



# Bulletin

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## INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION SPECIAL REPORT ON POLLUTION

On May 21, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, tabled in the House of Commons the Special Report of the International Joint Commission on Potential Oil Pollution, Eutrophication and Pollution from Watercraft, which was released in Washington on the same day.

Mr. Sharp described the report in the following words:

This report constitutes the third of three interim reports on water pollution of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the international section of the St. Lawrence River. These reports, together with the final report, which is expected to be submitted to the two federal governments later this year, derive from a joint request from the Canadian and United States Governments to the IJC on October 7, 1964, to investigate and report upon the extent, causes, locations and effects of pollution in the waters of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the international section of the St.

Lawrence River and to recommend the most practicable remedial measures.

### PROBLEM AREAS

This third interim report focuses on three major problem areas — potential oil pollution from all sources including underwater drilling, eutrophication, with particular reference to the removal of phosphorus from detergents and sewage, and pollution from watercraft. The findings and recommendations are based on the investigations of the Commission's two technical advisory boards, the International Lake Erie Water Pollution Board and the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Water Pollution Board, and on the subsequent public hearings held to consider these reports.

With regard to potential oil pollution in Lake Erie, the report contains significant recommendations for action to be taken by all levels of government.

With regard to eutrophication of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the international section of the St. Lawrence River, the Commission makes important recommendations calling for the implementation by the Governments of the United States and Canada in concert, at the earliest possible date, of an integrated programme of phosphorus control.

With regard to pollution from watercraft, the Commission recommends that the federal, provincial and state governments in concert, consider and implement, at the earliest possible date, compatible regulations for the control of water pollution from all classes of commercial vessels and pleasure craft using Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the international section of the St. Lawrence River.

The International Joint Commission and its advisory boards have rendered invaluable service to both countries in helping to identify major pollution problems in the Great Lakes, in singling out particular problems for urgent action at this time and in proposing practical ways of improving the quality of these vitally important waters.

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