No one should have been allowed to build below the historical mean high water line in the first place!
	The joint US/Canada Seaway Commission needs to be changed. They caused the flooding problems!
	Historically, a major threat to the St Lawrence itself was the 1958dd plan for the Moses Saunders Dam. Now that a new plan is in place, I am hopeful that the ecology of the river will rebound.
	Being a full time resident across from the last waterfall on the Indian River. My home was originally built as a doctor's office in the early 1800's. Springtime and heavy rain events have occurred the yard and basement have been effected each year and my home has survived. It gets wet and dries. I understand that management of all the dams and bridges to allow constant flow directly impacts the level of water that covers my backyard and basement and what can and cannot survive high water.
	Flooding and high water levels of the St. Lawrence River are becoming of critical importance.
	We need to get control of the flooding. Very complicated I'm sure. We move billions of gallons of oil by pipeline. Why not water? Even if we just store it.
	I would like lower water levels on the St. Lawrence River, even if that means shortening the shipping season.
	Pls go back controlling the St Lawrence River as it had been years prior to 2017! This high water is killing the area!
	End the poor management practices that resulted in creating flood conditions in the St. Lawrence River

Topic	Comment
	I don't think there should be any attempt to control the level of the river.
	Water level mismanagement is currently a disaster. I am an avid environmentalist, but high water is destroying the entire resort economy of the river.
	To prevent damage to property, environment, and wildlife. The IJC needs to stop immediately with Plan 2014 and revert to the prior limits for controlling water levels on the manmade St Lawrence River. Mismanagement is being labeled as climate change and is causing the greatest threat to the ecosystem of the river.
	The level of the River has been way too high in two of the last three years. This has resulted in loss of 7 trees, erosion, and damage to sea walls and some property.
	Minimize commercial shipping calendar somewhat so water levels can be managed more effectively during non-shipping timeframes.
	Needs better control of water levels year-round throughout the system. Seeing more algae blooms when levels are low and erosion when high.
	Reduce Lake Ontario water levels.
	It's hard to concentrate on the above issues, when the end product affects an entity (i.e. St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario) that is under siege from mis-management of said water levels.
	Open the Dam and let water out - you are destroying people's dreams and homes and the shoreline; this is not yours to destroy. Do the right thing and help us
	I don't understand why all of the watersheds are negatively affected by the water level controls on the St. Lawrence and why it cannot go back to the way it was in the past. The high waters are economically devastating to the area in the watershed.
	The greatest risk is that of flooding and erosion due to Plan 2014 and the IJC. Every effort possible MUST be applied right now to get the upper river and Lake Ontario level down to manageable levels.
	Thank you!
	Terminate IJC Plan 2014!
	Engineers changed water ways not right. Example Jacques Cartier State Park they closed off flow of water through so now is dirty. Changed flow of water back, it's not right, they were trying to do good but did not work. This needs to be fixed
	Help control Lake Ontario levels
	Get water flowing in black lake. Allow it to be navigable from the St. Lawrence.
	Water levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River are causing serious environmental, property, and recreational issues. Water levels (Plan 2014) need to be addressed ASAP.
	High water levels were caused by excessive rain and snow. However, don't exacerbate the situation by not lowering water levels to seasonal lows before ice forms. If shipping must be suspended or terminated early, then do so.
	Being a property owner on the St. Lawrence, flooding is my chief concern. After that, the invasive species such as zebra mussels and goby are out of control.
	GO BACK TO ORIGINAL WATER LEVELS THAT HAS KEPT FLOODING TO A MINIMUM
	The water levels must be stabilized on Lake Ontario and the St Lawrence River. The damage to property owners after decades of stable water levels is unacceptable.
	My wife and I own a seasonal camp on Black Lake; it's our only real exposure to the SLR watershed. I know the lake is constantly murky; it's a fecund lake, shallow and warm. It's never, by its nature, going to be anything else. I know there are seasonal algae blooms, but I

Topic	Comment
	do not see these as being brought about by man-made pollutants or farm run-offs or septic/wastewater issues; I see them as being natural. My only issue is the constantly varying levels of the lake. It would be nice to see it managed, somehow, if possible, so it stays at a somewhat constant level.
	Better control of water levels. More public boat launches needed with ample parking.