



Public Announcement

Major International Field Survey to Update Heights throughout the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River

This summer, surveyors from government agencies in Canada and the United States were out in the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River region for a major six-week project collecting Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) data, such as GPS, at over 350 locations. The data will be used to determine the heights of water level gauges as part of an update to the [International Great Lakes Datum](#) (IGLD). IGLD is the common reference system used to measure water level heights throughout the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River System. A common system is needed for consistent marine navigation, water resource management, surveying, mapping, and shoreline use planning.

The Great Lakes have long been an economic driver for both nations, generating [\\$3.1 trillion in U.S. gross domestic product](#) and providing immense value to the environment and culture of both countries. According to recent reports, the Great Lakes economy [employs 25.8 million people and provides \\$1.3 trillion in wages](#) for Great Lakes coastal communities in the U.S. alone. The IGLD is a foundational infrastructure for managing this economic engine.

“The safety and economic viability of the Great Lakes commercial navigation industry, the extensive recreational boating community and ports/harbours across the region all rely on accurate water level information,” said Dr. Calvin Klatt, Chief Geodesist of Canada. “Use of Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River freshwater resources by the people of Canada and the United States requires bi-national coordination of water levels, depths, volumes and flows and we are pleased to be partners in this important effort.”

IGLD is revised every 25 to 35 years by the [Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data](#) to account for glacial isostatic adjustment (GIA). The Coordinating Committee is a bi-national committee dedicated to the focusing on data collection, compilation, and coordination required for joint water resource management.

Contact:

Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic & Hydrologic Data
www.GreatLakesCC.org/en/international-great-lakes-datum-update/
info@GreatLakesCC.org