

A stylized map of the Great Lakes region, showing the outlines of the five Great Lakes (Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario) and the surrounding landmasses. The map is rendered in a light blue color against the dark blue background.

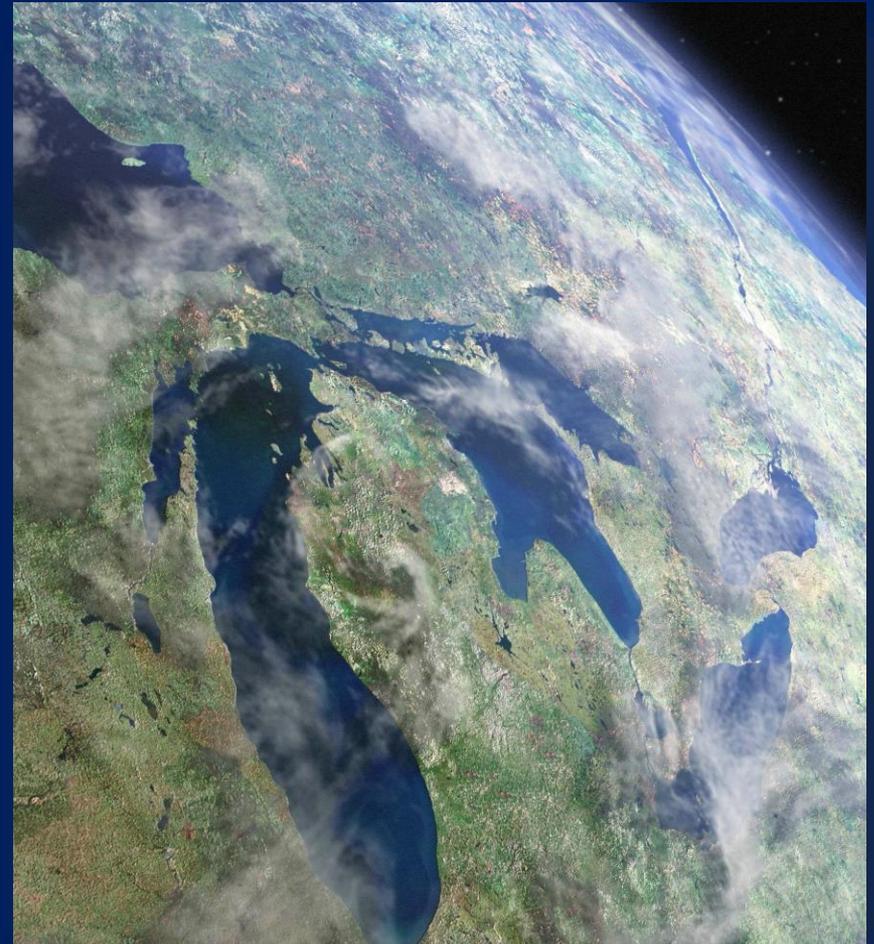
# Great Lakes Commission des Grands Lacs

A unified voice for the Great Lakes  
states and provinces

Erika Jensen, Interim Executive Director  
May 18, 2021

# *The Great Lakes fuel our economy and are essential to our health, natural resources and way of life.*

- One-fifth of the world's supply of surface fresh water
- Drinking water for more than 40 million people in the U.S. & Canada
- More than 1.5 million U.S. jobs directly connected to the Great Lakes, generating \$62 billion in wages annually
- Every \$1 invested in Great Lakes restoration generates more than \$3.35 in return

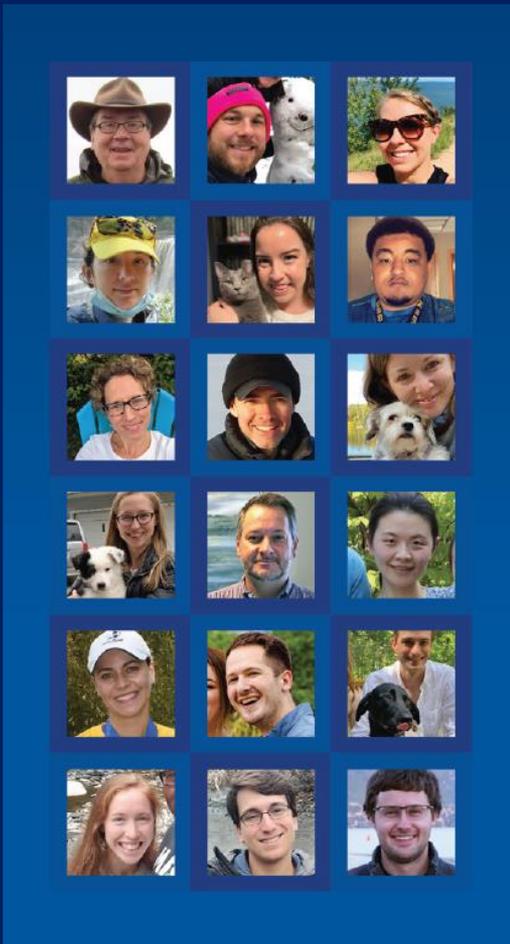


# What is the Great Lakes Commission?

- A binational government agency established by the Great Lakes Basin Compact in 1955
- In 1968, Congress passed an act authorizing its consent to the Compact and the interstate compact agency.
- Ontario and Québec officially joined as associate members in 1999
- Allows its Member states and provinces speak with a unified voice and to reach consensus on and advocate for the region's priorities



# Who is the Great Lakes Commission?



- **Commissioners:**  
3-5 from each of the 10 states and provinces
- **Board of Directors:**  
1 from each state / province delegation
- **Chair: Sharon Jackson**, Deputy General Counsel, Office of the Governor of Indiana
- **Professional Staff**



# A Strategic Plan for the Great Lakes Commission

## Vision

The Great Lakes Commission is a binational leader and a trusted voice ensuring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River support a healthy environment, vibrant economy and high quality of life for current and future generations.

## Mission

The Great Lakes Commission represents, advises and assists its member states and provinces by fostering dialogue, developing consensus, facilitating collaboration and speaking with a unified voice to advance collective interests and responsibilities to promote economic prosperity and environmental protection and to achieve the balanced and sustainable use of Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin water resources.

# A Strategic Plan for the Great Lakes Commission

## Core Competencies



Communications and Outreach



Information Management and Delivery



Facilitation and Consensus Building



Policy Coordination and Advocacy



Regional Project management

## Program Areas

- Water Quality
- Water Management and Infrastructure
- Commercial Navigation
- Economic Development and Waterfront Community Revitalization
- Coastal Conservation and Habitat Restoration
- Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Control
- Information Management and Blue Accounting

# Building a Better Basin:

## Revitalizing and Protecting the Great Lakes Environment and Economy

### Great Lakes Commission 2021 Federal Priorities



Fully fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to maintain progress in restoring North America's greatest freshwater resource



Strengthen the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River navigation system to keep waterways open to commerce



Invest in water infrastructure to protect drinking water, rebuild failing wastewater systems, and support community health and redevelopment

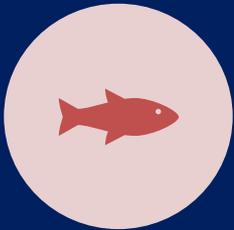


*The Detroit News*

# Building a Better Basin:

## Revitalizing and Protecting the Great Lakes Environment and Economy

### Great Lakes Commission 2021 Federal Priorities



Invest in approaches that will stop the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species



Strengthen agricultural and other conservation programs to protect water quality, reduce nutrient pollution, enhance wildlife habitat and bolster the economy



Support federal, tribal, First Nation, state, and local actions to ensure the economy and environment of the Great Lakes region are resilient to the adverse impacts of a changing climate



Invest in binational efforts to track progress toward regional goals

# Great Lakes Restoration Initiative



## An environmental and economic success story

- Six million pounds of invasive carp have been trapped and removed from the Illinois River
- More than 402,000 pounds of phosphorus have been prevented from running into the lakes
- More than 180,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat have been protected or restored
- GLC, with NOAA and EPA, are leading efforts to restore several Great Lakes Areas of Concern
- A GLC/University of Michigan study shows that every GLRI project dollar spent 2010-2016 will produce \$3.35 of additional economic activity through 2036





*Little Rapids, St. Mary's River*



*Ford Cove, Lake St. Clair*

# Great Lakes Restoration Initiative





*Middlegrounds Metropark  
Photo: SmithGroup*



*Soo Locks  
Photo: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

# Modernizing Infrastructure



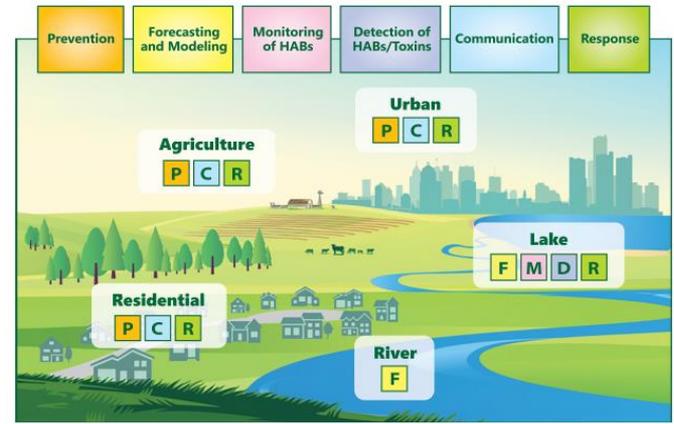
# Protecting Water Quality



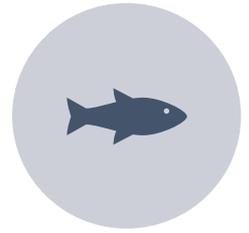
 **Great Lakes HABs Collaborative**  
Linking Science and Management to Reduce Harmful Algal Blooms

## Who Does What? A Guide to Agencies' Roles in HABs

Harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the Great Lakes have impaired drinking water, threatened public health, and hurt the regional economy. Management is a complex, regional challenge that cannot be addressed by one jurisdiction or single agency. This factsheet seeks to provide a brief overview of agency roles in a spectrum of activities from HABs prevention to response. The graphic below is intended to depict spatially where activities occur in a landscape, with agencies listed under their primary activities.



# Aquatic Invasive Species



**Invasive Mussel Collaborative**



**Common Agenda**

**VISION** GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEMS ARE NOT DEGRADED BY NON-NATIVE PHRAGMITES

**PURPOSE** To facilitate communication and collaboration that leads to effective research and management of non-native Phragmites within the Great Lakes region



# Climate Resiliency



# Collaborative, data-driven approach to tracking progress



**Blue Accounting** Issues Map Resource Library About SEARCH

## An information service tracking the region's progress toward shared goals

Billions of dollars have poured in to protect and restore our Great Lakes ecosystem, but is the investment working? That's where we come in.

Choose a state, province, lake, or basin for more options or see the full list ->

## Issues we're focused on to create better outcomes for community, ecosystem and the economy

Working together, we can improve the decisions we make to ensure the Great Lakes will always be the backbone of our region, supplying fresh water and natural beauty and serving as a powerful economic engine.

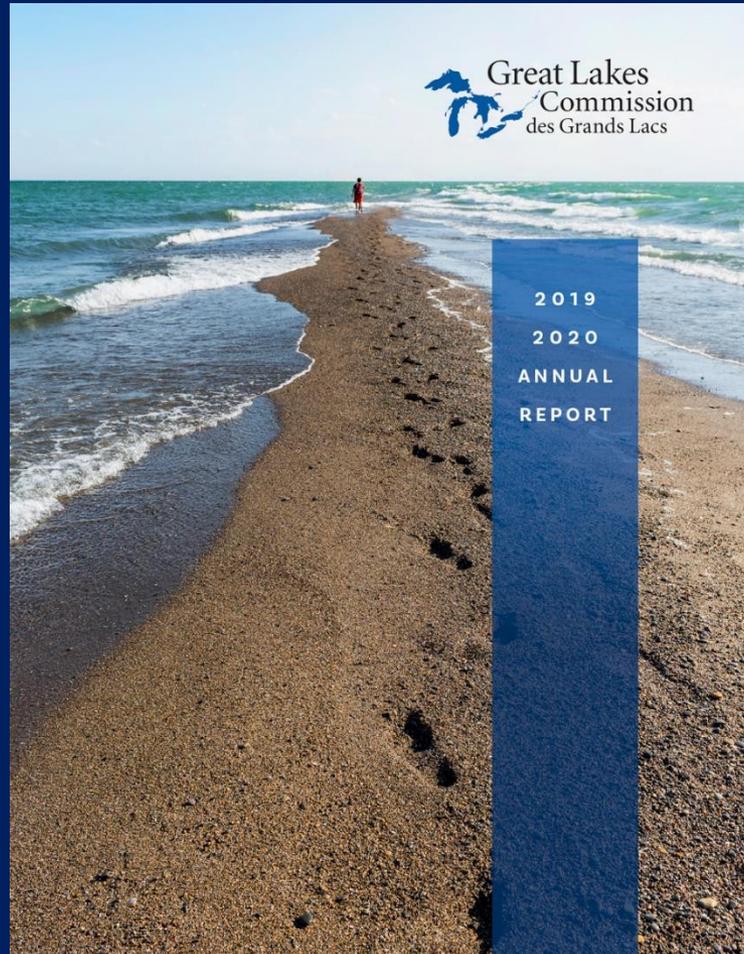
- Aquatic Invasive Species**  
31% of non-native species in the Great Lakes are believed to be invasive and causing negative impacts
- Lake Erie Algae**
- Maritime Transportation**
- Drinking Water**
- Protecting Wetlands**
- Climate Resilience**

Blue Accounting is in partnership with  
**Great Lakes Commission**  
des Grands Lacs

1300 Vectors Way Suite 1350,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108  
734-971-9135

Contact Us

Michigan Web Design by Bancor Studio



[www.glc.org](http://www.glc.org) | [facebook.com/greatlakescommission](https://facebook.com/greatlakescommission) | [@glcommission](https://twitter.com/glcommission)