



Great Lakes
Commission
des Grands Lacs

2002
Annual Report

Restore the
Greatness

Great

To our French-speaking readers

The Great Lakes Commission, in cooperation with Québec's Ministère des Relations Internationales, has translated selected portions of its 2002 Annual Report for your convenience. You will find the text on the Great Lakes Commission's web site at www.glc.org.

A nos lecteurs Francophones

La Commission des Grands Lacs a traduit pour vous, en collaboration avec le Ministère des Relations Internationales du Québec, certaines sections choisies de ce rapport annuel de l'année 2002. Vous trouverez ces informations sur le site Internet de la Commission des Grands Lacs, à l'adresse www.glc.org.

2002 Annual Report of the Great Lakes Commission, Advisor Special Edition, January/February 2003, Vol. 16, No. 1. Copyright © 2003. Editor: Kirk Haverkamp. Designer: Jonathon D. Colman, RPCV. Photos, front and back cover and this page: Dave Brenner, Michigan Sea Grant, www.miseagrant.umich.edu.



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Timeline

Our Mission

The Great Lakes Commission is a binational public agency dedicated to the use, management and protection of the water, land and other natural resources of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system. In partnership with the eight Great Lakes states and provinces of Ontario and Québec, the Commission applies sustainable development principles in addressing issues of resource management, environmental protection, transportation and sustainable development. The Commission provides accurate and objective information on public policy issues, an effective forum for developing and coordinating public policy, and a unified, systemwide voice to advocate member interests.

Our Vision

A Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system that offers a prosperous economy, a healthy environment and a high quality of life for its citizens by applying sustainable development principles in the use, management and protection of water, land and other natural resources.

2002 Board of Directors



Chair
Samuel W. Speck
Ohio



Vice Chair
Rep. Thomas E. Huntley
Minnesota



Immediate Past Chair
Nathaniel E. Robinson
Wisconsin

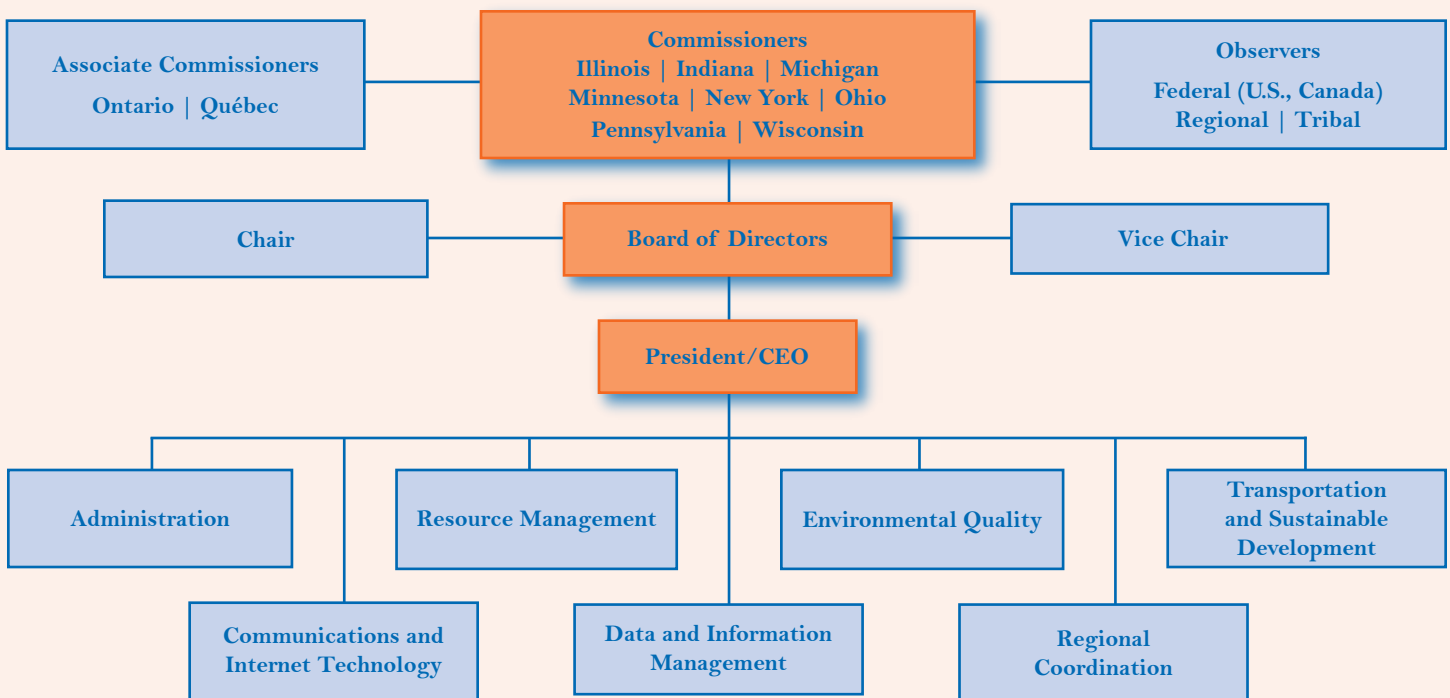


Irene B. Brooks
Pennsylvania



Dr. Frank L. Kudrna
Illinois

Understanding *your* Commission



About the Commission...

The Great Lakes Commission was established in 1955 via U.S. federal and state law to “promote the orderly, integrated and comprehensive development, use and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes basin.” With membership consisting of the eight Great Lakes states, and associate member status for the provinces of Ontario and Québec, the Commission pursues three primary functions: communications, policy research and analysis, and advocacy.

The Commission addresses a range of issues involving environmental protection, resource management, transportation and sustainable economic development. All activities are directed at realizing the vision of a prosperous economy, a healthy environment, and a high quality of life for citizens of the region.

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 chairs 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 authorities 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 growing and experienced professional staff in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



David K. Ladd
Michigan



Erin M. Crotty
New York



John R. Goss
Indiana



Bill Carr
Ontario



Maurice Boisvert
Québec

The challenge is ours, the time is now

Samuel W. Speck, Chair, Great Lakes Commission



Sam Speck is the director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Contact him at sam.speck@dnr.state.oh.us

It is a great honor to have been elected chair of the Great Lakes Commission by my colleagues in this distinguished body, which bears a special responsibility to preserve and protect one of the world's most magnificent natural resources. Vice Chair Tom Huntley and I will do our utmost to merit the trust that has been placed in us.

I would also like to give a special thanks to Immediate Past Chair Nat Robinson for the energy, inspiration and vision he provided under his leadership and the results he helped us obtain.

This is an exciting time for us. The Great Lakes Commission has a number of absolutely critical contributions to make in advancing the region's environmental and economic well-being. No other organization possesses our experience in addressing Great Lakes issues, our capacity for coalition-building or our reputation for balanced, reasoned advocacy. And none is more ready to move ahead in its own right and assist others in doing so.

The challenges are many. But to be most effective, I believe we need to focus on the following:

We must continue to be a major partner in efforts to protect our waters from misuse, working with the Council of Great Lakes Governors to implement Annex 2001 to the Great Lakes Charter.

We must remain at the fore of efforts to develop a comprehensive Great Lakes

Restoration Plan. The Council of Great Lakes Governors drew heavily upon our *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity* in developing their own regional priorities and we are in an excellent position to promote further consensus among other regional interests.

We must redouble our efforts to meet the threat posed by aquatic invasive species. We worked hard in 2002 to help develop recommendations for legislation to reauthorize and strengthen the National Invasive Species Act; we must now impress upon Congress the urgent need to enact that legislation into law.

We must also work to ensure that Great Lakes navigation – the foundation upon which our regional economy was built – remains a viable and healthy part of our transportation infrastructure, through such projects as the new Soo Lock, reconciling trade and security needs, and the proposed Great Lakes transportation study.

This is indeed an exciting time for the Commission. The challenges are great, but so are the opportunities. If we do not accept them, who will? If not now, when? I suggest that we take as our answer, and as our motto, "Us-Now." Together, we can "Restore the Greatness" to the world's greatest system of fresh water, the Great Lakes.

Samuel W. Speck

2002 Commissioners and Alternates

Illinois

- Frank Kudrna, Kudrna & Associates, Ltd.
- Pam McDonough, Dept. of Commerce and Community Affairs
- Anthony Ianello, Illinois International Port District
- Brent Manning, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Ned Dikmen, Great Lakes Boating Magazine

Alternates

- Donald Vonnahme, Illinois DNR
- Dan Injerd, Illinois DNR

Indiana

- John Goss, Indiana DNR
- Ray Sierra, International Longshoremen's Association
- Gerry Nannenga, Gov. appointee
- Peter McCarthy, Indiana's International Port/Burns Harbor at Portage
- Lori Kaplan, Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management

Alternates

- Stephen L. Lucas, Natural Resources Commission

Michigan

- David Ladd, Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Jennifer Granholm, Attorney General
- Frank D'Itri, Michigan State University
- Walter North, State Senator
- William Callahan, State Representative

Alternates

- Michael Leffler, Asst. Attorney General

Minnesota

- Thomas Huntley, State Representative

- George Cassell, State Representative
- Ann Rest, State Senator
- Cal Larson, State Senator
- Mark Ludlow, Gov. appointee

Alternates

- Edward Oliver, State Senator
- Henry Hanka, National Scenic Byways Resource Center

New York

- Erin Crotty, New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- Tom McAuslan, Port of Oswego Authority
- Sean Hanna, Gov. appointee
- John Francis O'Mara, Gov. appointee

Alternates

- Gerald Mikol, New York DEC
- Donald Zelazny, New York DEC

Ohio

- Sam Speck, Ohio DNR
- Christopher Jones, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- George Ryan, Lake Carriers' Association
- Robert Gardner, State Senator
- Rex Damschroder, State Representative

Alternates

- James Weakley, Lake Carriers' Association
- William Moody, Ohio DNR
- Jeffrey Busch, Ohio Lake Erie Office
- James Hartung, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

Ontario

- Bill Carr, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
- David de Launay, Ministry of Natural Resources

- Douglas Harper, Ministry of the Environment
- Jim Whitestone, Ministry of Transportation

Alternates

- Paula Thompson, Ministry of Natural Resources
- Rod Taylor, Ministry of Transportation

Pennsylvania

- Irene Brooks, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
- Sandy Smith, Erie Sand Steamship Co.
- Jane Earll, State Senator

Québec

- Maurice Boisvert, Québec Government
- Andre Meloche, Ministry of Transportation
- Luc Berthiaume, Ministry of the Environment

Alternates

- Nicole McKinnon, Department of International Relations
- Louise Lapierre, Ministry of the Environment
- Chantal Ouellet, Ministry of Transportation
- Steven Goyette, St. Lawrence Development Secretariate

Wisconsin

- Nathaniel E. Robinson, Wisconsin Technical College System
- William Carey, Gov. appointee
- Thomas Kell, Gov. appointee

Alternate

- Jeff Schoepke, Gov.'s Office

Observers

- Stephen Brandt, Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Director, Great Lakes Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- Charles Ehler, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOAA
- Christopher Goddard, Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- Maggie Grant, Council of Great Lakes Governors
- Gary Gulezian, Great Lakes National

Program Office, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)

- Gerry Jackson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Albert Jacquez, St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp.
- Gail Krantzberg, International Joint Commission, Great Lakes Regional Office
- Patricia Leavenworth, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Tony MacDonald, Coastal States Organization

- Jan Miller, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Joseph Newberg, National Association of Conservation Districts
- Carl Richards, Great Lakes Sea Grant Network
- Mike Ripley, Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority
- Rear Adm. Ronald Silva, U.S. Coast Guard, Ninth District
- Sheila Tooze, Canadian Embassy
- Gary Vequist, National Park Service
- Patrick Wilkey, U.S. Dept. of Energy

Investing in *our* future

Michael J. Donahue, President and CEO



Mike Donahue has directed Commission operations since 1987. Contact him at mdonahue@glc.org

Looking back on 2002, one might conclude that it was a lousy year for investing – at least in the stock market. The opposite was true, however, for the Great Lakes Commission. Our membership invested heavily in the organization, and the organization did likewise in the future health and prosperity of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region. The outcome? An outstanding year by any measure!

Thanks to the leadership of Immediate Past Chair Nat Robinson, our new Chair Sam Speck and our board of directors, a sound investment was made in the Commission's infrastructure. We welcomed Ontario and Québec to our board of directors, adding an important new dimension to our work. We adopted our largest budget ever and dramatically increased staff size. We moved into a spacious new facility and made substantial progress in designing, with our partners, a new multi-agency home for a few years down the road. And, we established the Great Lakes Endowment to augment our resources and better respond to member and regional needs.

For our members, the return on this investment was immediate and lasting. Every dollar in dues, for example, leveraged nine more from other sources. On average, member states received more than three dollars in grants and pass-through funds for every dollar invested. Not a bad return these days!

The ultimate measure of our investment strategy, of course, is the environmental and economic prosperity of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region. Without a doubt, this is a long-term proposition that demands a long-term investment.

Organizationally, this investment resulted in two new program areas, expanded services, enhancement of technical specialties, and a rededication to a core mission: relentless and aggressive advocacy of the region's interests. The latter paid off handsomely through our *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity*, as many of its federal legislative and appropriations priorities were favorably received by Congress.

The ultimate measure of our investment strategy, of course, is the environmental and economic prosperity of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region. Without a doubt, this is a long-term proposition

that demands a long-term investment. On that journey, financial capital will be a necessary but insufficient condition for success. Vision, leadership and persistence are of equal value. Thankfully, this type of human capital is in abundant supply among our members, partners and other friends.

Thanks to all who helped us achieve the accomplishments presented on the pages of this annual report. And, thanks to all who have and will continue to invest in this tremendous resource. We are, indeed, well-positioned to "Restore the Greatness!"

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Donahue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael J. Donahue, Ph. D



Administration

Goal: To enhance the Commission's leadership role in regional coordination, policy development and advocacy through efficient, cost-effective and responsive service to its members and the larger Great Lakes-St. Lawrence community

What we did in 2002 to *restore the greatness:*

- Elected Ohio DNR Director Sam Speck as our new chair and Minn. state Rep. Tom Huntley as vice chair
- Secured associate membership for Ontario and Québec on the board of directors
- Successfully launched Great Lakes Endowment initiative
- Provided a positive “return on investment” for all member states, with grants and pass-through funds far exceeding annual dues
- Approved the largest budget (FY2003) in the Commission's 47-year history
- Established two new program areas to accommodate evolving regional needs and technology
- Moved into new, larger offices to accommodate expanded staff, programs and services
- Advanced feasibility study of a proposed co-location facility with other Great Lakes agencies

Featured Projects

www.glc.org/about/programs/admin.html

What we do

The Administration Program coordinates all aspects of revenue generation, financial management and reporting, program and organizational development, meeting planning and conduct, organizational publicity and member support services. Contact: Mike Donahue, President/CEO at mdonahue@glc.org

A new dimension

www.glc.org/about/board.html

Ontario and Québec gained seats on the Commission's board of directors in 2002, a historically significant development with tremendous implications for the future.

Enthusiastically endorsed by member states, this associate member designation complemented the 1999 Declaration of Partnership that established provincial delegations and associate membership on the full Commission. Both initiatives are consistent with the intent of the Great Lakes Basin Compact and are major steps toward the Commission's goal of full voting membership for the two provinces.

This means the Great Lakes Commission is now truly a binational agency. Ontario and Québec partners participate in all projects, forums and policy deliberations. As such, research, monitoring and analysis activities are increasingly organized around hydrologic (as opposed to geopolitical) boundaries, helping to move the notion of ecosystem-based governance from concept to reality.

Introducing the Great Lakes Endowment

www.friendsofthegreatlakes.org

By any measure, member state investments in the Great Lakes Commission, via annual dues, realize an outstanding return in environmental and economic benefits to the region. The same is true from an organizational standpoint. These dues, which individually would support less than one half-time employee, leverage enough funds to support a professional staff of 40.

This return on investment is about to be magnified again, with the establishment of the Great Lakes Endowment. This dedicated fund was created to augment existing revenue resources and expand programs and services to meet growing demands. Capitalized through grants, donations and other contributions (matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis), interest earned will be directed to a number of priorities consistent with our Strategic Plan.

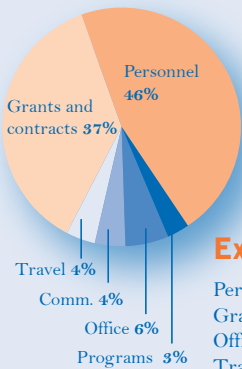
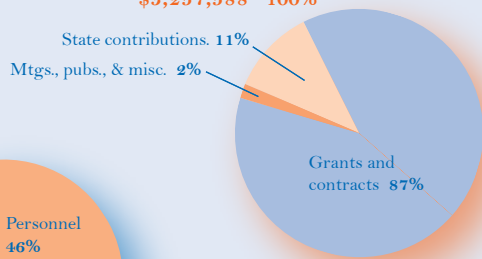
The Great Lakes Endowment is off to a great start, with almost \$600,000 contributed in the closing months of 2002. Become a "Friend of the Great Lakes" with your own tax-deductible charitable contribution by visiting www.friendsofthegreatlakes.org

Photo: Chapel Rock, Lake Huron – Ray Malace, Ray Malace Photo Illustration.

Revenues and expenses: FY 2002

Revenues

Grants and contracts	\$2,846,947	87%
State contributions	\$360,000	11%
Meetings, publications, & misc.	\$50,641	2%
Total	\$3,257,588	100%



Expenses

Personnel	\$1,506,480	46%
Grants and contracts	\$1,186,812	37%
Office operations	\$185,476	6%
Travel	\$146,979	4%
Communications	\$134,909	4%
Program activities	\$86,163	3%
Total:	\$3,246,819	100%

Revenues over expenses (\$10,769) were placed in a reserve fund for contingencies and future use.



Resource Management

Goal: To promote the informed use, management and protection of the water, land, air and natural resources of the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence system

What we did in 2002 to *restore the greatness:*

- Directed more than \$715,000 into innovative, small-scale projects to improve water and soil quality under the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
- Initiated a large-scale soil erosion control project in Ohio's Lake Erie Basin, in cooperation with the Ohio DNR and funded by the Basin Program
- Promoted more effective use of Great Lakes research vessels by strengthening relationships among vessel managers, operators and scientists
- Improved watershed management in Ohio through technical education and outreach training
- Provided Great Lakes governors and premiers with important information to support sound water use decisions through our Water Resources Management Decision Support System project
- Celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species and its many achievements in prevention and control
- Through the Great Lakes Panel, helped shape proposed legislation to strengthen and reauthorize the National Invasive Species Act
- Initiated a water resource management plan for Isle Royale National Park

Featured Projects

www.glc.org/about/programs/rm.html

What we do

The Resource Management Program helps safeguard the region's water and related natural resources, working with regional partners to identify issues, establish priorities, conduct research and promote sound public policy. Contact: Tom Crane, program manager, at tcrane@glc.org



Protecting our water resources

www.glc.org/wateruse/wrmdss

With demands for fresh water expected to increase significantly in the decades to come, the Great Lakes governors and premiers have called for the development of a system to ensure that informed decisions are made regarding water withdrawal and use. The Commission's Water Resources Management Decision Support System project, financed by the Great Lakes Protection Fund, is a key part of that process.

The two-year project involved multiple agencies and stakeholders from the United States and Canada, who evaluated the current understanding of Great Lakes water resources and considered what additional knowledge is needed to guide decisions regarding their use.

Many of the project's recommendations have already begun to influence the way the region's decisionmakers think about water management. Among its findings, the project report urged consideration of the cumulative effects of water withdrawals, their impacts on watersheds and near-shore areas, and the effects of climate and land-use changes on water availability. Contact: Tom Crane, tcrane@glc.org

Stopping invasive species

www.glc.org/ans

The Great Lakes Commission provides professional staff support to the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, an advisory body established under U.S. federal law to address ANS issues in the Great Lakes basin. In the 10 years since its founding, the panel has significantly advanced ANS prevention and control through its contributions to legislation and policy, information and education, and research coordination.

Panel recommendations played a significant role in shaping legislation introduced in 2002 to reauthorize the National Invasive Species Act. The panel also initiated development of a rapid response plan to help detect and contain new ANS invasions, worked with the U.S. Coast Guard to develop new ballast water standards, and pressed for more aggressive measures to defend against the new threat posed by Asian carp.

Project funders include U.S. EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Contact: Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, shwayder@glc.org

Photos: Opposite, charter fishing on Lake Michigan; at left, zebra mussels exposed by low water. Dave Brenner, Michigan Sea Grant



Environmental Quality

Goal: To restore and maintain a healthy environment by promoting the cleanup of contaminated sites, protecting high-quality areas and ensuring a strong foundation of scientific research and monitoring

What we did in 2002 to *restore the greatness:*

- Developed recommendations for a binational management framework for Lake St. Clair, and moved a comprehensive restoration plan initiative toward completion.
- Populated a basinwide coastal wetlands inventory and classification system by consolidating local data
- Helped improve detection and monitoring of new aquatic nuisance species invasions through a pilot project
- Tested new mechanisms for monitoring the environmental health of coastal wetlands
- Produced a geographically searchable database of monitoring programs in the Lake Michigan basin
- Developed a reference guide and web site of information on Great Lakes Areas of Concern
- Supported restoration in Great Lakes Areas of Concern by training members of Michigan public advisory councils in organizational skills

Featured Projects

www.glc.org/about/programs/eq.html

What we do

The Environmental Quality Program promotes efforts to restore and maintain ecosystem quality, with an emphasis on Areas of Concern cleanup, comprehensive planning and environmental monitoring. Contact: Matt Doss, program manager, at mdoss@glc.org



Monitoring coastal wetlands

www.glc.org/wetlands

The Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium was established by the Commission and U.S. EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office to improve the ecological health of Great Lakes coastal wetlands. Comprised of regional scientists and policymakers, the consortium is working to expand and coordinate the coastal wetland monitoring and reporting capabilities of the United States and Canada.

The consortium is developing a long-term program to monitor a variety of coastal wetlands indicators. It is also supporting a number of projects to collect data and field-test new monitoring methods, and has compiled a basinwide inventory and classification system of coastal wetlands.

Current efforts include evaluating techniques for calculating broad-scale wetland impacts, developing a process to select sites that merit long-term monitoring, building a geographic database to integrate monitoring data, and coordinating efforts among the monitoring organizations in the Great Lakes basin. Contact Ric Lawson, rlawson@glc.org

Restoration planning for Lake St. Clair

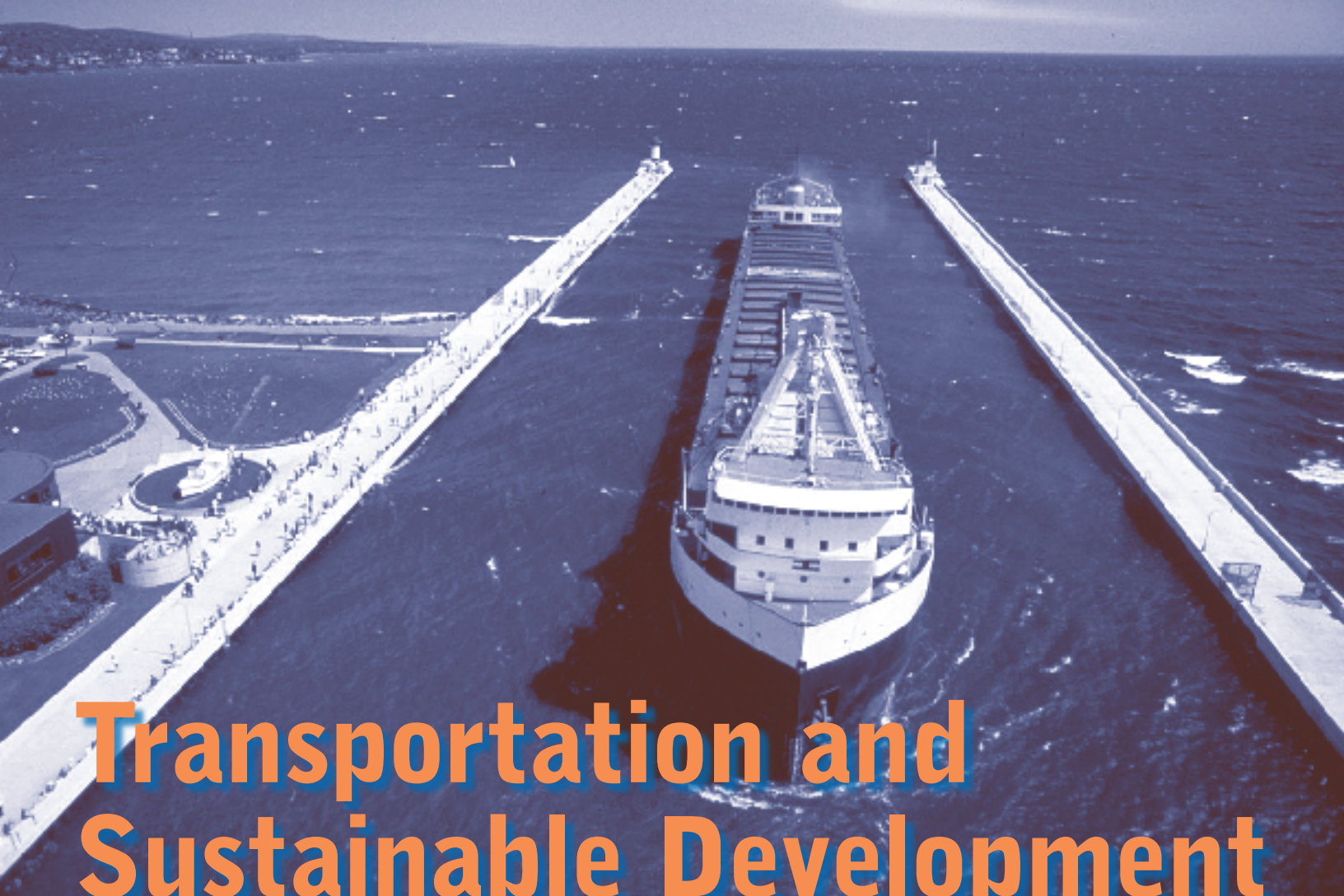
www.glc.org/stclair

A vital shared resource between the United States and Canada, Lake St. Clair is one of the most heavily used portions of the Great Lakes basin. Sometimes called the “forgotten lake” because its problems have not received the attention given the five Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair is now the focus of an array of Commission initiatives. These include:

- Preparing a comprehensive management plan for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River (www.glc.org/stclair);
- Developing a geographically searchable inventory of monitoring programs in the Lake St. Clair basin and a strategic monitoring plan (www.glc.org/monitoring/stclair);
- Compiling a draft coastal habitat restoration and conservation plan (www.glc.org/habitat); and
- Providing recommendations for a binational management framework for the lake.

Project funders include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA and U.S. EPA. Contact Matt Doss, mdoss@glc.org

Photos: Opposite, Agate Falls near Bruce Crossing, Mich. – Ray Malace, Ray Malace Photo Illustration. At left, Tobico Marsh, Bay City, Mich. – Dave Brenner, Michigan Sea Grant.



Transportation and Sustainable Development

Goal: To promote sustainable, water resource-based economic activity and the use, development and maintenance of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence transportation system

What we did in 2002 to *restore the greatness:*

- Initiated a comparative analysis of alternate commercial transportation modes in the region
- Secured additional nonfederal funding for a new Soo Lock
- Initiated an assessment of the economic impacts of Great Lakes recreational boating
- Established parameters for a study of environmental “windows,” *i.e.*, times when dredging can be conducted with reduced or minimum impact
- Promoted beneficial use of dredged material as an alternative to disposal
- Directed a study of the effects of various land uses on water quality
- Advanced the goals of the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors via professional staff support
- Organized a meeting of high-level federal, state and provincial resource managers to address Great Lakes issues at the 2002 State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC)

Featured Projects

www.glc.org/about/programs/tsd.html

What we do

The Transportation and Sustainable Development Program recognizes the link between the environment and the economy, and uses sustainability as a guiding principle in its work on commercial and recreational navigation, land use and other resource-based economic activity. Contact: Steve Thorp, program manager, at sthorp@glc.org

Dredging in the Great Lakes

www.glc.org/dredging

Dredging is a critical component of the Great Lakes regional economy, where maritime transportation helps to offset the pollution, congestion and inefficiencies associated with surface transportation modes. When Great Lakes ports and harbors are properly dredged, ships can pick up and deliver more goods, reducing highway congestion, maintenance costs and the pressure to build more roads.

Through its role in providing professional staff for the Great Lakes Dredging Team, the Great Lakes Commission promotes dredging that both supports the regional economy and protects the environment. In 2002, the Commission:

- Worked with Congress to eliminate legal barriers to beneficial uses of dredged material and waterfront redevelopment;
- Explored ways to involve Canadian dredging interests;
- Helped promote alternatives to disposal of dredged material by encouraging environmentally safe, beneficial uses in upland environments; and
- Helped protect fish and aquatic habitat through the identification of “windows” when dredging effects are minimized.

Contact: Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org

Land reuse and preservation

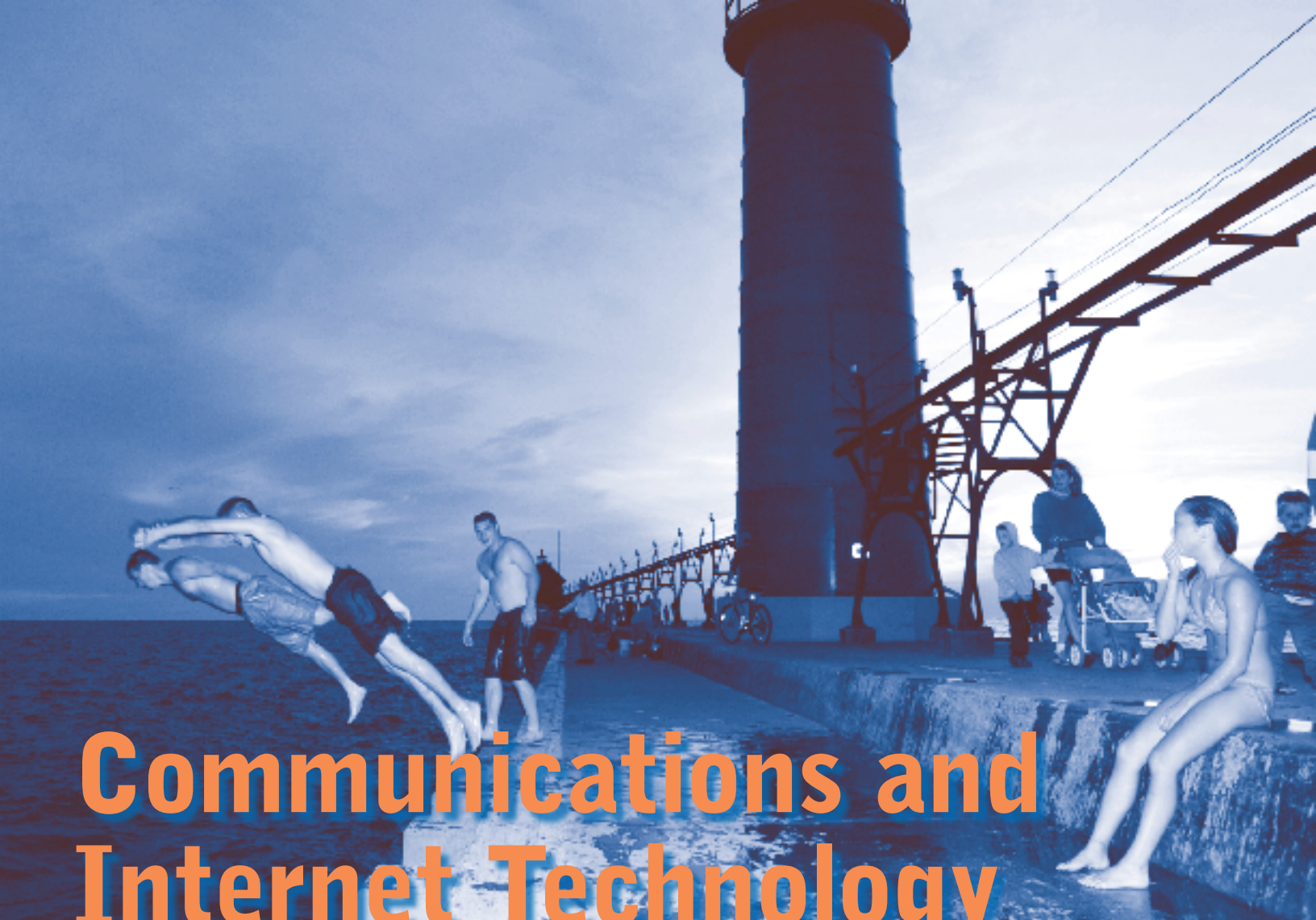
The Great Lakes Commission recognizes the importance of land reuse and open space preservation, and has been active in promoting brownfields redevelopment and greenfields protection.

In 2002, the Commission, with support from U.S. EPA and various stakeholder groups, organized a policy roundtable to advance brownfields redevelopment and greenfields protection in Michigan. The Michigan roundtable was designed as a model which can be replicated in other states and provinces in pursuing their own brownfields-greenfields policies.

The January 2003 event brought together nearly 60 senior agency officials, legislative aides, and representatives of key organizations to set priorities and evaluate policy options related to brownfields redevelopment and greenfields protection. Key issues included the role of state leadership, reforming abandoned building policies, local and state planning, and comprehensive farmland protection. Contact: Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org

Photos: Opposite, Duluth ship channel – Jerry Bielicki, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. At left, Tarwas Point lighthouse – Joyce Daniels, Michigan Sea Grant





Communications and Internet Technology

Goal: To promote awareness and active participation in public policy decisionmaking through the application of communications techniques and technologies

What we did in 2002 to *restore the greatness:*

- Developed BeachCast portal that, starting in summer 2003, will offer an online source for Great Lakes beach advisories and monitoring information
- Redesigned Commission web site to enhance usability and provide online registration for Commission meetings and related events (www.glc.org)
- Created online database of active monitoring programs in the Lake Michigan basin
- Awarded the fifth Carol Ratza Memorial Scholarship to Amber Miller at the University of Dayton (Ohio)
- Promoted GLIN as model for “The Water Portal of the Americas,” an international initiative to map the water resources of the American continents
- Designed materials for and promoted the Commission’s endowment campaign (www.friendsofthegreatlakes.org)
- Developed searchable, online Great Lakes Water Use Database that documents annual withdrawal, diversion and consumptive use

Featured Projects

www.glc.org/about/programs/cit.html

What we do

The Communications and Internet Technology Program facilitates the collection and distribution of information related to the protection and sustainable use of the region's natural resources through such means as the Internet, publications, press releases and professional exchanges. Contact: Christine Manninen, program manager, at manninen@glc.org

BeachCast

www.great-lakes.net/beachcast

BeachCast offers a regional, public gateway to information on Great Lakes beach health advisories, current lake conditions, weather, monitoring techniques and human health risks.

The project is supported by the U.S. EPA-Great Lakes National Program Office, in collaboration with beach managers working through the Great Lakes Recreational Water Quality Association.

Daily News and Regional Press Room

www.great-lakes.net/news

Daily News is the most popular "point of entry" section on the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) web site. To keep informed on Great Lakes issues, subscribers receive a free daily digest of news articles via e-mail.

Other new features include the Regional Press Room, which offers a single gateway to research and policy highlights from agencies and organizations serving the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region.

Through a collaborative partnership, the suite of Daily News services is jointly produced and marketed by GLIN and the Great Lakes Radio Consortium.

Lake Michigan Monitoring Inventory

www.great-lakes.net/gis/lkmich

A searchable, online inventory of monitoring programs in the Lake Michigan drainage basin has been developed to complement the Lake Michigan Tributary Monitoring Inventory report, published in August 2000.

Through this mapping tool, users can discover and visualize the region's monitoring programs and data collected by various agencies.

This effort is supported by the Lake Michigan Team at U.S. EPA Region 5.



Great Lakes Information Network
www.great-lakes.net

Photo: Grand Haven pier, Lake Michigan – Dave Brenner, Michigan Sea Grant



Data and Information Management

Goal: To provide the data, information and technical support processes needed for informed decisionmaking on a range of public policy issues

What we did in 2002 to *restore the greatness:*

- Coordinated toxic air emissions data from Great Lakes states and provinces to produce a regional inventory and published report on 1999 emissions
- Developed prototype GIS tools for the IJC's Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River study and provided information management assistance
- Began developing metadata for several hundred sets of environmental, hydrological and cultural data for the Great Lakes region, with NOAA funding
- Designed key elements of an online atlas detailing a host of environmental, hydrologic and cultural data on Lake Michigan and its tributaries
- Mapped areas susceptible to the effects of toxic spills in five states to support U.S. EPA's area contingency planning efforts

Featured Projects

www.glc.org/about/programs/dim.html

What we do

The Data and Information Management Program promotes the development and application of decision support products and techniques, including data and information management systems, inventories, geographic information systems (GIS) and related tools. Contact: Roger Gauthier, program manager, at gauthier@glc.org

Regional Air Toxics Inventory

www.glc.org/air/

Air pollution across the Great Lakes region is a continuing concern for the Great Lakes Commission, particularly with regard to the deposition of toxins in bodies of water and bioaccumulation in plants and animals, including humans.

For nearly 10 years, the Commission has been working with the U.S. EPA to track regional air emissions through the Regional Air Toxic Emissions Inventory project. The project compiles data collected by the Great Lakes states and province of Ontario into a comprehensive inventory that provides a coherent picture of toxic air emissions across the region. The Commission also oversees ongoing development of the Regional Air Pollutant Inventory Development System (RAPIDS) software used to report and disseminate emissions data.

The inventory lists data for more than 200 toxins emitted by nearly 1,600 types of sources. A priority of U.S. EPA's Great Lakes Air Deposition Strategy, it provides a better understanding of the impacts of air deposition and helps guide the development of regulatory and management policies. Contact: Kevin Yam, kyam@glc.org

GIS coordination and mapping

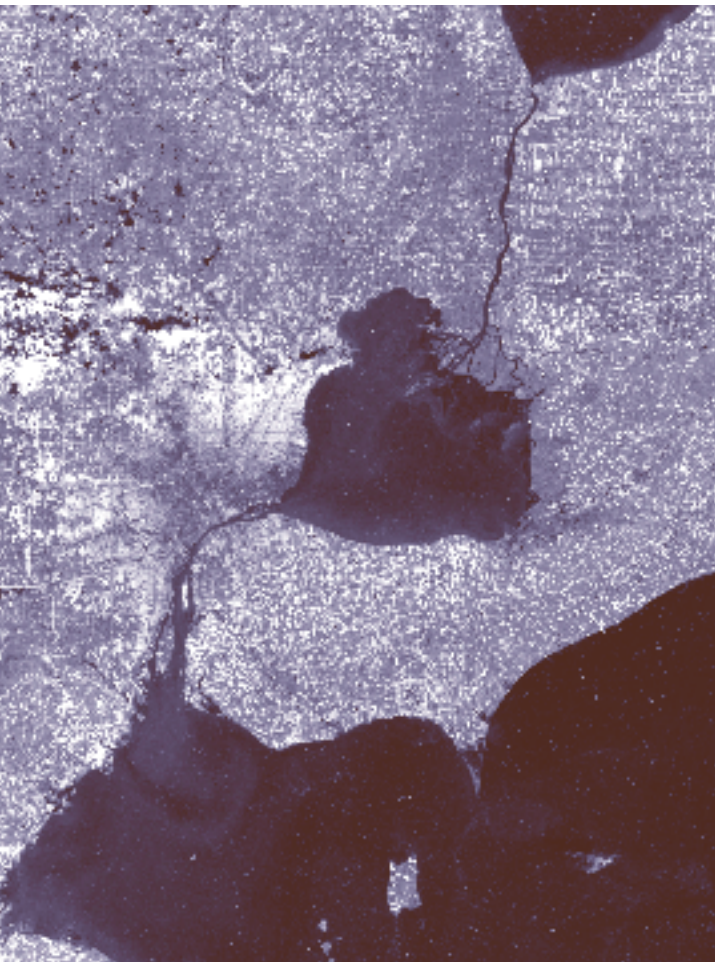
www.glc.org/gis

Over the past decade, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have become a major tool for managing and interpreting data at nearly all levels of government and in the private sector as well. Simply put, GIS allows complex information to be organized into a map-based format, providing users with an intuitive way to identify and interpret data.

In 2002, the Commission responded to the growing importance of this new tool by creating the Data and Information Management Program Area to consolidate its GIS staff and computing resources, and help coordinate regional GIS efforts. A major effort is under way to catalog data holdings on all Commission projects according to binational metadata standards.

Areas that GIS regional coordination will benefit include Great Lakes coastal wetlands studies, biological and hydrological monitoring programs, air toxics inventories, oil spill contingency planning and regional water quantity management investigations. Contact: Roger Gauthier, gauthier@glc.org

Photos: Opposite, Empire Bluff near Sleeping Bear Dunes, Lake Michigan – Ray Malace, Ray Malace Photo Illustration. At left, Lake St. Clair connecting Lake Huron and Lake Erie – courtesy Michigan Sea Grant.





Regional Coordination

Goal: To strengthen the collective Great Lakes management effort by providing regional leadership, generating consensus on regional priorities among diverse interests and building partnerships for decisive regional action

What we did in 2002 to *restore the greatness:*

- Testified before congressional committees on Sea Grant reauthorization, the Water Resources Development Act, and related matters
- Successfully advanced the Commission's ecosystem restoration and protection priorities before Congress and the administration
- Advanced aquatic nuisance species prevention and control efforts by supporting new federal legislation and advocating ballast management standards
- Secured authorization for the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control under the 2002 Farm Bill
- Hosted the annual Great Lakes Day in Washington for members of Congress and their staffs (with Northeast-Midwest Institute)
- Provided education, training and research experiences for seven Baltic officials through a U.S. EPA fellowship program
- Established international outreach program including co-sponsorship of 2003 World Lakes Conference

Featured Projects

www.glc.org/about/programs/rc.html

What we do

The Regional Coordination Program carries out the Commission's mandate to serve as the region's advocate by building consensus among members, forming coalitions with partners, and presenting advice and recommendations to regional and national leadership. Contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, project manager, at jonmacd@glc.org



A blueprint to “Restore the Greatness”

www.glc.org/restore

The Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity is the Commission's blueprint for efforts to “Restore the Greatness” to our precious waters and related natural resources.

Comprised of U.S. federal legislative and appropriations priorities, the program is built around seven specific goals: 1) cleaning up toxic hot spots, 2) shutting the door on invasive species, 3) controlling nonpoint source pollution, 4) restoring and conserving wetlands and critical coastal habitat, 5) ensuring the sustainable use of our water resources, 6) strengthening our decision support capability, and 7) enhancing the commercial and recreational value of our waterways. Each is followed by a list of selected policy actions to help achieve that goal.

The Great Lakes Program provides the basis for the Commission's advocacy efforts before Congress and the administration on behalf of its members. These efforts yielded many successes, including passage of the Great Lakes Legacy Act, authorization of our Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, and enhanced funding for many Commission-identified priorities. Contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org

Expanding our international outreach

In 2002, the board of directors identified “establishing an international presence and impact” as one of its five leading priorities for the year. Progress has been notable.

Thanks to support from the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes, the Commission will co-sponsor the biennial World Lakes Conference in Chicago in 2003. In addition, the Baltic Fellows Program, supported by U.S. EPA, placed a half dozen scientists and managers from Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania in fellowship programs throughout the Great Lakes region, while the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) was selected as a model for the United Nations' Water Portal of the Americas initiative.

All three initiatives provide the foundation for expanded information exchange and technology transfer programs at the international level. Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org

Photos: Opposite, piping plovers on Lake Michigan beach – Dave Brenner, Michigan Sea Grant. At left, U.S. Capitol – Steve Thorp, Great Lakes Commission.



Charting our course for

2003

Selected initiatives that we will address in the coming year and beyond...

Administration

www.glc.org/about/programs/admin.html

- Strengthen binational focus and enhance Ontario and Québec roles
- Brief new governors and members of Congress on Commission priorities, programs and services
- Advance “Restore the Greatness!” theme and promote basin restoration initiatives
- Conduct a mid-course assessment of the Commission’s Five Year Strategic Plan, adopted in 2000
- Secure multiple large-scale, multiyear funding commitments to address member priorities
- Fully implement the Great Lakes Endowment initiative

Resource Management

www.glc.org/about/programs/rm.html

- Develop an online map and database depicting ANS invasions within the state of Michigan
- Develop a “tool kit” of innovative water conservation measures for use by public water supply managers, funded by the Great Lakes Protection Fund
- Develop guidelines for detecting new ANS invasions in the Lake Michigan basin
- Support multiple large-scale conservation projects under the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, in addition to the longstanding small projects program

Environmental Quality

www.glc.org/about/programs/eq.html

- Advance efforts to establish a binational management structure for Lake St. Clair, convene a “State of Lake St. Clair” conference and complete a strategic watershed monitoring plan and comprehensive management plan
- Coordinate efforts to monitor water quality in Lake Michigan tributaries
- Develop new monitoring coordination initiatives in such areas as wildlife and groundwater
- Assemble a network of volunteers to monitor Great Lakes ecosystems
- Work with partner agencies to implement the Great Lakes Legacy Act and secure funding to clean up contaminated sediments in Areas of Concern

Transportation and Sustainable Development

www.glc.org/about/programs/tsd.html

- Enhance leadership role in promoting a strong and environmentally responsible maritime transportation system
- Promote informed land use through state brownfields/greenfields policy roundtables
- Promote upland beneficial use of dredged material by identifying testing and evaluation methods
- Strengthen role of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence mayors in ecosystem restoration and protection
- Support Lake St. Clair restoration and responsible land use through a coastal habitat web site and GIS layers

Communications and Internet Technology

www.glc.org/about/programs/cit.html

- Promote 10th anniversary of the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN)
- Unveil BeachCast as a regional portal for sharing information about beach health and monitoring initiatives
- Add a “Current Lake Conditions” section to GLIN highlighting water levels, weather, advisories and more
- Publish brochure about Great Lakes water level changes for wide distribution to stakeholders
- Develop online Great Lakes Image Gallery, in collaboration with partner agencies

Data and Information Management

www.glc.org/about/programs/dim.html

- Expand the GLIN Metadata Clearinghouse and extend GIS mapping capabilities to all Great Lakes
- Publish summaries of 1999 and 2000 emissions for the Great Lakes Air Toxic Emissions Inventory
- Develop web mapping enhancements and provide document management and metadata coordination support for the IJC Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study
- Complete contingency planning maps of areas in Ohio vulnerable to toxic spills

Regional Coordination

www.glc.org/about/programs/rc.html

- Work with the Council of Great Lakes Governors and other regional stakeholders to develop and implement a comprehensive Great Lakes Restoration Plan
- Press for reauthorization of an expanded and strengthened National Invasive Species Act
- Secure federal funding to implement the Great Lakes Legacy Act and clean up contaminated sediments
- Conduct a Great Lakes Tour for congressional staff to learn firsthand about regional issues.
- Expand international outreach efforts, including co-sponsorship of 2003 World Lakes Conference

Photo: Dave Brenner,
Michigan Sea Grant

Thanks to our funders...

Canadian Shipowners Association
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Operational Oceanographic Products and
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...and to our staff!



Seated, from left, Anne Sturm, Ric Lawson, Roger Gauthier, Mike Donahue, Rita Straith, Victoria Pebbles, Matt Doss, Stuart Eddy. Standing, Kevin Yam, Tom Rayburn, Gary Overmier, Sarah Whitney, Jon Colman, Mike Schneider, Hao Zhuang, Dan Blake, Christine Manninen, Ron Hasselbring, Pat Gable, Tom Crane, Becky Lameka, Thomas Jabusch, Elizabeth Moore, John Hummer, Laura Blackburn, Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, Al Ballert, Chris Guenther, Laura Kaminski, Kirk Haverkamp, Kathie Glassner-Shrwayder. Not pictured: Richard Garcia, Karl Geil, Amy Morrow, Derek Moy, Devra Polack, Marilyn Ratliff, Jennifer Read, Steve Thorp, Julie Wagemakers and Kevin Walters. Photo: Dave Brenner, Michigan Sea Grant.



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