

# USCG Sector Buffalo

NY/NJ Regional Response Team Meeting

March 9 – 10, 2020



# USCG Sector Buffalo Exercises and Cases (Since April 2019)

- Between Sector Buffalo, MSU Cleveland, and MSD Massena, there were:
  - 97 Cases
  - 34 Physical Responses
  - 10 Federalized Cases
- Ongoing Lake Ontario High Water concern (Floating Islands)
- CANUSLAK (August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>)
- Galop Island Grounding incident (October 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)
- Multiple incidents with snowmobiles/ATV's/airboats falling through ice in the NY area – ice much thinner than typical this time of year (press release sent and multiple tv interviews conducted).



# Lake Ontario High Water

Average Water Level: 243.3 Feet

Previous High Water Level Record: 248.95 Feet (May 2017)

New High Water Level Record: **249.09** Feet (June 2019)



# Lake Ontario “Floating Islands”

High water during the summer eroded the shoreline, causing large land masses, 60’ by 30’ to float into Lake Ontario.

Heavy media interest, both local and national networks, who called these land masses “floating islands”.

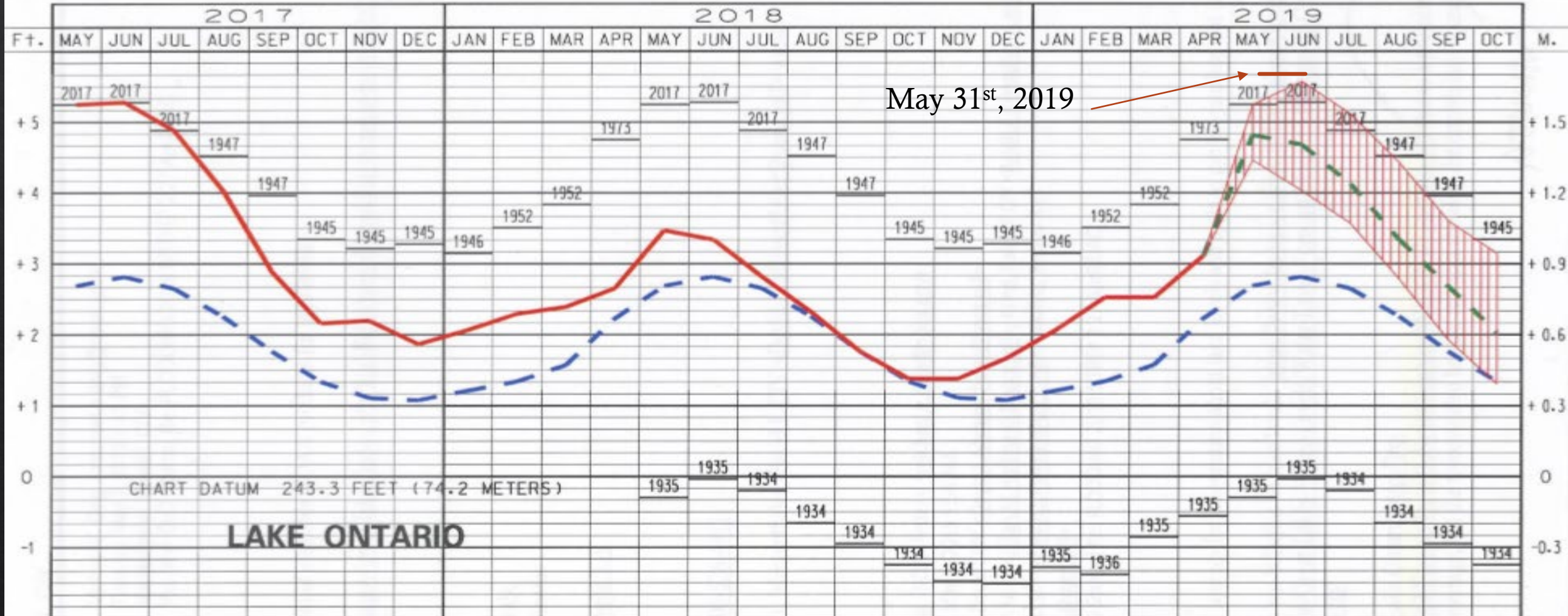
Local news networks wanted Coast Guard to recover and relocate land masses to original location.



Sector Buffalo warned mariners of the land masses in Braddock Bay. Islands eventually broke up naturally and the pieces dispersed out of the bay.



# LAKE ONTARIO WATER LEVELS – MAY 2019



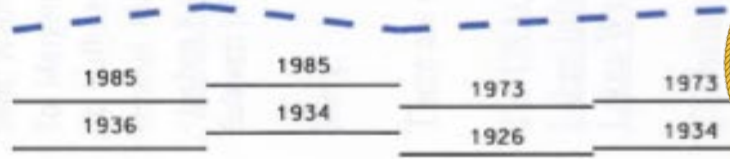
May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

### LEGEND LAKE LEVELS

RECORDED  
PROJECTED



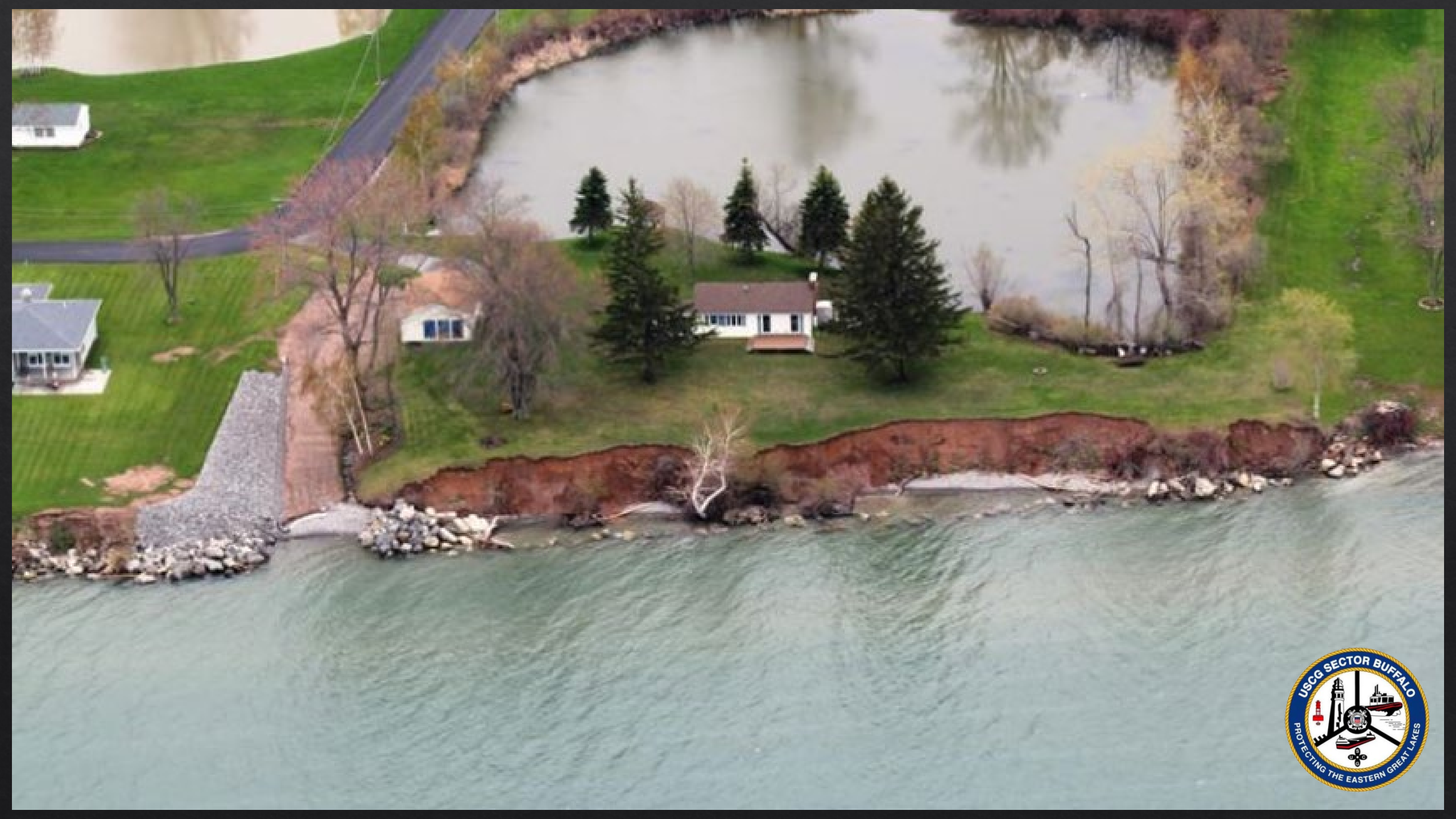
AVERAGE \*\*  
MAXIMUM \*\*  
MINIMUM \*\*



\*\* Average, Maximum and Minimum for period 1918-2018







# CANUSLAK 2019

- CANUSLAK Exercise (August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>)
  - Joint exercise with our international, federal, state, local, and tribal partners which included Transport Canada, Canadian Coast Guard, St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC), St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC), U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), NY State Police, NY Naval Militia, and the Clayton Volunteer Fire Department.
  - 125 exercise participants.
  - Tested interagency response to simulated oil spill, release of a toxic plume, and detection of radioactive material.
  - Highly successful GRS validation.





# USCG Sector Buffalo

Galop Island Grounding

October 6<sup>th</sup> – 12th



# M/V RT. HON. PAUL J. MARTIN

740 Ft. Canadian flagged vessel owned and operated by Canadian Steamship Lines

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, vessel was transiting down bound the St. Lawrence River towards Quebec City to offload cargo of Iron Ore.





Approximately 2005 Local, M/V RT. HON. PAUL J. MARTIN runs aground 14 miles N of Ogdensburg, NY IVO Galop Island on the St. Lawrence Seaway.











PT. ST. CATHERINE  
WMEC-906



# Galop Island Grounding (October 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)

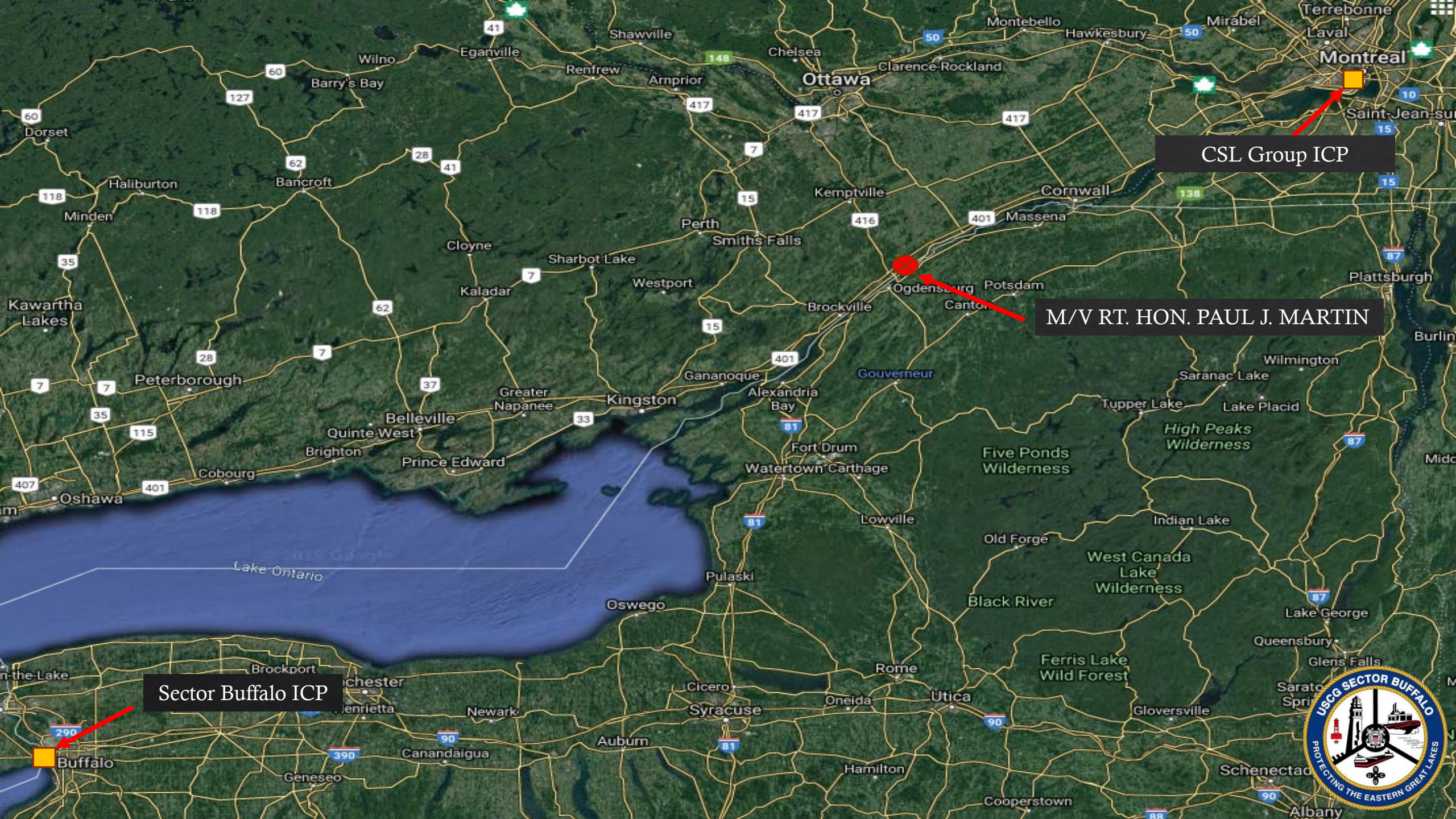
Sector Commander deemed vessel to be a substantial threat to the environment and an ICP was established at Sector Buffalo.

Responsible Party, CSL, established an ICP in Montreal to manage salvage and re-float operations.

U.S. Coast Guard worked closely with our local, state, federal, tribal, and international partners to ensure protection of natural resources and protection of the MTS.







CSL Group ICP

M/V RT. HON. PAUL J. MARTIN

Sector Buffalo ICP



# Galop Island Grounding (October 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)

Beginning on the 10<sup>th</sup>, vessel began offloading iron ore into barges. A total of 5,230 metric tons of iron ore were removed from the vessel to aid in re-float.



Vessel successfully re-floated on the 12<sup>th</sup> - no injuries or pollution.

Vessel was escorted up-river to Prescott Anchorage for inspection/temporary repairs.



