



*A lake has no history
... until men come into
some relation to it. Then
it acquires a personality;
it may be feared or it
may be loved, may thwart
men or may make their
life happier.*

Fred Landon, 1944

1999 ANNUAL REPORT



Vision

Our vision is a Great Lakes basin that offers a strong and growing economy, a healthy environment, and a high quality of life for its citizens by applying principles of sustainable development in the use, management and protection of its water, land and other natural resources.

—Great Lakes Commission
Strategic Plan

“The Great Lakes Commission has been an absolutely essential vehicle for addressing the key economic and environmental issues—particularly in regard to water quality and quantity—which link the interests of Great Lakes states and provinces with one another and with all of North America. The Commission provides a solid foundation for these partners as we work toward wise decisions for the future of our shared Great Lakes resources.”

—Samuel W. Speck, Ohio Delegation Chair



This 400-year-old white cedar, known as the “witch tree,” grows on the north shore of Lake Superior.

French translation

COMMISSION OVERVIEW

The Great Lakes Commission is a binational agency that promotes 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. Its members include the eight Great Lakes states with associate member status for the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Québec. Each jurisdiction appoints a delegation of three to five members comprised of senior agency officials, legislators and/or appointees of the governor or premier.

The Commission was established by joint legislative action of the Great Lakes states in 1955 (the Great Lakes Basin Compact) and granted congressional consent in 1968. A Declaration of Partnership established associate membership for the provinces in 1999.

Since its establishment 45 years ago, the Great Lakes Commission has been a pioneer in applying principles of sustainability to the development, use and conservation of the natural resources of the Great Lakes basin and St. Lawrence River. The Commission recognizes and promotes the complementarity of environmental protection and economic goals and has built its reputation on an integrated and objective approach to public policy issues and opportunities.

All Commission activities are directed at realizing its vision of a prosperous economy, healthy environment and high quality of life for all citizens. Three principal functions support this vision:

- Information sharing among the membership and the entire Great Lakes-St. Lawrence community
- Policy research, development and coordination on issues of regional interest
- Advocacy of those positions on which members agree.

The Commission addresses a range of issues involving environmental protection, resource management, transportation and economic development. A committee and task force structure is the primary vehicle for identifying and addressing issues and recommending the adoption of policy positions by the membership. Observer organizations—including U.S. and Canadian federal, regional and tribal governments—participate extensively in Commission activities.

The Great Lakes Commission is the only state/provincial organization of its kind in the world. Founded in both state and U.S. federal law and benefiting from a unique partnership with Ontario and Québec, it is ideally suited to promote a consistent, coordinated and integrated approach to issues associated with the greatest system of freshwater on the face of the earth.

The Commission is supported by a growing and experienced professional staff with scientific, policy and technical credentials. Its offices are located in Ann Arbor, Mich.

MESSAGES FROM THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

As I embark on my second term as chair of the Great Lakes Commission, I thank my fellow Commissioners for their continued support and vote of confidence, especially Vice Chair Nathaniel E. Robinson.

Last year we focused on building upon the strong foundation established by the Commission in cooperation with our Great Lakes-St. Lawrence partners. These partners now have been expanded to include Ontario and Québec, who joined the Commission as Associate Members in 1999. We welcome the provinces and look forward to their continued interest and counsel.

In addition, we have expanded our sphere of influence through a newly formed coalition with eight of our sister river basin commissions and the Interstate Council on Water Policy. Through this new coalition, the Commission is leading the effort to bring a national focus to interregional issues. We have built the bridge and established the links; now we must act upon these new partnerships to establish projects and policies that benefit us all.

Through the Commission's leadership, a new Soo Locks agreement also has been crafted, which will strengthen the economic viability of the region, and we have revised our strategic plan, moving aggressively to implement it through "on the ground projects" that will benefit the world's greatest freshwater resource.

Our achievements over the past year have been many and occurred through the dedication and commitment of the Commission staff, states and partners that make up the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence community. The pages of this annual report highlight our accomplishments in more detail. Please join me in reflecting on our past year of successes and looking forward to a bright future.



Irene Brooks, Chair

The Great Lakes basin is a great place to live, work, play and do business. We are blessed with an abundance of rich natural resources, a strong work ethic and a healthy economic climate, all of which contribute to our high quality of life. Basin residents and member states and provinces understand the vital link between economic development and environmental protection and the need to pursue the principles of sustainability as a means to maintain this balance.

The Commission is presented with challenges and great opportunities in making a reality of our vision for the Great Lakes basin. Working in conjunction with our interjurisdictional partners to achieve mutual goals and objectives, the Commission continues to be an effective advocate for programs, policies and legislation that will keep the Great Lakes great!

As vice chair of the Great Lakes Commission and chair of the Wisconsin Delegation, I am pleased once again to join Chair Irene Brooks and my distinguished colleagues in promoting the wise use and effective management and protection of the Great Lakes. Wisconsin is proud to be a part of this dynamic team effort. We applaud the membership and dedicated staff as we continue to look forward and achieve excellence in this new century and new millennium.



Nathaniel E. Robinson, Vice Chair





Chair: Irene B. Brooks
Executive Director, Office for River Basin Cooperation, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
Member since 1995



Vice Chair: Nathaniel E. Robinson
Special Assistant to the Secretary, Wisconsin Dept. of Administration
Member since 1992



John P. Cahill
Commissioner, New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Member since 1997



Hon. Thomas E. Huntley
Minnesota State Representative
Member since 1993



Dr. Frank L. Kudrna
Illinois Governor's Appointee; Chief Executive Officer, Kudrna & Associates, Ltd.
Member since 1978



Larry D. Macklin
Director, Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
Member since 1997



G. Tracy Mehan, III
Director, Office of the Great Lakes, Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality
Member since 1995



Samuel W. Speck
Director, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
Member since 1999

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

COMMISSIONERS

Illinois

Anthony Ianello, Executive Director, IL International Port District

*Frank L. Kudrna, Chief Executive Officer, Kudrna & Associates, Ltd.

Brent Manning, Director, IL Dept. of Natural Resources

Pam McDonough, Director, IL Dept. of Commerce and Community Affairs

Donald Vonnahme, Director, Office of Water Resources, IL Dept. of Natural Resources

Alternate

Dan Injerd, Chief, Lake Michigan Management Section, IL Dept. of Natural Resources

Indiana

Lori Kaplan, Director, IN Dept. of Environmental Management

*Larry D. Macklin, Director, IN Dept. of Natural Resources

E. Peter McCarthy, Port Director, IN International Port/Burns Harbor at Portage

Gerry Nannenga, Assistant Business Manager, N.W. IN District Council of Carpenters

Ray Sierra, Vice Chair, International Longshoremens' Association

Alternate

Stephen Lucas, Division of Hearings, IN Natural Resources Commission

Michigan

Hon. William Callahan, State Representative

Frank D'Itri, Professor, Institute of Water Research, Michigan State University

Hon. Jennifer Granholm, Attorney General

*G. Tracy Mehan, III, Director, Office of the Great Lakes, MI Dept. of Environmental Quality

Hon. Walter North, State Senator

Alternate

A. Michael Leffler, Assistant Attorney General

Minnesota

Hon. George Cassel, State Representative

*Hon. Thomas E. Huntley, State Representative

Hon. Cal Larson, State Senator

Mark Ludlow, Governor's Appointee

Hon. Steve Novak, State Senator

Alternates

Henry Hanka, Executive Director, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission

Hon. Edward Oliver, State Senator

New York

*John P. Cahill, Commissioner, NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Sean Hanna, Governor's Appointee

Tom McAuslan, Port of Oswego Authority

John Francis O'Mara, Governor's Appointee

Carl Tuohey, Governor's Appointee

Alternates

Gerald Mikol, Regional Director, NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Region 9

Marna Gadoua, Great Lakes Program Coordinator, NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Ohio

Hon. Rex Damschroder, State Representative

Hon. Robert Gardner, State Senator

Chris Jones, Director, OH Environmental Protection Agency

George Ryan, President, Lake Carriers' Association

*Samuel W. Speck, Director, OH Dept. of Natural Resources

Alternates

Jeffrey Busch, Executive Director, OH Lake Erie Office

James Hartung, President, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

J. William Moody, Assistant Director, OH Dept. of Natural Resources

Wayne Warren, Chief, Division of Real Estate and Land Management, OH Dept. of Natural Resources

Pennsylvania

*Irene B. Brooks, Executive Director, Office for River Basin Cooperation, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection (Commission Chair since 10/98)

Hon. Jane Earll, State Senator

Sidney Smith, President, Erie Sand Steamship Co.

Alternate

John Hines, Executive Assistant, Office for River Basin Cooperation, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection

Wisconsin

William Carey, Governor's Appointee

Thomas Kell, Governor's Appointee

*Nathaniel E. Robinson, Special Assistant to the Secretary, WI Dept. of Administration (Commission Vice Chair since 10/98)

Alternate

Christopher Spooner, Policy Adviser, Governor's Office

Associate Commissioners

Ontario

Lorraine Ratnik; Senior Policy Advisor, Office of International Relations and Protocol; Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism
(Note: Additional delegates to be appointed in 2000.)

Québec

Luc Berthiaume, Director, Intergovernmental Division, Environment Dept.

*Donald Leblanc, Chief of Middle West Desk, U.S. Division, Dept. of International Relations

Hugues Morrisette, Director General, St. Lawrence Development Secretariat, Transportation Dept.

Jacques Pelletier, Director, Transportation Mobility Division, Transportation Dept.

Alternates

Jean Couture, Advisor, Intergovernmental Division, Environment Dept.

Nicole McKinnon, Acting Director, U.S. Division, Dept. of International Relations

*Indicates delegation chair

French translation

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

“Reinventing” the Great Lakes Commission

What a year for the Great Lakes Commission! Thanks to the leadership of the Brooks-Robinson team, we brought the decade and the century to a close — and ushered in the dawn of a new millennium — with a series of landmark achievements. We welcomed Ontario and Québec to the membership and, in so doing, gave North America the first and only state/provincial partnership of its kind. We reached beyond our own boundaries, helping to forge both a North American coalition of river basin commissions and a global fellowship program for scientific and policy exchange. We brought electronic communications technology to new levels of application in water, land and air management. We rededicated ourselves to our core advocacy mission and embraced a more vocal and aggressive stance on member priorities. And, most importantly, we focused every initiative on our vision for the region: a strong and prosperous economy, a healthy environment, and a high quality of life for all residents.

As evidenced by the events of this past year, the Great Lakes Commission has reinvented itself to meet current and future challenges. And, unquestionably, the Commission will continue to reinvent itself in the years ahead. Its structure, process and priorities will need to keep pace with an ever-changing, and increasingly complex, array of problems and opportunities. I can assure you, however, that some things will never change, such as the core values that have long characterized the Great Lakes Commission. We'll always strive to be:

- *Objective and highly credible* as a source of information, policy analysis and advice
- *Creative and innovative* in identifying and addressing member priorities
- *Open and inclusive* in formulating positions and building coalitions
- *Practical and pragmatic* in applying policy research and analysis to actual problems and opportunities and
- *Aggressive and persistent* as the region's advocate.

I like to think of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region as the world's largest laboratory for institutional experimentation. And, I also like to think of the Great Lakes Commission as proof positive of the experiment's success. Simply put, we'll always do what's best for the resource and those who rely upon it for their livelihoods, their health and their quality of life.

I invite the reader to review the timeline at the bottom of each page. It's a very selective, “sound-bite” approach to Great Lakes Commission history, but it tells of an organization that knows how to evolve — how to reinvent itself — to address the issues of the day.

What items will be added to this timeline in 2000 and beyond? Let's work together with the entire “extended family” of the Great Lakes Commission to answer that question.

Michael J. Donohue



“I like to think of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region as the world's largest laboratory for institutional experimentation. And, I also like to think of the Great Lakes Commission as proof positive of the experiment's success.”

Note: The following timeline offers a selective glimpse of activities and accomplishments over the Great Lakes Commission's history. More than a thousand prospective entries were reviewed, and a very small subset was selected to demonstrate the breadth of Commission efforts.

1954 Need for a state/provincial compact agency discussed at Great Lakes Seaway and Water Resources Conference

1955 Calls for deepening of connecting channels in upper Great Lakes

1956 PA ratifies Great Lakes Basin Compact

1954

1955 Great Lakes Basin Compact ratified by IL, IN, MI, MN and WI; Great Lakes Commission established

1956 Publishes first issue of *The Great Lakes Newsletter*, precursor to the *ADVISOR*

1956

ADMINISTRATION

The goal of the Administration Program is to enhance the Commission's leadership role in regional coordination, policy development and advocacy through efficient, cost-effective and responsive service to members. Program responsibilities include Executive Committee support; budgeting and financial management; human resources; office management; program development and fundraising; program oversight; strategic planning; organizational design and development; and member, Observer and partner relations.

Building on a legacy of leadership

Serving the membership efficiently and effectively

The prompt, efficient and cost-effective delivery of member services is a hallmark of the Great Lakes Commission. Its hard-earned reputation for innovative program development and creative financing yielded benefits in all areas of operation in 1999.

The Great Lakes Commission closed out fiscal year 1999 in outstanding financial condition. The largest budget in Commission history, comprised of 45 revenue sources exclusive of member dues, supported 41 distinct projects, as well as policy analysis, coordination and advocacy services. More than \$2.1 million—57 percent of total expenses—was passed through to member jurisdictions, creating a positive return on investment in every instance. In comparison with the previous fiscal year, the Commission saw total assets increase by 24.1 percent, fund equity by 46.8 percent, grants and other outside revenue by 56.4 percent, indirect cost recovery by 39 percent, and revenue sources by 32.3 percent. Reserve funds grew to record levels. At the same time, internal efficiencies and streamlining yielded a net reduction in administrative expenses despite increased staff size and services.

"Managing our shared resources effectively and protecting the environment are very important to the people of Ontario. We welcome the opportunity to achieve these goals by strengthening Ontario's partnership with its Great Lakes neighbors through our associate membership in the Commission."

—Premier Mike Harris, Ontario

"I want to assure the Great Lakes states of Québec's support and cooperation in developing an even stronger partnership in the future."

—Premier Lucien Bouchard, Québec

French translation

Revenues and Expenses: FY1999*

Revenues

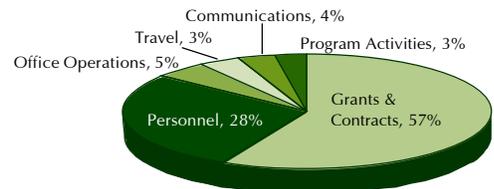
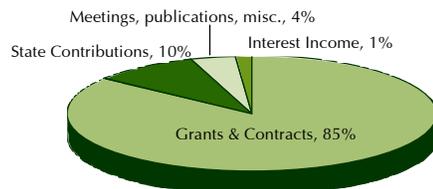
Grants & Contracts	\$3,227,568
State Contributions	\$360,000
Interest Income	\$43,102
Meetings, publications, misc.	\$148,341

Total: \$3,779,011

Expenses

Personnel	\$1,020,795
Grants & Contracts	\$2,100,771
Communications	\$129,877
Travel	\$94,608
Office Operations	\$173,518
Program Activities	\$127,423

Total: \$3,646,992



*Revenues over expenses (\$132,019) were placed in a reserve fund for contingencies and future use.

1956 Supports implementation of Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries

1956

1958 Calls for international commission to regulate Great Lakes-St. Lawrence pilotage

1958 Opposes user charges on Great Lakes navigation improvements

1960 Establishes advisory group to prioritize/promote Great Lakes research

1960 Urges Congress to support Corps' Great Lakes Water Level Study

1960

ADMINISTRATION

Getting what you pay for, and then some

Almost 60 percent of all Commission expenditures in FY1999 were directed to member jurisdictions in the form of pass-through funds or competitive grants.

Up from 43 percent the year prior, this return-on-investment once again far exceeded member dues, which have been unchanged since 1993. Additionally, member-requested advocacy services helped ensure that tens of millions of dollars in federal funds were again directed at Great Lakes research and program needs.

French translation

Welcome, Ontario and Québec!

The Great Lakes Commission evolved into a binational agency in 1999, a landmark event that opened up tremendous opportunities for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region. This new alliance—the first and only of its kind in North America—allows senior officials from the eight states and two provinces to jointly develop policy, undertake projects and share resources in pursuit of common environmental and economic goals. Formalized in a Declaration of Partnership signed by state and provincial officials, the Associate Member program provides for provincial delegations to the Great Lakes Commission, an enhanced provincial voice in Commission deliberations, and an expanded focus on transboundary issues and opportunities.

A time for fellowship

The last 12 months saw the establishment of a new Commission fellowship program in partnership with National Sea Grant and its seven university-based programs in the Great Lakes states. This highly competitive fellowship brings a graduate student to the Commission for a year-long assignment to work on key science and related public policy issues. In addition, the Commission maintains other fellowship and exchange programs for training, technical support and information exchange.

Highlights

Established an Associate Member program for Ontario and Québec, creating the first and only state/provincial organization of its kind in North America.

Prepared for the new millennium by updating and expanding a comprehensive Strategic Plan to guide policy research, coordination and advocacy efforts.

Exceeded revenue and investment goals, yielding the largest budget in Commission history and double digit increases in virtually every revenue generation category.

Returned almost 60 percent of all revenues to member states via pass-through funds and competitive grants, yielding a positive return-on-investment far exceeding state dues (unchanged since 1993).

Maintained or initiated more than 40 distinct projects in response to member priorities, accessing 45 revenue sources exclusive of state dues.

Established fellowship programs with the National Sea Grant Program, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Baltic states for training, technical support and information exchange.

Enhanced member services by increasing staff across all program areas, expanding policy analysis, technical support and communications capabilities.

“The Great Lakes Commission continues to address and resolve regional, environmental and economic development issues within the Great Lakes. The addition of Ontario and Québec to the Commission fulfills the original intent of its founders and will allow us to address environmental and economic issues on a binational basis.”

—Dr. Frank L. Kudrna, Illinois Delegation Chair

1960 Urges states to develop floodplain zoning regulations

1960 NY ratifies Great Lakes Basin Compact

1962 Endorses federal Water Resources Planning Act, with amendments concerning state responsibilities

1960

1960 Asks U.S. Public Health Service to address oil pollution

1961 Urges Congress to authorize/fund shoreline and flood control projects

1962

On to 2000 ...

Binational focus. Building on the new Associate Member program will be a priority and opportunities for state/provincial partnership will be aggressively pursued.

Budget and finance. Diversifying and enhancing the Commission's funding base will continue with an eye toward new revenue sources, enhanced foundation support and larger-scale, multi-year projects. Investment strategies will be evaluated and revised, if needed, to expand reserves and provide the flexibility to address member priorities.

Thinking strategically. A new five-year Strategic Plan will be released in mid-2000, providing a blueprint for the organization's policy research, coordination and advocacy services.

Creative staffing. Additional emphasis will be placed on fellowships, interagency agreements and other means to expose scientists and policymakers to the Commission's multijurisdictional ecosystem approach to regional issues.

"New York values the Commission's efforts to coordinate state policy positions on issues of regional concern, promote information exchange, and provide technical assistance via reports and publications. The Commission fills a vital role in fostering communication among all levels of government, researchers, policymakers and resource managers."

—John P. Cahill, New York
Delegation Chair

ADMINISTRATION

Looking back and forward

A comprehensive review of the Commission's five-year strategic plan—including five goals, 24 objectives and 95 actions—was initiated in 1999. Progress was assessed, the breadth and scope of Commission functions reviewed, and new challenges identified. An updated plan, also with a five-year timeline, will be released in mid-2000 following an inclusive review/revision process open to the entire Great Lakes-St. Lawrence community.

Carol A. Ratza Memorial Scholarship awarded

www.glc.org/announce/99/scholar00.html

Karyla Trester, a master's student in Environmental Communications at the University of Illinois at Springfield, is the winner of the 1999 Carol A. Ratza Memorial Scholarship. In memory of Carol Ratza, longtime manager of the Commission's Communications Program, the scholarship supports students with an interest in electronic communications technology and its applications in the Great Lakes region.



1963 Calls for Canadian pollution studies to complement U.S. efforts

1965 Opposes user charges on U.S. waterways

1966 Supports studies to assess feasibility of navigation season extension on the St. Lawrence Seaway

1963

1963 Ohio ratifies Great Lakes Basin Compact

1966 Calls for action program for alewife control

1966

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Information, technical assistance key in soil erosion and sediment control efforts

www.glc.org/basin/projects.html

The Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control entered its ninth year, poised to make an even bigger impact on erosion and sedimentation control efforts in the Great Lakes basin. In 1999, the program received a well-deserved funding boost, with a budget increase from \$350,000 to \$500,000. Twenty-two projects in six states were supported. Since the program's inception, 140 projects totalling \$4.3 million have been supported. Funding for the program is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) through a cooperative agreement with the Great Lakes Commission.

Leading a long list of accomplishments in 1999 was the unveiling of a quarterly soil erosion and sediment control newsletter, *Keeping it on the Land*. The newsletter highlights demonstration projects funded through the Great Lakes Basin Program; features news from Great Lakes states and the basin's soil and water conservation districts; and provides feature articles and announcements of conferences, workshops and training opportunities. A greatly expanded web site offers another means to access information on funded projects.

Biological pollution: Focus on aquatic nuisance species

www.glc.org/ans/anspanel.html

The last 12 months saw multiple products from the Commission-coordinated Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS). A television documentary, "Aquatic Invaders," was commissioned by the panel and produced by Information Television, Inc. with airings on cable television accessible to 66 million U.S. and Canadian households. A companion documentary on invasive plants is set for 2000. Model legislation for ANS prevention and control was released to member states and provinces, the culmination of a year-long research effort. A Great Lakes Action Plan—presenting principles, goals and objectives to guide prevention and control efforts—was adopted by the panel. Additionally, a ballast management workshop was convened in Duluth, Minn., where 70 experts and other interested parties developed an action agenda for research. Funding for these ANS initiatives was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and Great Lakes states.

The Resource Management and Environmental Quality Program promotes the informed use, development and protection of Great Lakes basin water, land and other natural resources. New and expanded projects continue to be developed in the areas of soil erosion and sediment control, oil spill preparedness and response, ANS prevention and control, water resources management, and RAPs and LaMPs. In each of these areas, the Commission offers a wide range of support and services to its project partners, including regional coordination, policy development, advocacy, data/information management and distribution, and education and outreach.

"Creation of a regional soil erosion newsletter has been an important tool for bringing the Great Lakes Soil and Water Conservation districts together and to get them to think regionally in their approach to soil and water conservation."

—William Horvath, Director, National Association of Conservation Districts Policy Center



Sport fishing is threatened by the introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species. Over one-third of the 145 invasive species identified in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system to date has been introduced since the late 1950s. Photo credit: Great Lakes Basin Commission.

1967 Writes policy statement on use and dangers of DDT and other agricultural pesticides

1968 President Johnson signs P.L. 90-419, consenting to Great Lakes Basin Compact

1969 Advocates development of a national environmental policy

1967

1968 Promotes interstate cooperation in land acquisition for recreation purposes

1968 Calls for development of uniform water quality standards for Great Lakes jurisdictions

1969

Highlights

Awarded 22 grants for soil erosion and sediment control projects under the Great Lakes Basin Program.

Convened the third annual Great Lakes science vessel coordination workshop.

Completed a major report titled Legislation, Regulation and Policy for the Prevention and Control of Aquatic Nuisance Species: Model Guidance for Great Lakes Jurisdictions.

Coordinated the production of a television documentary, "Aquatic Invaders," which aired on CNBC.

Conducted a symposium, Ballast Water Management and Aquatic Nuisance Species: Setting a Research Agenda for the Great Lakes.

Completed three sub-area contingency plans and 11 sub-area maps under the Area Contingency Planning project.

Produced and distributed project-specific newsletters, including the ANS Update, Keeping it on the Land and Michigan Areas of Concern NEWS.

Updated and customized the regional water use database and prepared a major report on Great Lakes consumptive use.

Conducted a RAP Summit and legislative briefing for Michigan's SPAC.

Convened more than 230 stakeholders for a conference assessing the state of Lake St. Clair.

Established the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council.

"Coordinating and enhancing monitoring activities is a priority for the Lake Michigan LaMP. I am pleased to be working in partnership with the Great Lakes Commission and other stakeholders to address this vital need."

—Judy Beck, U.S. EPA Lake Michigan Team Manager

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Commission expands AOC and LaMP support

www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc

Several Commission activities support the Areas of Concern (AOC) and Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) programs established under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. In 1999, the Commission provided staff support to the Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC) for Michigan's AOC Program. The SPAC's communication, advocacy and training efforts have provided vital support to Michigan's 14 AOCs and have raised the program's profile. As an outgrowth of this effort, the Commission is preparing status reports on each AOC to be incorporated into the LaMPs, scheduled for release in 2000.

Additional support for the Lake Michigan LaMP will come from the Lake Michigan Tributary Monitoring Project, which is assessing monitoring efforts in 14 major tributaries to Lake Michigan, including the lake's 10 AOCs. This project is providing a comprehensive assessment of monitoring activities and data collection efforts in the Lake Michigan basin by working with the U.S. EPA Lake Michigan Team, states, and representatives from public advisory councils and other local groups. The project is analyzing gaps, inconsistencies and unmet needs and is evaluating the adequacy of existing monitoring efforts to support critical ecosystem indicators for LaMPs and related initiatives.

In a related project, the Commission has convened the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council in collaboration with numerous state, federal and local partners. Funded by U.S. EPA, the council provides a forum for coordinating monitoring efforts, sharing information, and identifying gaps and data needs. The council also will contribute to a monitoring plan for Lake Michigan. The council follows the lead of the National Water Quality Monitoring Council and numerous state-level councils. However, it is the first such entity to be based on watershed, rather than geo-political, boundaries.



Water-based recreation, such as that depicted in this 1960s era photo at a Lake Michigan pier, benefits from lakewide planning efforts. Photo credit: Illinois Dept. of Transportation.

1970 Helps secure "fourth seacoast" status for Great Lakes in U.S. federal Merchant Marine Act

1971 Endorses total environmental basin planning

1972 Urges U.S. EPA to institute a no discharge policy in Great Lakes waterways

1970

1970 Recommends construction of confined disposal facilities for polluted dredged materials

1971 Calls for further restrictions on waste disposal from vessels

1972

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Managing our waters wisely: Addressing diversion, consumptive use and export issues

The Great Lakes Commission brought its technical and policy expertise to bear on a leading regional issue in 1999: water quantity management. Executive Director Mike Donahue served on the 10-member International Study Team for an International Joint Commission (IJC) reference on the consumption, diversion and removal of water. He authored reports on consumptive use and the cumulative ecological impacts of water withdrawals, designing and facilitating an experts workshop on the latter. The Commission updated and refined its Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database; sponsored a session on water diversion, consumptive use and export at its annual meeting; and provided technical support and advice to ongoing investigations sponsored or conducted by the IJC, Council of Great Lakes Governors and Great Lakes Protection Fund. The Commission also adopted a resolution recognizing state and provincial primacy in decisionmaking and calling for interests at all levels of government “to pursue a comprehensive and coordinated strategy that provides a scientifically sound and legally defensible basis” for water management decisions.

Putting GIS and mapping expertise to work: Spill prevention and response

www.glc.org/conting/conting.html

During 1999, the Commission mapped environmentally, economically and culturally sensitive data of coastal counties in U.S. EPA Region 5 states and completed Phase I of geographic information system work under U.S. EPA’s contingency planning project.

The Commission’s maps and data have been used by industry and government within and beyond the Great Lakes basin. They supported the planning and execution of two large oil spill exercises in West Virginia and Ohio and are being used for completion of the Detroit River Remedial Action Plan (RAP). The maps also were used during a spill on the Ohio River for emergency notification and resource protection. The Commission is also assisting in completion of a digital shoreline mapping effort for lakes Erie, Huron and St. Clair and will participate in a NOAA initiative to complete shoreline mapping of the Great Lakes.

The Commission’s mapping and contingency planning efforts were highlighted at the 14th Annual International Cartographic Symposium in Ottawa, Ontario; the International Oil Spills Conference in Seattle, Wash.; the U.S. EPA Region 3 Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Conference in Washington, D.C.; and the 23rd Annual Ohio Inland Spills Conference in Independence, Ohio.

On to 2000 ...

Conference and meeting planning/facilitation. Major Commission-sponsored events will include a science vessel coordination workshop; HAZMAT 2000 conference; web-based spills information workshop; Lake Michigan tributary monitoring workshop; and Lake St. Clair, RAP and LaMP events.

Area contingency planning and spill protection. The Commission will complete draft maps for the remainder of the U.S. EPA Region 5 mapping effort and assist in the development and completion of several contingency plans. Digital shoreline mapping efforts also will be completed, as will expanded data collection and mapping efforts.

Water quantity management. The Commission will enhance its technical and policy role on diversion, consumptive use and export issues in the interest of seeing a refined decision-support system for the binational region.

Soil erosion and sediment control. Detailed online information for all projects funded under the Basin Program will be available in 2000. Staff also will work with partners to update a regional survey of Great Lakes soil and water conservation districts.

Environmental monitoring. The inventory of programs developed for the Lake Michigan Tributary Monitoring Project will be geographically displayed on the Internet.

Water quality initiatives. Building on the success of its Lake St. Clair conference in 1999, the Commission will work with U.S. and Canadian jurisdictions to elevate the lake’s profile and initiate a management plan process.

Aquatic nuisance species. A new television documentary on invasive plant species will be produced.

1973 Calls for central weather and ice forecast services

1975 Calls for U.S. EPA to conduct public hearings to consider PCB ban

1977 Promotes interstate cooperation in spill prevention and response

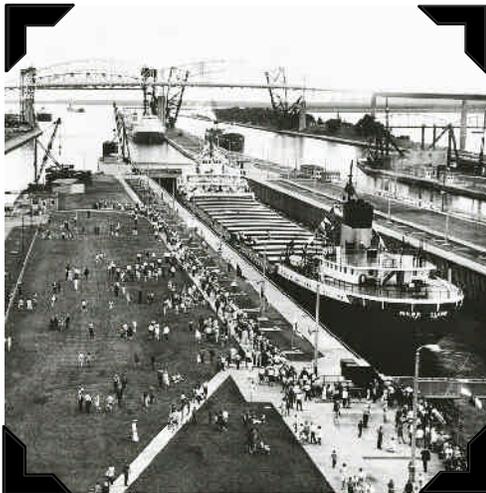
1973

1975 Urges increased appropriations for municipal sewage collection and treatment facilities

1977 Initiates Great Lakes Congressional Breakfast

1977

The Transportation and Economic Development Program promotes sustainable, resource-based economic activity and the use, development and maintenance of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence transportation system. The program continues its emphasis on brownfields redevelopment/ greenfields protection, land use, sustainable development, regional tourism, Great Lakes dredging and the beneficial use of dredged material, and advocacy of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway maritime system.



The dedication of the Poe Lock at the Soo and the first commercial vessel to pass through, the Phillip R. Clarke. June 26, 1969. Photo credit: Al Ballert.

TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A new Soo Lock a few steps closer

The end is nearer! This twist on the millennial adage goes without saying but, as it applies to a new Soo Lock, it bears repeating. 1999 was a pivotal year in the longstanding effort to secure funding for the new large lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Three significant developments moved the project closer to construction.

As a result of steady and targeted Commission advocacy, the U.S. Water Resources Development Act of 1999 contained an interest waiver provision. The elimination of interest that would have accrued during the 50-year payback of the nonfederal share was a critical issue. Interest charges could have amounted to nearly the cost of the new lock, approximately \$225 million.

The Commission, through formal action at its annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Pa., this year, agreed to serve as the nonfederal sponsor for the project. This action was preceded by an agreement among the Commission member states to allocate the nonfederal state shares based on a port and state-based origin/destination tonnage (through the Soo Locks) formula.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers updated the economic assessment of the project, which yielded a positive benefit/cost ratio. The report is pending approval by Corps headquarters. This action has set the stage to begin design work and development of a Project Cooperation Agreement between the Commission and the Corps.

Looking at options: Beneficial use of dredged material

The Commission is promoting the beneficial use of dredged material and addressing the need for dredged material management options in the Great Lakes basin. Currently, most dredged material in the basin is discharged into open waters, deposited on or near shores for beach nourishment, or placed in a confined disposal facility (CDF). However, open water placement has become increasingly unacceptable, and Great Lakes CDF capacity is diminishing. With government guidelines to protect human health and the environment, productive use of dredged material offers a sustainable option to meet some of the long-term needs for dredged material management in the Great Lakes basin.

A regional Great Lakes Beneficial Use Task Force has been established with Commission staff support. The task force is charged with articulating state priorities for developing a compatible federal-state regulatory framework for the beneficial use of dredged material. The project involves examining existing beneficial use projects throughout the Great Lakes basin to identify regulatory and other commonalities that might benefit the task force's charge. A final

1977 Recommends state ban on phosphate-containing detergents

1979 Supports U.S. EPA task force on acid rain research and control

1981 Calls for establishment of Great Lakes Cargo Marketing Corporation

1977

1978 Calls for U.S./Canada cooperation in air quality management

1981 Assumes assets/planning responsibilities of Great Lakes Basin Commission

1981

TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

task force report, scheduled for release in 2001, will be provided to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for its consideration in the development of federal guidance for the beneficial use of dredged material. The project also calls for development of a brochure on the issue, which will be widely distributed throughout the Great Lakes community. The beneficial use project is supported with funds from the U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office.

BRIDGES: Linking redevelopment and preservation

www.glc.org/green/

Protection of agricultural land and open space (greenfields) and revitalization of urban brownfields are critical components of sustainable development and, as such, are a priority of the Commission. The BRIDGES project promotes ways to link tools for brownfields redevelopment with greenfields protection so as to reinforce and complement one another to encourage sustainable development. The Commission's project partners are the National Wildlife Federation-Great Lakes Natural Resource Center and the Council of Great Lakes Industries.

BRIDGES products include the Greenfields Exchange, an online clearinghouse of information about agricultural lands and open space in the Great Lakes region. Two workshops will be held in 2000 to provide a forum for exploring ways to improve local participation in brownfields redevelopment decisionmaking. Additionally, considerable research was undertaken in 1999 related to greenfields protection and emerging brownfields redevelopment policies for incorporation into the final project report. BRIDGES is made possible by funding support from the C.S. Mott Foundation.

Dredging Team reaches out

www.glc.org/projects/dredging/

The Commission has lead responsibilities for the public outreach function of the Great Lakes Dredging Team, a federal/state partnership that provides a regional forum to resolve dredging problems and promote public awareness of the dredging process in the Great Lakes. Commission staff made significant improvements to the Dredging Team's web site this year, including the addition of a "new scoop" page to highlight current Great Lakes dredging-related events

Continued on page 14

Highlights

Continued advocacy for a new Soo Lock, resulting in a waiver of interest on the nonfederal share that will save member states up to \$225 million.

Organized a Marine Sanitation Devices (MSDs) Workshop focusing on MSDs' role in Great Lakes water quality.

Cooperated with the Montreal Urban Community and St. Lawrence Economic Development Council in convening the 13th Annual International Great Lakes St. Lawrence Mayors' Conference.

Represented the Commission on the Waterways Management Forum, chaired by the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Organized and convened a Seaway Symposium in Montreal to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Edited Great Lakes waterfront development survey publication prepared by Environment Canada.

Continued staff support to the federal/state Great Lakes Dredging Team, including publishing Dredging and the Great Lakes and enhancing the team's web site.



The historic Hudson's department store in downtown Detroit, Mich., was imploded in 1998 after standing vacant for 15 years. Urban redevelopment is a key component of sustainable development. Photo credit: Victoria Pebbles.

1981 Testifies before U.S. House Committee in support of port development and channel maintenance

1981

1982 Helps establish Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Maritime Forum

1982 Calls for elimination of seaway construction debt

1982 Issues policy statement on Great Lakes water diversion and advocates study on consumptive use

1983 Identifies need for a second large lock at the Soo

1983

TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

On to 2000 ...

Great Lakes Dredging Team. Development of a video and new fact sheets will be part of public outreach activities.

New Soo Lock. A Project Cooperation Agreement between the Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers aimed at securing the nonfederal share of the construction cost of the new Soo Lock will be prepared and coordinated with member states.

Beneficial use. A new publication on the beneficial use of dredged material will be released, and state input into the development of federal guidance for beneficial use will be coordinated.

Book publication. With several chapter contributions from staff, publication by Harbor House Publishers, Inc. of *The Future of the Great Lakes: Perspectives on North America's Most Vital Region* is planned for the coming year.

Economic impact. Commission staff will assess the economic impact of aquatic nuisance species control measures on maritime and other sectors of the regional economy.

BRIDGES. Recommendations on how to promote sustainable development by linking brownfields redevelopment and greenfields protection will be distributed to public and private sector decisionmakers in fall 2000.

Mayors' Conference. Staff will assist in planning and conducting the 14th Annual International Great Lakes St. Lawrence Mayors' Conference in Gary, Ind.

continued from page 13

and activities, a page for local interests to become more involved in local dredging issues, and several case studies. Improvements also included new/improved pages with links and information on public outreach, soil erosion and sedimentation, and contaminated sediments. *Dredging and the Great Lakes*, a booklet prepared by Commission staff, was added to the site. The booklet, released in October, provides an overview of dredging activity on the Great Lakes and highlights issues such as the beneficial use of dredged material, the role of sedimentation and the dredging connection with commercial navigation. A new look for the web site will be unveiled in early 2000.

Symposium recognizes seaway's 40th anniversary

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence maritime community achieved a milestone in 1999: the 40th anniversary of the St. Lawrence Seaway. A Seaway Symposium was held in conjunction with the Commission's semiannual meeting in Montreal, Québec, to help commemorate the anniversary. The Great Lakes Commission was an advocate even before the seaway was built. In fact, planning for the binational seaway and its economic development potential was a major reason why the states established the Commission in 1955. In 1964, the Commission organized an "Institute on the St. Lawrence Seaway" to review the seaway's first five years. Through lobbying activity, the Commission also played an important role in retiring the U.S. seaway construction debt and virtually eliminating U.S. seaway tolls. More recently, the Commission has advocated the elimination of Canadian seaway tolls and the creation of a single, binational seaway operating entity as a means to trim administrative costs.



St. Lawrence Seaway construction, 1957. Photo credit: Al Ballert.

1983 Establishes network of technical experts for spill prevention and response

1983

1983 Testifies before U.S. House Committee in support of Great Lakes civil works projects

1984 Develops principles to guide Great Lakes management

1984 Surveys states to document/address soil erosion and sedimentation problems

1985

1985 Supports development/implementation of Great Lakes Charter for water quantity management

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

New GIS tools, protecting our Great Lakes

www.great-lakes.net/gis/gis.html

Knowledge about the world in which we live is being enhanced immensely by geographic information systems (GIS) and the ability to present and analyze information using maps. An intense effort is under way through the Great Lakes GIS project to coordinate that knowledge in the region and provide tools for sharing and analyzing it over the Internet.

This project continues to grow with heightened interest from organizations looking for data or wanting to provide data for our database. Resulting projects will include a water quality monitoring data index and an online atlas of Lake Michigan. We are also working with several federal agencies to bring hydrological, gauging station and biological data for the region to a wider audience. We invite all organizations with spatially referenced data to contact us regarding this project.

GLIN gets bigger ... and better

www.great-lakes.net

With Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) monthly hits approaching 700,000 (up from a monthly average of 289,000 in 1998), it's evident that GLIN has established itself as the foremost site for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence information. New GLIN sections include Great Lakes webcams, islands, jobs, funding resources and "In the News," a weekly archive of issues coverage by media outlets in the region. More than a dozen new listservs also were established in 1999.

Work is continuing on a redesign of the GLIN web interface. In addition to a new look for the site and streamlined navigation, updates will include links to Lakewide Management Plans, a new education section (TEACH Great Lakes), enhanced maritime resources and broad access to Great Lakes GIS mapping.

Outreach this past year included a large GLIN display at the International Joint Commission's Biennial Forum in Milwaukee, Wis., where Commission staff co-hosted a series of teacher training workshops with the Center for Great Lakes Environmental Education. GLIN was also featured in an article in *Water International*, the journal of the International Water Resources Association, and at the American Water Resources Association's Symposium on Water Resources and the World Wide Web in Seattle, Wash.

The goal of the Communications and Information Management Program is to promote informed public policy by developing communications and information management technology and programs for use and application by members and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence interests. Program initiatives are directed at ensuring broad accessibility to timely, accurate and objective data and information; providing a state-of-the-art electronic decision support system; publicizing and promoting Commission policies and products; and informing and educating the general public.

"As a librarian, I have many opportunities to lead young scholars and students to GLIN. The information, selection, organization and presentation are all excellent. Having it all in one place is grand. I hope and imagine that GLIN will have a sincere influence as we choose and make our future."

—Bill Hill, Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids, Michigan

1985 Publishes Great Lakes economy book with Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

1987 Establishes International Great Lakes St. Lawrence Mayors' Conference

1988 Comprehensive policy positions document published

1985

1987 Calls for basinwide program to address soil erosion and sedimentation problems

1988 Endorses ecosystem approach for all levels and flows of policies, plans and programs

1988

Highlights

Published *Living with the Lakes*, a 40-page reference guide for water level information.

Completed the 1996 air toxic emissions inventory, the first regional inventory to include mobile sources, in addition to point and area.

Unveiled a new, improved Great Lakes Commission web site.

Visits to GLIN more than doubled in 1999.

The Baltic Fellows project was launched and has seen completion of two successful fellowships.

Great Lakes GIS was presented and promoted at more than six conferences.



The Great Lakes basin experienced above average precipitation in 13 of the years between 1970 and 1985, contributing to record high water levels in 1986.

“This visit has been very important for my scientific career and future academic work. I hope this cooperation will continue.”

—Henn Ojaveer, Estonian Marine Institute (Baltic Fellow)

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Cleaning up the air: Regional air emissions inventory

www.glc.org/air/1996/1996.html

The 1999 release of the Great Lakes Regional Air Toxic Emissions Inventory, using data from 1996, contains point and area sources, with the addition of mobile sources for the first time. The latter enhances the inventory by including planes, automobiles and locomotives, significant sources of environmental pollution. As a result, the list of targeted toxins in the inventory increased from 49 to 82. In addition, work will continue in presenting emissions data on the Internet and making it readily available to researchers, managers and policymakers.

At the 1999 Air and Waste Management Association’s specialty conference on regional emissions inventories (at which Commission staff member Julie Wagemakers presented a paper), it was noted that such inventories are one of the most valued tools in reducing air pollution. Supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), the Great Lakes inventory is a collaborative effort of the air agencies of the eight Great Lakes states and the province of Ontario. The Great Lakes Commission will continue its role in project management and technical support.

Publication focuses on Great Lakes water levels

www.glc.org/docs/lakelevels/lakelevels.html

The Commission released *Living with the Lakes*, produced cooperatively with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Detroit District) with the assistance of dozens of experts in hydrology, lake level modeling, coastal management, engineering and resource policy. This definitive, yet easy-to-read, guide offers a broad overview of how water levels in the Great Lakes-St Lawrence system change and how these changes affect riparian property owners, recreational boaters and others who live or play along the shores. By year’s end, tens of thousands had been distributed in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region.

Baltic Fellowship Program: Forging global partnerships

www.epa.gov/glnpo/baltic/

The Great Lakes and Baltic regions have long been the focus of comparative analyses. Efforts to learn from one another have taken a major step forward with the Baltic Fellowship Program sponsored by the U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO).

1988 Establishes Observer Program for U.S./Canadian federal, provincial, regional and tribal governments

1990 Establishes Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control

1990 Promotes passage of landmark U.S. federal aquatic nuisance species legislation

1988

1988 Activates Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database

1990 Releases initial Regional Air Toxic Emissions Inventory

1990

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The fellowship program provides opportunities for senior scientists from Baltic Sea countries to visit, study and collaborate with Great Lakes institutions on issues of shared interest. Over the past year, fellows from Estonia and Latvia investigated the recent aquatic invader *Cercopagis pengoi* (the fishhook flea) and studied spatial frameworks for environmental assessment. Research on the horizon includes the development of a watershed-based water quality management system for Lithuanian rivers. The Great Lakes Commission oversees the fellowship program and provides technical and logistical support.

www.glc.org

An improved and updated Commission web site was launched in May. With a new look, greater content and improved navigability, the site now features an issue-oriented menu to guide visitors through the Commission's program initiatives. A section devoted to "What's new @ the Commission" provides links to press releases, a calendar of Commission events, the ADVISOR newsletter and breaking news items. Monthly visits to the site have tripled in the last year to nearly 200,000, attesting to the success of the redesign and frequent updating.

New web site on Great Lakes beaches

www.glnpo.net/beach/

The Commission initiated an online service for closure information on Great Lakes public beaches in the United States under contract to the U.S. EPA. The web pages include information about the beaches, key contacts for water quality monitoring and reporting, monitoring and assessment standards, closure frequencies, history and causes (when known) of a closure or restriction, and current closures and restrictions.

On to 2000 ...

GLIN. A redesigned GLIN will include new and updated sections, as well as increased navigability. The Commission also will begin development of a new educational center, TEACH Great Lakes.

Air Toxic Emissions Inventory. The next inventory (based on 1997 and 1998 data) will be released in fall 2000. Users will be able to interactively browse maps through the Great Lakes GIS mapping initiative.

Great Lakes GIS. This project will expand to include a Lake Michigan Online Atlas. GIS technology will be incorporated into many additional Commission projects, providing Internet access to data housed at the Commission and other organizations with a Great Lakes-St. Lawrence focus.

Baltic Fellows Program. The Commission will work with U.S. EPA, GLNPO to institutionalize the Baltic Fellows Program and sustain scientific research and exchange between the Great Lakes and Baltic Sea regions.

ADVISOR. A new look for the ADVISOR newsletter will be unveiled with the March/April issue.



Great Lakes beaches are a timeless source of recreation. Lake Michigan beach circa 1960s. Photo credit: Michigan Dept. of Conservation.

1990 Establishes Great Lakes Circle Tour

1990 Releases guidebook on drought management and water levels

1991 Coordinates Declaration of Indiana Maritime Agreement

1990

1990 Testifies before U.S. Senate committee in support of federally funded Great Lakes research

1991 Publishes *The Great Lakes Economy: Looking North and South* with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

1991

The goal of the Regional Coordination Program is 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. Regional coordination responsibilities include representing and advocating the interests of the Commission membership; expanding partnerships with like-minded public and private sector interests; fostering regional unity; and promoting interjurisdictional consistency and comprehensiveness in laws, policies and programs.

“The Great Lakes Commission continues to be the glue that binds the region together, even across the international border, on a variety of technical, environmental and economic issues. It is, truly, an indispensable institution. Working with federal agencies, states and provinces, as well as a wide array of private institutions, the Commission allows all interests in the Great Lakes to leverage these strong partnerships for the benefit of all.”

—G. Tracy Mehan, III, Michigan Delegation Chair

REGIONAL COORDINATION

Strength in numbers ... and in unity

Advocating the region's interests

A 34-point policy statement, “Legislative and Appropriations Priorities for the 106th Congress-First Session,” formed the basis of the Commission’s advocacy strategy in 1999. Unanimously endorsed by the membership, the statement detailed legislative and funding priorities for federally supported research and management institutions, resource management and environmental protection programs, and maritime transportation and other infrastructure matters. It also provided the basis for literally hundreds of issue-specific letters to Congress, presentations of testimony, and meetings with congressional members and staff. Among many others, the statement called for enhanced support for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Great Lakes National Program Office, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the International Joint Commission (IJC). Also included was a call to support the Commission’s Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, federally funded aquatic nuisance species programs, the Clean Air Act Great Waters Program, a new large lock at the Soo and multiple provisions of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (WRDA).

Regional officials bring their message to Washington

The 1999 edition of Great Lakes Day in Washington brought a “standing room only” crowd to the Great Lakes Congressional Breakfast and Issues Briefing on Capitol Hill. The breakfast, featuring keynote remarks by Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, and Rep. Lynn Rivers, D-Mich., attracted members and staff from 30 congressional offices and brought out U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes leaders, including 15 agency and laboratory directors. Commission officers Irene Brooks (chair) and Nathaniel E. Robinson (vice chair) presented a series of Commission priorities that were discussed in detail at the subsequent Issues Briefing. Emphasis was placed on U.S. and Canadian obligations for Great Lakes cleanup, the “John Glenn” provisions of WRDA, aquatic nuisance species prevention and control, nonpoint source pollution control, and spill prevention and response.

1991 Convenes Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species

1991

1991 Launches groundwater education initiative

1993 Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) goes online

1993 Publishes landmark modal shift transportation study

1994 Promotes watershed-based planning and management in Great Lakes jurisdictions

1994

REGIONAL COORDINATION

Keeping our water here and clear

The Regional Coordination Program provided an avenue for Commission members and staff to contribute to important initiatives led by other regional organizations. For example, the Commission assumed a key role in studies and evolving policy concerning water withdrawals, consumptive use and export. Staff served on the International Study Team for an IJC reference, authored a major report on consumptive use of Great Lakes-St. Lawrence water, and assisted the Council of Great Lakes Governors and Great Lakes Protection Fund in their individual efforts to shape policy and legal research.

The Commission was vocal in its call for state/provincial primacy in water management decisionmaking and urged all levels of government to work collaboratively toward an improved decision support system.

On the water quality front, Executive Director Mike Donahue, who also serves as U.S. Chair of the IJC's Science Advisory Board, published a paper urging an open and objective review of the United States-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. This was complemented by a series of proposed revisions to the agreement that will help ensure a more effective, ecosystem-based approach to implementation.

As a matter of policy, the Great Lakes Commission actively promotes the appointment of its members to regional, national and international bodies with goals that complement those of the Commission. In 1999, for example, Vice Chair Nathaniel E. Robinson joined Frank Kudrna on the National Sea Grant Review Panel, a key post that helps shape and fund Great Lakes research and policy priorities.

Breaking down barriers: Interregional coordination initiatives

The Commission's 1999 annual meeting, cosponsored by the Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP), featured the signing of a Declaration of Partnership for the 21st Century. An unprecedented agreement between the Great Lakes Commission and nine other interstate river basin organizations, the declaration provides a foundation for coordination, joint projects and advocacy. Championed by Chair Irene Brooks, this new alliance will raise the profile and influence of multijurisdictional organizations in Washington and, in so doing, will promote a watershed-based approach to resource management and environmental protection. Mike Donahue was awarded the ICWP Distinguished Leadership award for his efforts on behalf of the Great Lakes Commission.

Highlights

Produced and advocated a 34-point federal legislative and appropriations strategy to advance member priorities.

Provided technical and policy advice on issues ranging from water use and export to binational water quality and ecosystem management.

Spearheaded efforts to forge a North American alliance of multijurisdictional river basin commissions for coordination, collaboration and advocacy.

Coordinated the work of more than 400 Great Lakes-St. Lawrence professionals—drawn from an array of agencies, organizations and disciplines—who served on 17 Commission committees and task forces.

Represented member jurisdictions at more than 175 events within and outside the region, introducing thousands of elected officials, policymakers and other interested parties to regional priorities and needs.

"We are building bridges across watersheds and the nation, recognizing that problems may differ among regions and that a one-size-fits-all approach does not work."

—Gov. Tom Ridge, Pennsylvania



Mackinac Bridge under construction, 1957. The bridge connects Michigan's Upper and Lower peninsulas. Photo credit: Al Ballert.

1994 Secures adoption of the Ecosystem Charter for the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin

1995 Opposes decommissioning of icebreaker *Mackinaw*

1995 Opposes closure of 11 U.S. Coast Guard search and rescue stations

1994

1994 Begins technical support for Areas of Concern program

1995 Presents Frank Kelley (MI) with Lifetime Achievement Award

1995

On to 2000 ...

Regional advocacy. The Commission will maintain a strong presence in Washington, D.C., through Great Lakes Day events and advocacy based on its Legislative and Appropriations Priorities for the 106th Congress-Second Session. Strengthened relationships with state Washington offices and like-minded advocacy groups will be pursued, along with testimony, targeted correspondence and other communications with congressional offices.

Binational focus. The Commission's presence in Canada will be expanded to better serve its new Associate Members (Ontario and Québec) and identify opportunities for state/provincial partnership.

Promoting the watershed approach. Building on the success of the Declaration of Partnership among 10 multijurisdictional river basin organizations, the Commission will lead efforts to elevate the profile and impact of such organizations at the federal and congressional level.

Rapid response capability. As the "eyes, ears and voice" of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region, the Great Lakes Commission will sharpen its rapid response capability and ensure that member interests are advanced at every opportunity.

REGIONAL COORDINATION

Promoting good policy and stopping bad policy in its tracks

The Great Lakes Commission enjoys a hard-earned reputation for rapid response to emerging issues. Its members and staff are primarily engaged in supporting sound congressional initiatives but, occasionally, the rapid response capability is directed at policy that is simply bad for the region. For example, on short notice the Commission successfully opposed a provision in WRDA that would have effectively closed the Great Lakes Regional Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. Similarly, in a few weeks' time the Commission successfully organized regional opposition to NOAA's plans to abandon one-third of its water level gauging stations on the Great Lakes. The Commission joined with other regional interests to lobby for their continued maintenance and then helped secure a \$390,000 congressional appropriation for their upgrade.

Getting the word out

As a principal advocate of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region, the Great Lakes Commission realizes that sound and objective policy research must be complemented by an aggressive effort to publicize and promote its research results and associated policy positions. In 1999, Commission staff sponsored, spoke at or otherwise participated in more than 175 events that advanced organization goals, a 25 percent increase over the previous year. The Commission's electronic presence grew, as well. Great Lakes Information Network "hits" each month approached the 700,000 mark and hits on the Commission's redesigned web site grew to almost 200,000 per month, both remarkable increases over last year. Also, Commission staff contributed to the activities of more than two dozen other organizations with common interests through membership on the IJC's Science Advisory Board, the Inter-American Water Resources Network and the ICWP, among many others.



Commission function on Capitol Hill with President Gerald Ford (then congressman), early 1970s.

1995 Adopts Commission's first formal Strategic Plan

1995

1996 Convenes binational Great Lakes agricultural summit

1996 Calls for elimination of Canadian seaway tolls

1996 Great Lakes Dredging Team formed

1997 Recommends creation of association of interstate river basin commissions

1997

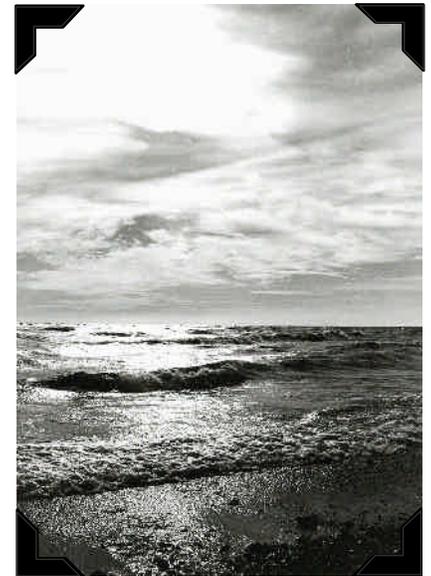
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 Maggie Grant, Council of Great Lakes Governors
 Gary Gulezian, U.S. EPA, GLNPO
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 Col. James Houghon, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division
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 Sheila Tooze, Canadian Embassy
 Patrick L. Wilkey, U.S. Dept. of Energy, Center for Environmental Restoration Systems



A 1970s era photo of Toronto Beach, Lake Ontario. Photo credit: Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

1997 Initiates brownfields redevelopment/
greenfields preservation studies

1997

1997 Brings GIS technology to bear on
Great Lakes issues, research needs

1998 Opposes Lake Champlain
designation as a Great Lake

1998 Opposes Lake Superior
water export proposal

1998 Opposes navigational
assistance/ice breaker user fees

1998

COMMISSION STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Appointed in 1987, **Michael J. Donahue** (mdonahue@glc.org) is the Commission's chief executive officer, with responsibilities in areas of administration, strategic planning, program development, and federal/congressional and state relations. He manages the Administration and Regional Coordination programs and serves as an ex-officio member of all task forces and committees. Donahue is also an adjunct professor at the University of Michigan. He currently serves as U.S. chair of the Science Advisory Board of the International Joint Commission. Donahue holds three degrees from the University of Michigan, including a doctorate in urban, technological and environmental planning.

ADMINISTRATION

Financial Officer

Cappy Bilakos (cbilakos@glc.org) handles banking transactions, payroll, accounts receivable and payable, financial reports for general operating funds and outside grants and contracts, audits, travel and meeting arrangements, and staff benefits. She has an extensive background in private business management and a bachelor of science degree.

Administrative Assistant

Pat Gable (pegable@glc.org) assists with support services and handles requests for publications and information. She previously worked as a secretary at the University of Michigan Medical School and has completed coursework in business management and tax preparation.

Database Administrator

Marilyn Ratliff (mratliff@glc.org) manages the Commission's mailing lists and assists staff with database-related activities. Previously a teacher, she holds bachelor's degrees in music and secondary education.

Manager, Support Services

Rita J. Straith (rstraith@glc.org) serves as the office manager, assists with project production, and oversees support service staff and tasks. Prior to coming to the Commission, she worked as an administrative secretary in an educational setting. She is working toward a bachelor's degree in human resources.

PROGRAM MANAGERS

Thomas Crane (tcrane@glc.org) manages the Resource Management and Environmental Quality Program. He has more than 17 years of Great Lakes research/policy experience and provides staff support for numerous projects including the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control and the Great Lakes Spill Protection Initiative. Previous work includes positions with the Great Lakes Basin Commission and NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Michigan.

Stephen Thorp (sthorp@glc.org) is responsible for transportation and economic issues research and policy analysis at the Commission. He works closely with the Great Lakes Dredging Team and heads the Commission's effort for a new Soo lock. Prior to coming to the Commission in 1982, he was a transportation planner with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Minnesota.

Julie Wagemakers (juliew@glc.org) manages the Communications and Information Management Program. She joined the Commission in 1998 following a six-year tenure with the International Institute for Sustainable Development in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where she served as publisher and development manager. She has a bachelor's degree in microbiology from the University of Manitoba and previously held positions with Canada's Great Lakes Forestry Centre, the Bayfield Institute, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Freshwater Institute.



Front to back, left to right: Christine Manninen, Cappy Bilakos, Sara Ashley, Katherine Glassner-Shwayder, Albert Ballert, Courtney Shosh, Julie Wagemakers, Thomas Crane, Thomas Rayburn, Morgan Anderson, Stephen Thorp, Matthew Doss, Rita Straith, Victoria Pebbles, Richard Garcia, John Stone, Derek Moy, Pat Gable, Ric Lawson, Jennifer Read, Karl Geil, Michael J. Donahue, Michael Schneider, Stuart Eddy (Not pictured: Lisa Koch, Marilyn Ratliff, Elizabeth Repko, Marcia Woodburn).

PROJECT MANAGERS

Matthew Doss (mdoss@glc.org) supports the Statewide Public Advisory Council for Michigan's Areas of Concern Program, the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species and the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council. He has a bachelor's degree in political science and history from Kalamazoo College.

Katherine Glassner-Shwayder (shwayder@glc.org) provides support to the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species in the areas of policy development and information/education. She serves as editor of the panel's newsletter, the *ANS Update*. Previously a science teacher, she holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Oberlin College and a master's in water resources management from the University of Wisconsin.

Christine Manninen (manninen@glc.org) is webmaster of the Great Lakes Information Network and managing editor of the *ADVISOR* newsletter and the Commission's web site. Manninen has a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Michigan Technological University and is a master's candidate in environmental journalism at Michigan State University.

Victoria Pebbles (vpebbles@glc.org) assists in transportation and economic development issues research and policy analysis, focusing primarily on land use, brownfields redevelopment and sustainable development. She also supports Congressional advocacy efforts and the Great Lakes Beneficial Use Task Force and assists in supporting the Great Lakes Dredging Team. She holds a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from the University of California at Santa Cruz and a master's degree in natural resources from the University of Michigan. (Promoted from program specialist in January 2000.)

1999 Publishes *Living with the Lakes*

1999 Calls for review, possible revision of Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

1999 Writes report on water withdrawals and consumptive use

1999

1999 Agrees to serve as nonfederal sponsor for new Soo Lock

1999 Establishes new fellowship programs

1999

COMMISSION STAFF

Thomas Rayburn (tray@glc.org) works on the Commission's Area Contingency Planning, Great Lakes Spill Protection Initiative and Hazmat 2000 projects. His work consists of data collection; mapping in a geographic information system (GIS); and management of environmental, economic and cultural sensitivity data. He holds a bachelor's degree in geosciences from Purdue University and has done graduate work in environmental engineering at George Washington University and Virginia Tech.

PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

Morgan Anderson (anderson@glc.org) is webmaster of the Commission's web site and assists with development of the Great Lakes Information Network. Anderson also provides assistance to the Great Lakes GIS Online efforts, including the Beach Environmental Assessment, Closure and Health (BEACH) Program and Areas of Concern web pages. He holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology and history from the University of Michigan.

Sara Ashley (sashley@glc.org) maintains and updates the Great Lakes Information Network, as well as projects on the Commission's web site. She also has been extensively involved in designing Commission publications. Prior to coming to the Commission, she worked for Nature Publishing, Inc., located in New York City. Ashley holds a bachelor's degree in English and business from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Stuart Eddy (seddy@glc.org) focuses on Commission GIS activities, in particular the Great Lakes GIS Online project. He also provides technical support for Commission computer systems. He holds a bachelor's degree in German and Asian studies, has done graduate work in geography and GIS at Western Michigan University, and previously worked as the GIS specialist for a county planning agency.

Richard Garcia (rgarcia@glc.org) is collecting data and using a GIS to develop databases and digital map products on environmentally and economically sensitive areas for the Commission's Area Contingency Planning project. He holds a bachelor's degree in urban and environmental geography from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Karl Geil (kgeil@glc.org) is collecting and mapping data and developing databases on environmentally and economically sensitive areas for the Commission's Area Contingency Planning project. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology and geology from Albion College.

Ric Lawson (rlawson@glc.org) provides support to the Lake Michigan Tributary Monitoring Project, Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council, the Statewide Public Advisory Council, the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, and the Areas of Concern web site. Prior to joining the Commission, he worked for a public policy consulting firm in Lansing, Mich. Lawson holds a bachelor's degree in animal physiology from the University of California, San Diego and master's degrees in environmental management and public policy from Duke University.

Derek Moy (dmoy@glc.org) works on the Great Lakes Regional Air Toxic Emissions Inventory and assists with the Great Lakes GIS Online project and BEACH Program. He also provides technical support for Commission computer systems. Moy holds a bachelor's degree in resource ecology and management from the University of Michigan and is working toward a master's degree in geography at Eastern Michigan University.

Jennifer Read (jread@glc.org) supports the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control and serves as editor of the Basin Program's newsletter, *Keeping it on the Land*, through a cooperative arrangement with the Great Lakes Institute, University of Windsor. A Fulbright scholar, she holds a doctorate in environmental studies from the University of Western Ontario.

Michael Schneider (michaels@glc.org) assists with collecting and mapping economically and environmentally sensitive data for the Area Contingency Planning project. Currently pursuing a master's degree in public administration at Eastern Michigan University, Schneider has a broad background in government operations and regional planning initiatives.

Courtney Shosh (cshosh@glc.org) edits the *ADVISOR* newsletter. She also assists in writing and editing other Commission publications and maintaining the Commission's web site and the Great Lakes Information Network. She holds bachelor's degrees in resource ecology and management and English and a master's degree in natural resources from the University of Michigan.

Lara Slee (through 8/99) edited the *ADVISOR* newsletter and assisted with maintenance of the Commission's web site and the Great Lakes Information Network. Slee holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Michigan and is pursuing a graduate degree in written communication at Eastern Michigan University.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Kate Hackett (through 8/99) assisted with aspects of the Commission's brownfields and dredging projects. She holds bachelor's degrees in political science and environment studies from Yale University and a master's degree in public policy from the University of Michigan.

Erica Mirich (through 11/99) developed metadata for the Commission's GIS databases on environmentally and economically sensitive areas related to the Commission's Area Contingency Planning project. She holds a bachelor's degree in resource ecology and management from the University of Michigan.

Elizabeth Repko (erepko@glc.org), a master's student in public policy and natural resources at the University of Michigan, assists with the Commission's work on aquatic nuisance species and water management issues related to the operation of the Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database. She holds a bachelor's degree in international relations from Michigan State University.

Marcia Woodburn (marciaw@glc.org) develops and maintains metadata for the Commission's GIS databases on environmentally and economically sensitive areas related to the Commission's Area Contingency Planning project. She holds a bachelor's degree in environmental policy and behavior from the University of Michigan.

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, EMERITUS

Albert G. Ballert (aballert@glc.org) joined the Commission in 1956, a few months after its formation. He authors the *Great Lakes Research Checklist*, a bibliography of current Great Lakes-related publications. Other research activities include assembling data and reporting on Great Lakes-overseas vessel traffic; ports of call; and the traffic flow of coal, iron ore and grain on the Great Lakes. Ballert holds a master's degree in geography from Syracuse University and a doctorate in geography from the University of Chicago.

COMMISSION FELLOWS

Commission-U.S. EPA Fellow

John Stone (jstone@glc.org), a doctoral candidate in applied anthropology at the University of South Florida, Tampa, comes to the Commission through an Environmental Anthropology Fellowship Program sponsored jointly by the Society for Applied Anthropology and the U.S. EPA. Stone will demonstrate the utility of an ethnographic approach called Risk Perception Mapping to the public consultation and social research interests of the Commission and other relevant regional organizations.

Commission-Sea Grant Fellow

Lisa Koch (lkoch@glc.org), the first Great Lakes Commission-Sea Grant Fellow, provides scientific and policy analysis services to multiple projects. She holds a bachelor's degree in zoology from Michigan State University and is currently pursuing a master's degree in wildlife ecology at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

1999 Sponsors television documentary on aquatic nuisance species

1999 Leads efforts to establish North American coalition of river basin associations

1999

1999 GLIN hits approach 700,000 per month

1999 Welcomes Ontario and Québec as Associate Members via Declaration of Partnership

2000

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