



Great Lakes
Commission
des Grands Lacs

2006 Annual Report



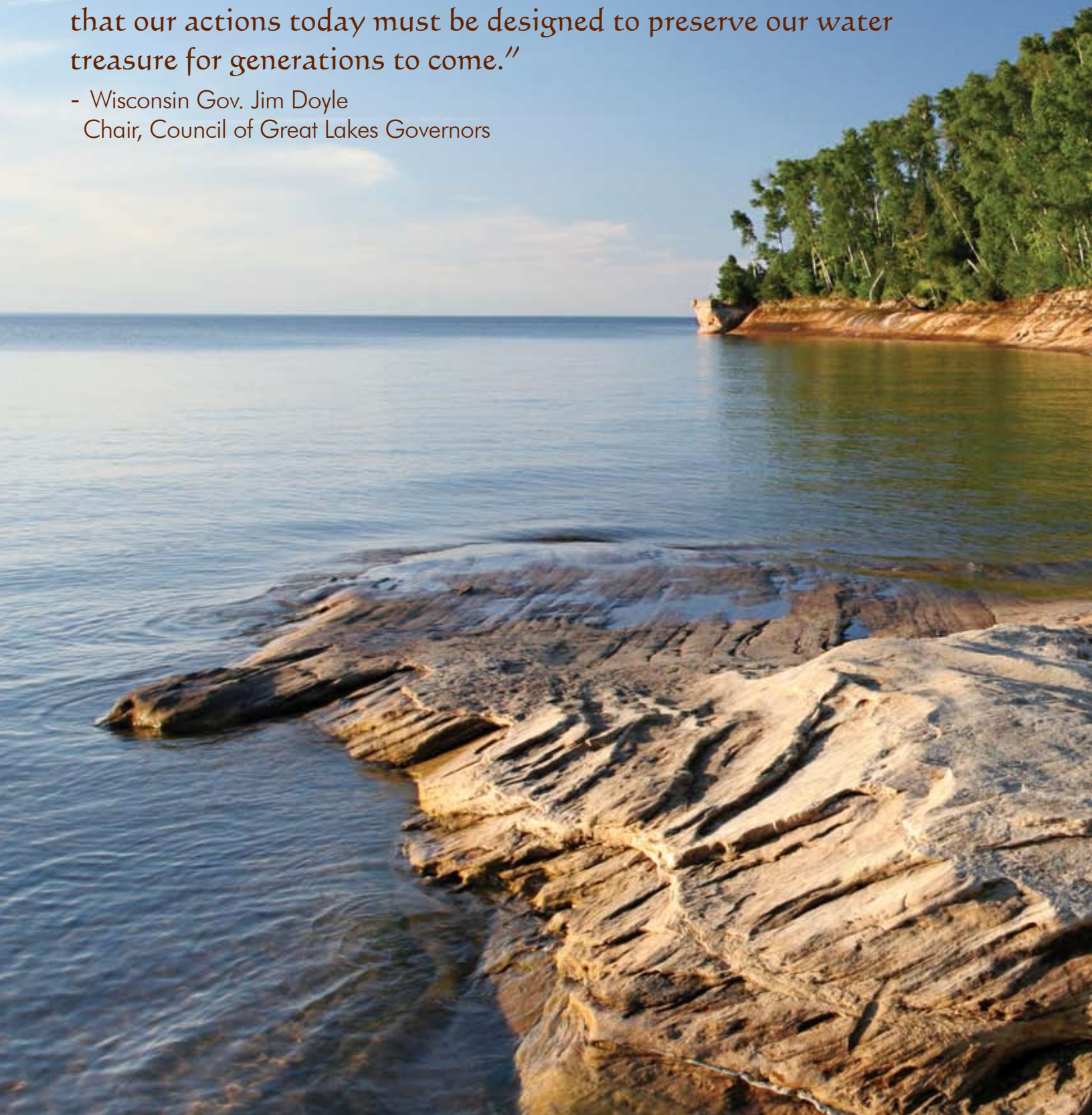
From Many Views,

One Vision



“We have the good fortune to be blessed with the Earth’s greatest freshwater resources. It is both humbling and daunting to know that our actions today must be designed to preserve our water treasure for generations to come.”

- Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors







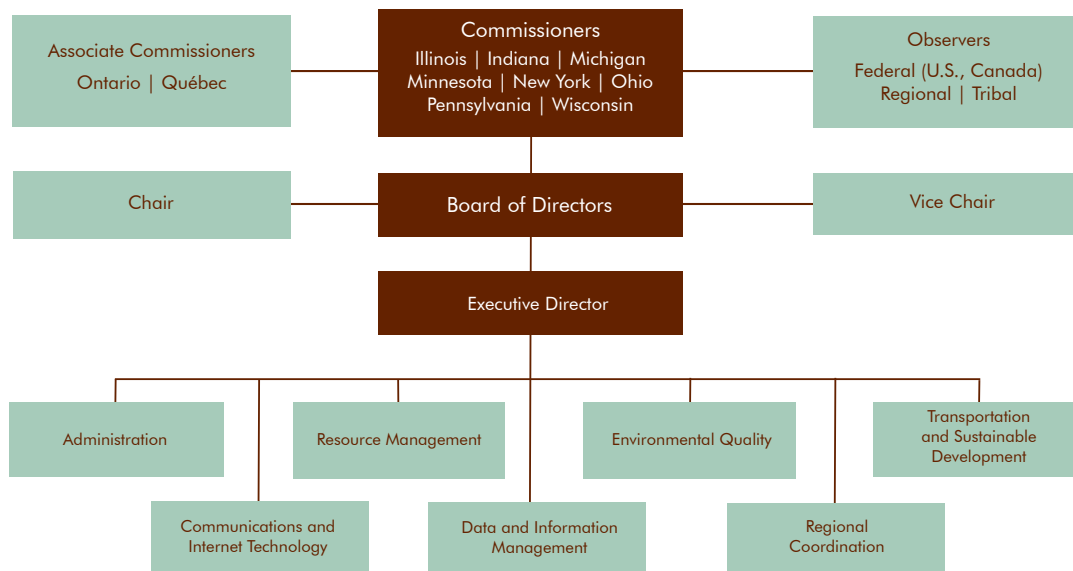
From left: Dan Eichinger, alternate Commissioner, Michigan; Ken DeBeaussaert, delegation chair, Michigan; Michel Lafleur, delegation chair, Québec; Michigan Lt. Gov. John Cherry, chair; Todd Ambs, delegation chair, Wisconsin; Cathy Curran Myers, delegation chair, Pennsylvania; Kari Evans, delegation chair, Indiana; Don Zelazny, associate Commissioner, New York; and Tim Eder, executive director.

Commission Board and Structure

“By virtue of its charter and history, the Great Lakes Commission is uniquely positioned to play a critical role as a key source of information, mediator of conflicts and builder of consensus on Great Lakes issues.” - Dr. Sam Speck, past director, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources and chair, Great Lakes Commission (2002-04)

Board of Directors

- Chair: Lt. Gov. John Cherry, Michigan
- Vice Chair: Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn, Illinois
- Immediate Past Chair: State Rep. Thomas Huntley, Minnesota
- Kari Evans, Indiana
- Ken DeBeaussaert, Michigan
- Denise Sheehan, New York
- Sean Logan, Ohio
- Bill Carr, Ontario
- Cathy Curran Myers, Pennsylvania
- Michel Lafleur, Québec
- Todd Ambs, Wisconsin



“...the Great Lakes Commission will bring new energy to finding and creating strategic partnerships among citizens, stakeholders, industry and governments.”



Finding Common Ground

Michigan Lt. Gov. John Cherry Chair, Great Lakes Commission

I am truly humbled and honored to serve as the chair of the Great Lakes Commission. For over 50 years, the Commission has effected change, led opinion, and been an immovable ally for our Great Lakes.

The Commission, Member states, and our treasured natural resources owe a debt to my predecessor, Tom Huntley, for his wisdom and leadership during our time of transition. Tom's calming stewardship of the organization has enabled the Commission to review its priorities internally while never losing sight of our overall mission.

It is appropriate then, as we write the last chapter on 2006 to turn our view forward to 2007. As we enter the new year, we do so with a great sense of urgency and an even greater sense of optimism. With work already underway in the 110th Congress, the Commission will pursue an aggressive agenda to complete and fully fund key Great Lakes priorities.

To that end, the entire Great Lakes community should seek full partnership with the Congress and the President in implementing and fully funding the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy. This strategy, a blueprint for rehabilitating our Great Lakes, must move beyond the conceptual and become the tangible. Additionally, the Commission will call for increased focus on a comprehensive solution to the problem of aquatic invasive species – long overdue at the federal level.

To earn consensus and key victories on solutions to the most critical areas of need, the Great Lakes Commission will bring new energy to finding and creating strategic partnerships among citizens, stakeholders, industry and governments. We will seek to show that advocating on behalf of the Great Lakes is not a competitive marketplace, but a collective one.

Though there is a great deal of work to be done this year I am more convinced than ever that the Great Lakes Commission will find common ground for our common cause.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John D. Cherry, Jr.". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

John D. Cherry, Jr.

“...there may be no other organization as well-suited as the Commission to tackle the problem of invasive species.”



Challenges and Opportunities

Tim Eder
Executive Director

Every so often, organizations like the Great Lakes Commission go through natural evolutions. Though change can be disconcerting, it can also be a time for reinvigoration or, as Stephen Covey put it, “sharpening the saw.”

The year 2006 was a time of transition for the Great Lakes Commission. Following my hiring in July, the Board of Directors immediately launched a strategic planning process that is defining our niche among other regional organizations and reaffirming our role as a regional leader in the areas of communication and education, information integration and reporting, facilitation and consensus building, and policy coordination and advocacy.

Our greatest strength as an organization is our foundation in state and federal law as an agency of the eight Great Lakes states. This one central theme is the basis for all our strategic planning. Along with Associate Members Ontario and Québec, our eight Member states are our source of credibility, influence and power. We have strong and healthy partnerships with federal agencies, nongovernment groups and our official Observers. We have a tremendously talented and experienced staff. Our financial footing is solid. But it is our Members – the Great Lakes states and provinces – that make up the 10 points on the cutting edge of our “saw.” Without the active engagement of our Members, the Commission would be just another Great Lakes interest group.

As we look ahead in 2007, the challenges we face are complex. Perhaps none is more demanding and intractable than that of invasive species, which seriously threatens both the future of foreign shipping on the lakes and the prospects for a healthy and diverse web of fish and wildlife. This has also been a particularly difficult issue for the Commission to address in the past, owing to its history and mandate. But the same factors that have made ballast water a difficult issue for the Commission to address in the past also create a unique opportunity. With our Member states’ interests in both the economic advantages of maritime commerce and their interests in ecological health and tourism, there may be no other organization as well-suited as the Commission to tackle the problem of invasive species.

In 2007 the Commission is confronting this challenge head-on by bringing together representatives of the maritime industry, other stakeholders and our Member states and provinces in a way that builds on the core strengths of our plan and the strength of our Members. Each has their own views of the issue and of what ought to be done. Our task is to help meld these views together into a single vision – a vision of a Great Lakes both healthy and prosperous, protected from invasive species and with a vibrant maritime economy. Doing so will be a huge challenge but represents a great opportunity, as well. Let’s make the most of it.


Tim A. Eder

The work of the Great Lakes Commission is greatly influenced by major regional initiatives now underway to address the challenges facing the Great Lakes. To a large extent, these play a major role in defining the regional agenda and outlining the issues to be addressed by the Commission and its partners. Among them:

“The Great Lakes form a single, interconnected watershed. Most of the challenges to their ecology do not respect national boundaries and, therefore, must be addressed by taking an ecosystem approach.” - Dennis Schornack, Chair, U.S. Section, International Joint Commission

Major Regional Initiatives

Great Lakes Regional Collaboration

The recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration were hailed at their release in December 2005 as offering a comprehensive strategy for the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes. However, with the notable exception of the reauthorization of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, few elements of the strategy were enacted in 2006. With the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation gaining significant clout at the committee level in the new Congress, prospects for Regional Collaboration legislation may be more favorable in 2007 and the Commission and its partners will be working diligently to secure passage of those bills.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) represent one of the greatest and most difficult challenges facing the Great Lakes. The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal dispersal barrier, designed to protect the Great Lakes from Asian carp and other invaders, has been a top regional priority for most of this decade. However, the enabling legislation has been caught up in the reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act, which has stalled in the past several sessions of Congress. The Commission will be strongly supporting stand-alone legislation in 2007 to authorize and fund the barrier. More recently, the Great Ships Initiative, a \$3.5 million research effort to develop effective ballast water treatments to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS, was initiated in July 2006. The project is co-managed by the Northeast-Midwest Institute and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, with research based at the University of Wisconsin-Superior's Lake Superior Research Institute.

Great Lakes Water Management

Efforts to develop new and more effective regional agreements to cooperatively manage the waters of the Great Lakes and preserve and protect them for future generations bore fruit with the adoption of the Annex 2001 Implementing Agreements in December 2005. Enabling legislation has been introduced in some Great Lakes state and provincial legislatures; the Commission has called upon all Member states and provinces, as well as the U.S. Congress, to enact the necessary legislation to put them into effect.

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Review

Last updated in 1987, the U.S.-Canadian Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement provides the framework for binational cooperation on the cleanup and restoration of the Great Lakes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada, in collaboration with the International Joint Commission, are currently reviewing the agreement to determine any need for modifications. A key issue is whether the agreement should focus narrowly on water quality, or evolve into a binational framework for ecosystem management. The two agencies are expected to issue their recommendations in mid-2007.



2006 Commission Projects

The work of the Great Lakes Commission largely falls into four major categories: communication and education, information integration and reporting, facilitation and consensus building, and policy coordination and advocacy. Through these functions, the Commission carries out its mandate to promote the orderly, integrated and comprehensive development, use and conservation of the water and related natural resources of the Great Lakes basin and St. Lawrence River. The following pages detail many of the Commission projects that support these efforts.

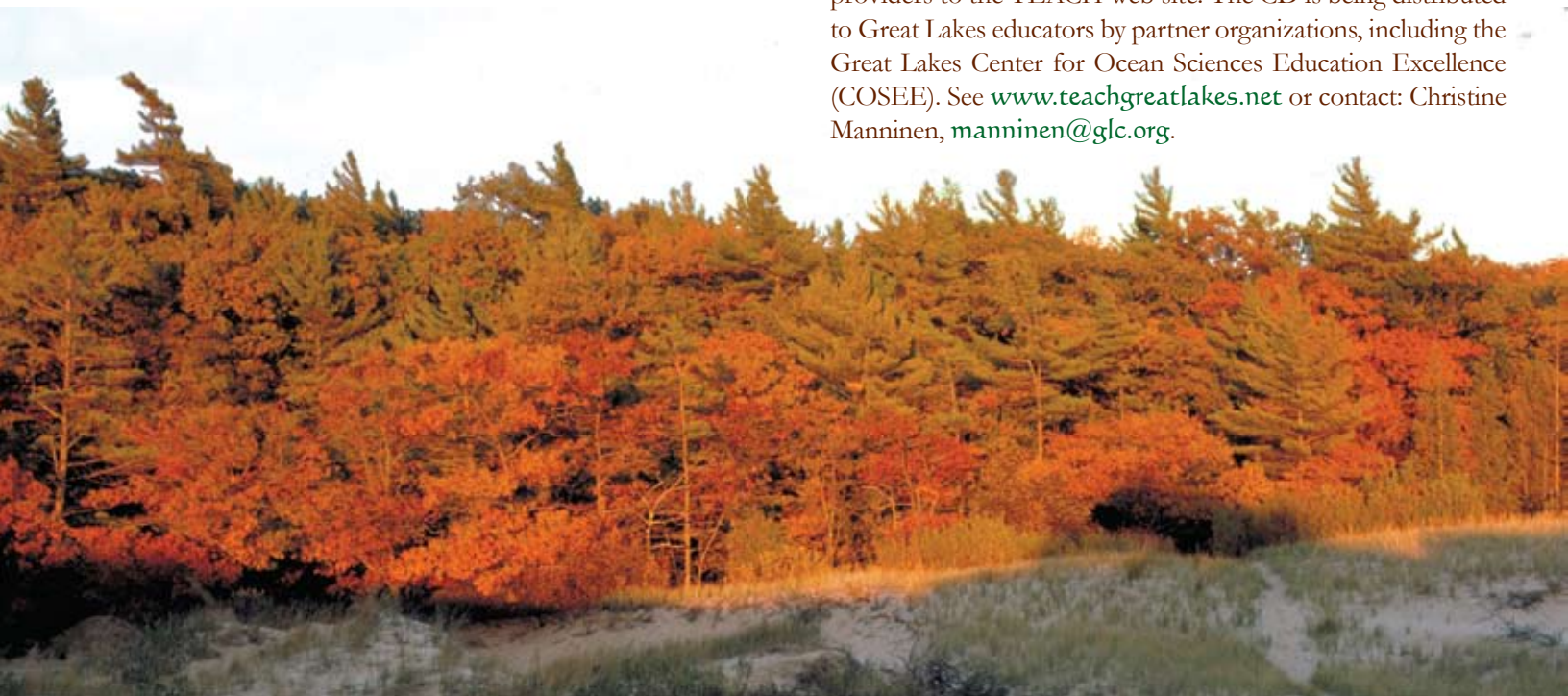
Communication and Education

Through its communication and education functions, the Commission raises public awareness of ecosystem management challenges and the links between environmental quality and economic viability. These efforts educate and empower government, citizens and other stakeholders to effectively participate in decisions affecting the future of the region. Examples of 2006 Commission activities supporting this function include the following:

TEACHing the next generation

The Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN), widely recognized as the “home port” for all information related to the lakes, continues to expand its content and communications tools for the Great Lakes community. Its online education portal, The Education And Curriculum Homesite (TEACH), was upgraded in 2006 with a comprehensive collection of education tools and resources for K-12 educators. This “Teachers’ Corner” offers instructional kits, sample lesson plans, reviews of curricular materials and online discussion opportunities. The project was funded by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust through a partnership with the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and Environment.

In addition, a TEACH CD-ROM was produced with funding from the Project AWARE Foundation. The CD contains sample lesson modules and the glossary from TEACH, as well as additional lesson plans, activities and materials supplied by providers to the TEACH web site. The CD is being distributed to Great Lakes educators by partner organizations, including the Great Lakes Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE). See www.teachgreatlakes.net or contact: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org.



“Communication and education are crucial tools in Great Lakes restoration. An informed user community is the first step in making the right choices for our lakes.” - Cathy Curran Myers, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection; chair, Pennsylvania Delegation, Great Lakes Commission



Aquatic Invasions booklet

The Great Lakes Commission continues its long-term outreach strategy to raise awareness and understanding of Great Lakes aquatic invasive species (AIS) through publication of a 14-page illustrated booklet, *Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions*. The publication serves as an update to the Commission's *Biological Invasions* brochure, last revised in 1998. Topics include ecosystem and economic impacts; vectors of AIS introduction and spread, and associated case studies; global movement of species; future direction of AIS management; model strategies of AIS prevention and control; and references to AIS-related websites. A timeline shows key AIS introductions and advancements in national and regional AIS-related policy. 10,000 copies have been printed, with primary distribution directed to state and federal decisionmakers.

The Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species was actively involved in the development and review of the booklet, which is funded by the U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office, with supplemental support from the USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region. See www.glc.org/ans/aquatic-invasions or contact: Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, shwayder@glc.org.

Other Projects

- **Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control** – Worked with the office of U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio 9th) in arranging a media event to raise awareness of the impacts of erosion and sedimentation on water quality in the Great Lakes basin. See www.glc.org/basin
- **“Great Lakes Science Today!”** – Organized a month-long exhibit and associated events with other Ann Arbor-based Great Lakes agencies, hosted by the Ann Arbor Public Library in summer 2006.
- **GLIN Maps and GIS** – Added new capability to discover and acquire geospatial data for areas within the Great Lakes region, and for registered users to upload/publish their own Great Lakes-themed data. See <http://gis.glin.net>
- **Great Lakes Daily News** – Added RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feature to the Commission's popular GLIN Daily News service, allowing users to automatically update their favorite weblog, e-mail program or handheld device with Daily News content. See www.glin.net/news
- **Advisor** – Published quarterly newsletter covering the activities of the Great Lakes Commission and examining matters of regional importance. See www.glc.org/advisor
- **Media advisories** – Issued approximately three dozen press releases and other announcements calling attention to Commission news, funding opportunities and related Great Lakes issues. See www.glc.org/announce



“Monitoring plays a critical role in securing environmental, social and economic well-being. Information management systems enable ecological forecasting, evaluation of programs and policies aimed at Great Lakes protection, and integrity of knowledge over space and time.” - Dr. Gail Krantzberg, McMaster University; member, GLOS Board of Directors

With the rapid growth and development of new and more powerful tools for gathering, processing and communicating data, information management has been an increasingly important endeavor for the Commission. The Commission researches, collects, organizes and makes accessible data and information about the Great Lakes that is relevant to our Member states and provinces and to others in the Great Lakes region. Decisionmakers rely on such data maintained by the Commission to support planning, resource management and other activities. Examples of 2006 Commission activities supporting this function include the following:

Information Integration and Reporting

Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium

Great Lakes coastal wetlands are a vital part of the Great Lakes ecosystem and provide many benefits. However, there is little basinwide data available for assessing their ecological health. To address this need, the Commission, with funding from the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, convened the Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium to expand monitoring and reporting capabilities for Great Lakes coastal wetlands under the U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Consisting of U.S. and Canadian science and policy experts, the Consortium is working with the University of Minnesota-Duluth – Natural Resources Research Institute and other partners to develop a set of indicators and metrics to assess the condition and overall status and trends of Great Lakes coastal wetlands. An inventory and classification system for Great Lakes coastal wetlands was developed in 2004. Together, these will form the basis of a long-term monitoring plan for Great Lakes coastal wetlands, due to be released in fall 2007. See www.glc.org/wetlands or contact: John Hummer, jhummer@glc.org.

Great Lakes Observing System

Since 2003, the Great Lakes Commission has spearheaded development and secured funding for the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS). This large, multifaceted initiative is dedicated to providing public access to critical, real-time and historical information about the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River and interconnecting waterways for use in managing, safeguarding and understanding these immensely valuable binational resources.

A nonprofit GLOS Regional Association (GLOS-RA) governs and guides the system to ensure that stakeholder needs are met and that optimal information-gathering tools are in place and secure. The GLOS-RA is one of 11 regional associations in the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System, all of which seek to benefit ecosystem protection, sustainable resource use, commercial and recreational navigation, human health, natural hazard preparedness, homeland security and climate change prediction.

Under the guidance of the Commission, the GLOS-RA established itself as a nonprofit organization in 2006, elected an inaugural board of directors and held its first annual meeting. GLOS is currently seeking funding to implement specific projects related to monitoring (open water, nearshore, interconnecting waterways, atmospheric), remote sensing, modeling and forecasting, education and outreach, and information integration. See www.glos.us or contact: Roger Gauthier, gauthier@glc.org.

Other Projects

- **Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database** – Compiles and distributes annual water use withdrawal information provided by the Great Lakes states and provinces in support of the Great Lakes Water Management Initiative. See www.glc.org/wateruse/database
- **Great Lakes Air Deposition (GLAD) program** – Sponsored more than \$1 million in new research endeavors investigating toxic air deposition in the Great Lakes basin, funded by U.S. EPA. See www.glc.org/glad
- **Great Lakes Toxic Air Emissions Inventory** – Released latest compilation of annual data on potentially harmful toxic air emissions in the Great Lakes region, based on data supplied by the Great Lakes states and Ontario. See www.glc.org/air
- **Recreational boating study** – Developing comprehensive picture of the economic impact of recreational boaters using the Great Lakes, through study conducted on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- **Great Lakes Monitoring Inventory** – Developed inventory of environmental monitoring programs in the Great Lakes basin and an associated analysis of monitoring gaps, funded by the Joyce Foundation. See www.glc.org/monitoring/greatlakes
- **Inland Sensitivity Atlas** – Maintains and updates regional compilation of data to assist in planning for and responding to oil spills, using GIS maps to designate potential spill sources and areas vulnerable to damage. Funded by U.S. EPA Region 5. See www.glc.org/spills



“Building consensus is absolutely crucial in addressing challenges like aquatic invasive species and the other issues facing the Great Lakes. You cannot expect a given solution to succeed unless those involved feel invested in it and embrace it as their own.” - Mike Conlin, chair, Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species

The many Great Lakes stakeholders, user groups, researchers and other interested parties not only represent a broad range of viewpoints, but a substantial body of expertise and knowledge, as well. Making effective use of this dispersed knowledge and finding common ground among these views is one of the essential challenges of Great Lakes management and protection. Toward this end, the Commission convenes and leads multistakeholder forums, projects and activities on matters of importance to the Great Lakes region. These include events where emerging issues and ideas are identified, leading research is presented, conflicting views are shared and debated, and consensus is sought around potential solutions. Examples of 2006 Commission activities supporting this function include the following:

Facilitation and Consensus Building

Great Lakes coastal needs assessment

To help ensure more effective management and protection of coastal areas across the Great Lakes, the Commission and the NOAA Coastal Services Center conducted an assessment of regional needs in this area. The study focused on three areas of emerging or growing importance in Great Lakes coastal regions: ports and navigation, coastal community development, and data/information integration and distribution. A work plan, building on the complementary strengths of the two organizations, was also devised to help meet these needs. The work plan calls for greater coordination between state coastal managers and the Commission; enhanced web-based information on coastal programs and management tools; training opportunities to increase the use of existing coastal management tools; improved coordination of data management and distribution; and improving the resiliency of coastal communities in the face of unanticipated events such as severe storms, flooding or infrastructure failure. See www.glc.org/regionalneeds or contact: Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org.



At the Commission's 2006 Annual Meeting, George Kuper, president of the Council of Great Lakes Industries, makes a point during a panel discussion on implementing the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration.



Great Lakes Commission resolutions

The Great Lakes Commission provides a forum for its membership to establish and express common positions reflecting their shared priorities for the region. One of the ways it does this is through its resolutions, which express the official position of the Commission and its membership on matters of consequence. These policies, in turn, guide the Commission in its operations and advocacy efforts. The Commission passed seven formal resolutions in 2006, all by unanimous vote. These resolutions expressed support for:

1. Reauthorization of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill).
2. Listing the silver, largescale silver, bighead and black carp as injurious species under the Lacey Act.
3. The Great Ships Initiative to research and develop shipboard ballast water treatment technologies to protect the Great Lakes from invasive species.
4. The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.
5. The development of operational hydrodynamic models for Great Lakes interconnecting waterways.
6. The U.S. Federal-State Areas of Concern Committee and expedited restoration efforts for Great Lakes Areas of Concern.
7. Partnering with the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers™ and Habitat-titude™ national aquatic invasive species outreach campaigns.

See www.glc.org/about/resolutions or contact: Tim Eder, teder@glc.org.

Other Projects

- **Land-use roundtable series** – Conducted a roundtable on Indiana state land-use policy, the fifth such event in a series designed to help Member states identify effective land-use strategies to meet their individual needs. A sixth roundtable is planned for New York in 2007. See www.glc.org/landuse
- **Great Lakes Dredging Team** – Provided staff support for panel representing state, federal and maritime interests, established to ensure that dredging activities in the Great Lakes region are conducted in a timely, cost-effective and environmentally sound manner. See www.glc.org/dredging
- **Michigan Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC)** – Provided staff support since 1994 for coalition of community-based public advisory councils advancing cleanup efforts in Michigan's 14 Great Lakes Areas of Concern. See www.glc.org/spac
- **Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps)** – With the Huron River Watershed Council, the Commission administers volunteer stream/lake monitoring programs to generate water quality data to support environmental programs on behalf of the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality. See www.micorps.net
- **Regional Data Exchange (RDX)** – Conducted a conference on the use of remote sensing and geospatial technologies, held in Rochester, N.Y., in April, and led a workshop on cataloging regional imagery and photography. See rdx.glc.org
- **Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species** – Provided staff support to the Panel, a multijurisdictional body advising the National ANS Task Force on regional strategies to prevent and control aquatic invasive species. See www.glc.org/ans
- **Marine Community Day** – Facilitated the annual conference for Great Lakes/Seaway navigation stakeholders, and continued to function as nonfederal sponsor for the Soo Lock expansion project.

The Great Lakes represent a single system and natural resource shared by multiple political jurisdictions, namely, the Great Lakes states and provinces. The Commission helps the region speak with a common voice, providing coordination, support and advocacy on issues where there is consensus among its Member jurisdictions. The Commission assists and supports its Members in advocating common positions, and conducts advocacy activities in close coordination with other leading regional, national and international institutions. Examples of 2006 Commission activities supporting this function include the following:

Policy Coordination and Advocacy

“Restoration of the Great Lakes is a national priority. The Regional Collaboration Strategy should be used as more than just a wish list of program changes and funding levels, but as a strategic action plan to guide every agency at every level of government involved in restoration activities.” - U.S. Rep. Vern Ehlers, (R-Mich. 3rd)

Great Lakes Legislative Priorities

Each year the Commission presents to Congress legislative priorities, reflecting a consensus among its Member states on the greatest needs for the lakes, restoration and protection. These are developed in close coordination with key regional stakeholders, principally the Council of Great Lakes Governors. Taken together, these priorities offer a “blueprint” for federal legislation over the coming year to address essential Great Lakes needs and form the foundation for the Commission’s advocacy efforts. Among the significant federal legislative priorities in 2006 were:

- Authorizing and funding the construction and operation of the Asian carp dispersal barriers in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal;
- Passage of the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act;
- Fully funding the Great Lakes Legacy Act to remediate Areas of Concern;
- Reauthorizing the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act; and,
- Authorizing and funding the Integrated Ocean Observing System and associated Great Lakes monitoring efforts.

See www.glc.org/restore or contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org.



More than two dozen Commissioners and Observers paid visits to the offices of Great Lakes senators and representatives on Great Lakes Day in Washington. Here a group calls on Rep. James Oberstar, D-Minn., second from left.



Great Lakes Day in Washington

This high-profile event, typically held in March at the beginning of the annual appropriations cycle, provides a vehicle for introducing the region's Great Lakes legislative priorities to Congress. It also gives Commission representatives an opportunity to meet with their legislators, key policymakers and diverse Great Lakes stakeholders to discuss issues and gain feedback on advancing regional priorities. The 2006 Great Lakes Day in Washington began with a breakfast reception featuring remarks by members of the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation and was followed by a Senate committee hearing on the Regional Collaboration Strategy for Restoring and Protecting the Great Lakes. The afternoon featured coordinated congressional office visits by Commissioners, Commission staff and interested stakeholders to build support for the regional priorities and detail how they relate to individual state needs. See www.glc.org/greatlakesday or contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org.

Other Projects

- **Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement** – Commissioners and staff took an active role in the formal review of the U.S.-Canadian pact guiding Great Lakes cleanup and restoration efforts, last modified in 1987.
- **Great Lakes Legacy Act** – Helped equip leaders of local Remedial Action Plan (RAP) groups to become effective advocates for funding to restore U.S. Areas of Concern under the Great Lakes Legacy Act.
- **U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy** – Strongly endorsed the panel's recommendations impacting Great Lakes restoration and management, and helped secure the endorsements of key Great Lakes senators for legislation to implement them.
- **Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS)** – Conducted multiple visits with key members of the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation and their staffs to help secure funding for a system to provide critical real-time and historic Great Lakes data and other information.
- **Navigation priorities** – Under the auspices of the Great Lakes Dredging Team, worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a fair and realistic approach to prioritizing navigation system maintenance in a restricted budget environment.



Revenues and Expenses: Fiscal Year 2006



The Great Lakes Commission concluded FY 2006 in sound financial condition, with operating revenues of \$5.73 million.

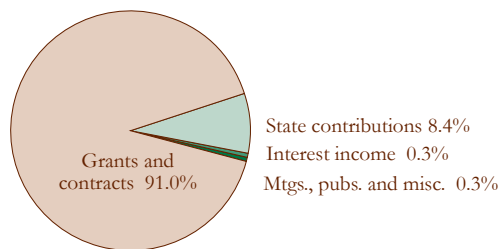
Expenses exceeded revenues by \$154,437, less than 2.7 percent. This was largely due to higher-than-anticipated expenses for general operations and less-than-anticipated indirect cost recovery from project work that was deferred due to personnel changes. Also, Commission-sponsored conferences generated less revenue than anticipated, as some regularly held events were not convened in 2006.

The difference between revenues and expenditures was covered by Great Lakes Commission reserve funds. Overall, the Commission continues to effectively manage its general and restricted funds to achieve the goals and objectives of the organization.

These figures were confirmed by an independent audit, which is conducted each year to examine the Commission's financial operations. The FY 2006 fiscal year ended June 30, 2006.

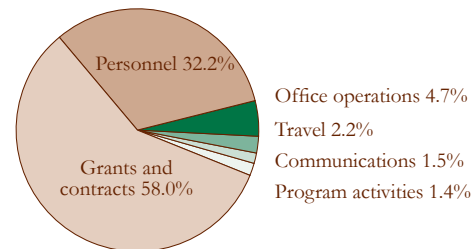
Revenues

Grants and contracts	\$5,217,309
State contributions	\$480,000*
Interest income	\$18,353
Meetings, publications and misc.	\$14,842
Total	\$5,730,504



Expenses

Grants and contracts	\$3,413,373
Personnel	\$1,892,408
Office operations	\$279,007
Travel	\$128,605
Communications	\$91,033
Program activities	\$80,515
Total:	\$5,884,941



* includes \$30,000 in dues receivable

Commissioners and Alternates

As of December 31, 2006

Delegation chairs are in **bold**.

Illinois

Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn

Rita Athas, Office of the Mayor, City of Chicago
Jack Lavin, Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Douglas P. Scott, Gov. Appointee
Leslie A. Sgro, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources

Alternates

Gary Clark, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources
Joe Deal, City of Chicago
Dan Injerd, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources
Katie McClain, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Indiana

Kari Evans, Office of the Governor

Robert E. Carter, Jr., Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
Thomas W. Easterly, Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management
Ron McAhron, Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
Steve Mosher, Indiana's Intl. Port/Burns Harbor at Portage

Michigan

Ken DeBeaussart, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Hon. Patricia Birkholz, State Senator
Lt. Gov. John D. Cherry, Jr.
Hon. Mike Cox, Attorney General
Curtis Hertel, Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority

Alternate

Daniel Eichinger, Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Michael Leffler, Asst. Attorney General

Observers

Canadian Embassy, Sheila Tooze
Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, Mike Ripley
Coastal States Organization, Katherine Andrews
Council of Great Lakes Governors, David Naftzger
Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Christopher Goddard
Great Lakes Sea Grant Network, Donald Scavia
International Joint Commission, Karen Vigmostad
Maritime Administration, Great Lakes Region, Doris Bautch
National Association of Conservation Districts, Tom Middleton

Minnesota

Hon. Thomas Huntley, State Representative
Hon. Cal Larson, State Senator
Ed Oliver, Gov. Appointee
Hon. Ann Rest, State Senator

Alternates

Henry Hanka, National Scenic Byways Resource Center
Dick Lambert, Minnesota Dept. of Transportation

New York

Denise Sheehan, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Michael Elmendorf, Gov. Appointee
John Francis O'Mara, Gov. Appointee
Philip Reed, Gov. Appointee

Alternates

Donald Zelazny, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Ohio

Sam Speck, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources

Christopher Korleski, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Hon. Chris Redfern, State Representative
Hon. Robert F. Spada, State Senator
James Weakley, Lake Carriers' Assoc.

Alternates

John Baker, Intl. Longshoremen's Assoc.
Ed Hammett, Ohio Lake Erie Office
Michele Hoffer, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
Pat Madigan, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources

Ontario

William Carr, Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs

David O'Toole, Ministry of Transportation
Kevin J. Wilson, Ministry of Natural Resources

Alternates

Pat Boeckner, Ministry of Transportation
Ranissah Samah, Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs
Robert P. Taylor, Ministry of Natural Resources

Pennsylvania

Cathy Curran Myers, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection

Alternates

John Booser, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
Lori Boughton, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
John Hines, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection

Québec

Michel Lafleur, Government of Québec

Marcel Gaucher, Ministry of the Environment
André Meloche, Ministry of Transportation

Alternates

Pierre Brochu, Ministry of Transportation
Louise Lapierre, Ministry of the Environment

Wisconsin

Todd Ambs, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Hon. Dave Hansen, State Senator
Fred Schnook, Foth & Van Dyke and Assoc., Inc.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, Stephen Brandt
NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, David Kennedy
National Park Service, Gary Vequist
Ninth Coast Guard District, RADM. John E. Crowley, Jr.
St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp., Terry Johnson, Jr.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jan Miller

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bill Hunt
U.S. Department of Energy, Patrick L. Wilkey
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Programs Office, Gary Gulezian
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Craig Czarnecki
U.S. Geological Survey, Jim Nicholas
U.S. Geological Survey, Great Lakes Science Center, Leon Carl



Commission Staff

Row 1 (left to right): Pat Gable, Becky Lameka, Hugh Brennan, Marcia Woodburn, Hao Zhuang, Al Ballert, Gary Overmier, Tim Eder. Row 2: Victoria Pebbles, Anne Sturm, Pete Giencke, Rita Straith, Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, Christine Manninen, Devra Polack, Kirk Haverkamp. Row 3: Tom Crane, Roger Gauthier, Mike Schneider, Elizabeth Schmidt, Stuart Eddy, Jon Dettling, Matt Doss, Dave Knight. Row 4: Richard Garcia, John Hummer, Ron Hasselbring. Not Pictured: Amy Goodman, Amanda Goski, Erika Jensen, Beth Johnson, Laura Kaminski, Christine Lemieux. Photo credit: Ted Lawrence, 2004-2005 Great Lakes Commission - Sea Grant Fellow.

Program Areas

Communications and Internet Technology

The Communications and Internet Technology Program oversees the writing, design and marketing of all communications products, both online and print. These include the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN), the region's premier online source for Great Lakes news and information; other web sites and e-bulletins; the quarterly *Advisor* newsletter; media advisories; brochures and other printed matter; and the Commission's annual report. Program manager: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org

Data and Information Management

The Data and Information Management Program promotes the development and application of decision support systems and procedures, including databases, regional networks, information inventories, geographic information systems (GIS) and related tools for use by Great Lakes environmental managers, researchers and decisionmakers. Program manager: Roger Gauthier, gauthier@glc.org

Environmental Quality

The Environmental Quality Program supports efforts to achieve a healthy and sustainable Great Lakes ecosystem. Program staff coordinate the resources and expertise of public agencies and other stakeholders in helping to restore beneficial uses in Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs) and other degraded areas, strengthen environmental monitoring programs, improve management of coastal wetlands, and protect high-quality areas. Program manager: Matt Doss, mdoss@glc.org

Regional Coordination

The Regional Coordination Program carries out the Commission's mandate for regional advocacy as embodied in its enabling legislation, the Great Lakes Basin Compact. This includes building consensus among Members; forming coalitions with regional, national and international partners; and presenting legislative priorities to regional and national leadership. Program manager: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org

Resource Management

The Resource Management Program promotes the sustainable use, management and protection of the natural resources of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system through a variety of projects and regional services. Major focus areas include invasive species, water resources management, and soil erosion and sedimentation. Program manager: Tom Crane, tcrane@glc.org

Transportation and Sustainable Development

The Transportation and Sustainable Development Program focuses on economic activity in the Great Lakes region and its relationship to the environment. Primary areas of interest are maritime transportation, recreational boating, and land use and conservation, all pursued under the guiding principles of sustainable development. Program manager: Dave Knight, dknight@glc.org; associate program manager: Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org

The great majority of Commission programs and projects are pursued in partnership with other agencies and organizations, and benefit from funding support. A listing of 2006 funders is provided below. Thanks to all for their assistance!

2006 Program and Project Funders

Alliance for the Great Lakes
American Great Lakes Ports Association
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The Environment Report
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Great Lakes Fishery Commission
Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Industrial Economics, Inc.
International Association for Great Lakes Research
International Joint Commission
Joyce Foundation
Lake Carriers' Association
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Michigan Sea Grant
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services
NOAA Coastal Services Center
NOAA National Ocean Service/National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA National Sea Grant College Program
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U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service,
Eastern Region
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Great Lakes
National Program Office
U.S. EPA, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
U.S. EPA, Region 5, Air and Radiological Division
U.S. EPA, Region 5, Emergency Response Branch
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources and
Environment
University of Minnesota

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The Great Lakes Commission was established in 1955 with a mandate to “promote the orderly, integrated and comprehensive development, use and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes basin.” Founded in state law with U.S. federal consent, with membership consisting of the eight Great Lakes states and associate Member status for the provinces of Ontario and Québec, the Commission pursues four primary functions: communication and education, information integration and reporting, facilitation and consensus building, and policy coordination and advocacy.

Each Member jurisdiction is represented by a delegation consisting of three to five members who are legislators, senior agency officials or appointees of the respective governor or premier. A board of directors, consisting of the chair of each delegation, is the Commission’s executive body.

In carrying out its initiatives, the Commission works in close cooperation with many partner organizations, including U.S. and Canadian federal agencies, binational institutions, tribal/First Nation governments and other regional interests. Representatives appointed by partner entities participate extensively in Commission activities through a formal Observer program. The Commission is supported by a professional staff in Ann Arbor, Mich.

About the Commission



2805 S. Industrial Hwy., Suite 100
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Phone: 734-971-9135
Fax: 734-971-9150

www.glc.org