



# Our Changing Lakes

2007 Annual Report of the Great Lakes Commission



Great Lakes  
Commission  
des Grands Lacs



# Our Changing Lakes

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As leaders of efforts to preserve and protect our greatest heritage and one of our nation's most precious natural resources, we find our efforts at a critical crossroads.

While we continue our work to promote a healthy and sustainable economy and restore our Great Lakes environment, our region's economy has gone through dramatic reshuffling and increased diversification in the last decade.

We've also realized that the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence basin is an ever-evolving system, physically and organically, with or without human meddling. Add in the actions of people – both actions intended to protect and restore and those with unintended negative consequences – and there will never be a time when the lakes aren't in flux.

It is incumbent upon us as Great Lakes stewards to understand and distinguish between the natural changes we cannot control, and the human-caused changes – especially those with injurious effects – that we can try to fix.

In 2007 the Great Lakes Commission responded to the challenge of our changing lakes on many fronts. Perhaps most critical was the ongoing threat of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The Commission joined with many partners to press for strong federal ballast legislation to eliminate one of the primary AIS pathways into the lakes and worked to address other AIS vectors, as well.

Overlaying many aspects of the Commission's work in 2007 was the change in global climate. We still don't fully understand all of the changes we can expect as the lakes warm. But, we know they will change and it makes sense that our region start planning to adapt.

Commission members worked feverishly to adopt a new Compact and state rules to protect against harmful diversions and better manage uses of water here within the basin. This will prepare our region as climate change leads to greater stress on freshwater resources on many parts of the planet.

Eight straight years of low water levels indicate a hydrological change in the Great Lakes that may be more profound than previously thought. The Commission worked in 2007 to ensure that IJC studies to consider water levels management are supported by rigorous science and broad consensus.

New Commission initiatives focused on the alternative energy sources being developed across our region. The Great Lakes Wind Collaborative was established to help capture the potential for energy security, jobs and economic development available to us if we can harness Great Lakes winds in an environmentally sustainable manner. We also assessed some of the less obvious unintended consequences of the ethanol boom and its potential impact on crop plantings and soil runoff. The theme of change in 2007 carried over to the Great Lakes Commission itself. We adopted a new five-year Strategic Plan reflecting the priorities of our member states and provinces. We also developed a new Work Plan to carry out those priorities over the next two years in five areas: Aquatic Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Economy and Society; Water Supply; Coastal and Terrestrial Habitat; and Water Quality.

While we are clear for now on our course for the future, we are just as certain that we will see changes in the years ahead that we can't envision today. Adapting to change must always be part of our plan.

John D. Cherry, Jr.  
Chair, Great Lakes Commission

Tim A. Eder  
Executive Director, Great Lakes Commission

**In elementary school, we remembered the names of the lakes with the acronym HOMES: Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior... Only recently, within the past few decades, has there been wider understanding that the Lakes are homes in a deeper sense, a vast complex, and interconnected ecological system that is the natural habitat of an unimaginably large array of organisms, each so delicately dependent upon the other that whatever affects one inevitably affects the whole. And the whole includes us.**

**- Wayne Grady, *The Great Lakes: The Natural History of a Changing Region***

The Great Lakes Commission is a public agency established by the Great Lakes Basin Compact in 1955 to help its Member states and provinces speak with a unified voice and collectively fulfill their vision for a healthy, vibrant Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River region. Commission products and services focus on communication and education, information integration and reporting, facilitation and consensus building, and policy coordination and advocacy.

The purpose of the Commission is to carry out the terms and requirements of the Great Lakes Basin Compact, as noted in Article 1: To promote the orderly, integrated, and comprehensive development, use, and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin.

## **Communication and Education**

The Commission raises public awareness of ecosystem management and the links between environmental quality and economic viability. The Commission educates and empowers government, citizens and other stakeholders to effectively participate in decisions affecting the future of the region.

## **Information Integration and Reporting**

The Commission researches, collects, organizes and makes accessible data and information about the Great Lakes that is relevant to our Members, individually and collectively, and to others in the Great Lakes region. Decisionmakers rely on data maintained by the Commission to support planning, resource management and other activities.

## **Facilitation and Consensus Building**

The Commission convenes and leads multistakeholder forums, projects and activities on issues and ideas of importance to Member jurisdictions and others. The Commission provides forums where emerging issues and ideas are identified, leading research is presented, conflicting views are shared and debated, and consensus is built around potential solutions.

## **Policy Coordination and Advocacy**

The Commission helps the region speak with a common voice. The Commission provides coordination, support and advocacy on issues where there is consensus among its Members. The Commission assists and supports its Members in advocating common positions. The Commission conducts advocacy programs and activities in coordination with other leading regional, national and international institutions. In formulating advocacy positions, the Commission welcomes opposing views.

# Four Core Goals



# Advocacy and Legislation

## Great Lakes Legislative Priorities (FY 2008)

On an annual basis, the Great Lakes Commission develops and presents to Congress a set of legislative priorities to protect and enhance the quality of our region's environment and economy. The priorities are developed in coordination with other key regional partners, primarily the Council of Great Lakes Governors. The priorities span a number of key issues in the region and, taken together, provide a "blue-print" for Great Lakes restoration and protection. In 2007, the Commission's top priorities focused on stopping the introduction and spread of invasive species and implementing recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, such as reauthorizing and fully funding the Great Lakes Legacy Act and funding efforts to protect Great Lakes wetlands. Advocacy efforts throughout the year focused on priorities such as:

- Authorization and funding for the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Dispersal Barrier System on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to prevent the Asian carp and other invasive species from entering the Great Lakes;
- Passage of ballast water legislation to ensure commercial vessels visiting Great Lakes ports meet uniform ballast water discharge requirements that protect the lakes from invasive species; and
- Passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which authorizes a number of Great Lakes water and navigation projects consistently supported by the Commission, including a St. Clair River-Lake St. Clair Comprehensive Management Plan; a hydrological study of the St. Clair River; and construction of a second lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

The region saw progress on each of these priorities, most notably the passage of the Water Resources Development Act in November. In addition to authorizing the Great Lakes programs noted above, WRDA also provided the authorization for the ANS dispersal barrier. This authorization was accompanied by \$9.1 million in funding for the barrier for FY 2008. While legislation to regulate ballast water was not passed this year, significant progress has been made and the region will be targeting this issue in 2008. See [www.glc.org/restore](http://www.glc.org/restore) or contact: Matt Doss, [mdoss@glc.org](mailto:mdoss@glc.org).

## Great Lakes Day in Washington

Each year, the Great Lakes Commission works with key regional partners to unveil the region's legislative priorities to Congress through Great Lakes Day. The combined efforts of the Great Lakes Commission and regional partners led to a successful Great Lakes Day 2007 on March 7. For the first time, the region spoke in a unified voice as we presented a set of critical, near-term priority actions to Congress. The document "Great Lakes Restoration: Five Lakes – One Voice" outlined specific requests to stop aquatic invasive species, clean up toxic sediments, restore Great Lakes wetlands, protect water quality, and enact Great Lakes restoration legislation. A number of regional organizations signed on to support the requests, which were consistent with the priorities of the governors of the Great Lakes states, endorsed by the mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, and reflected recommendations from the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes. See [www.glc.org/greatlakesday](http://www.glc.org/greatlakesday) or contact: Matt Doss, [mdoss@glc.org](mailto:mdoss@glc.org).



## Other Projects

**Ballast Water:** In February 2007, the Great Lakes Commission convened a meeting of major regional stakeholders to discuss the challenges associated with ballast water and invasive species. The objectives of the meeting were to identify the extent to which consensus currently exists on the issues between stakeholders and the prospects for future collaboration, and to inform the Commission Board of



Directors on how best the Commission's assets should be used to resolve the challenge of ballast water and invasive species. Thirty-eight people, representing states, Ontario, the maritime industry, non-government organizations and tribal fisheries interests, gathered in Detroit to participate in the meeting. Those present agreed on the urgency of the issue and that they should work together to define the solution. Following the meeting, major steps were taken in Congress to resolve the different approaches to ballast water regulation.

The Commission, in conjunction with other regional partners, also conducted a "fly-in" in August to meet with key members of Congress and committee staff in Washington, D.C. The meeting took place during a critical time when there was an opportunity to support the movement of ballast water legislation through Congress.

**Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control:** The Commission worked closely with Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) to ensure that the Basin program be included in the 2007 Farm Bill reauthorization. Office visits were conducted with members of Congress to ensure that the Basin program is included in the Farm Bill reauthorization and to seek an appropriation for the program for FY2008. Letters were sent to members of Congress from the Great Lakes states seeking an appropriation for the Basin program.

**Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS):** Office visits were conducted with members of Congress in efforts to secure authorization and funding for GLOS, which is part of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System. Although the program received some funding for FY 2008, authorization for the program is still pending in Congress.

**Legislative Priorities Tracking:** The Great Lakes Commission furthered efforts to develop a web-based tool to track congressional action related to the region's annual priorities. The tool is available through the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) at [www.glin.net/legislativepriorities](http://www.glin.net/legislativepriorities). Information on members of Congress, committees and other relevant legislative information is also included. The tool was released at Great Lakes Day events in 2008.

**Great Lakes Commission Policy Positions:** A new webpage was developed to showcase the policy positions of the Great Lakes Commission. Policy positions summarize the Commission's point of view on a given topic or issue, established through formal actions such as adoption of resolutions, communications to the U.S. Congress and other formal joint action of the Commission membership. Policy positions serve as a reference source for Commission members and other stakeholders to learn about the Commission's past and present positions on issues of regional importance. See [www.glc.org/policy](http://www.glc.org/policy) or contact: Tim Eder, [teder@glc.org](mailto:teder@glc.org)

**Without Congressional action — unified with what Canada is doing — invasive species will continue to arrive and pose a threat to the viability of the Great Lakes. And the solution will only get more costly to implement.**

**- The Sheboygan Press, January 23, 2008, Editorial**

# Aquatic Ecosystems and Biodiversity



Aquatic invasive species (AIS) continue to represent the most critical threat to ecosystem integrity in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin, and thus remain one of the Great Lakes Commission's highest program priorities.

The Commission's efforts toward eliminating the transmittal of AIS in ballast water largely concentrated on advocacy for federal legislation to regulate ballast discharge. To galvanize consensus on this issue, the Commission convened a meeting in early 2007 among its member states and provinces, private industry, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. As various legislative initiatives were taken up by Congress over the course of the year, the Commission remained closely engaged in the process that, ultimately, led to passage by the House of Representatives of a ballast regulation bill in April 2008.

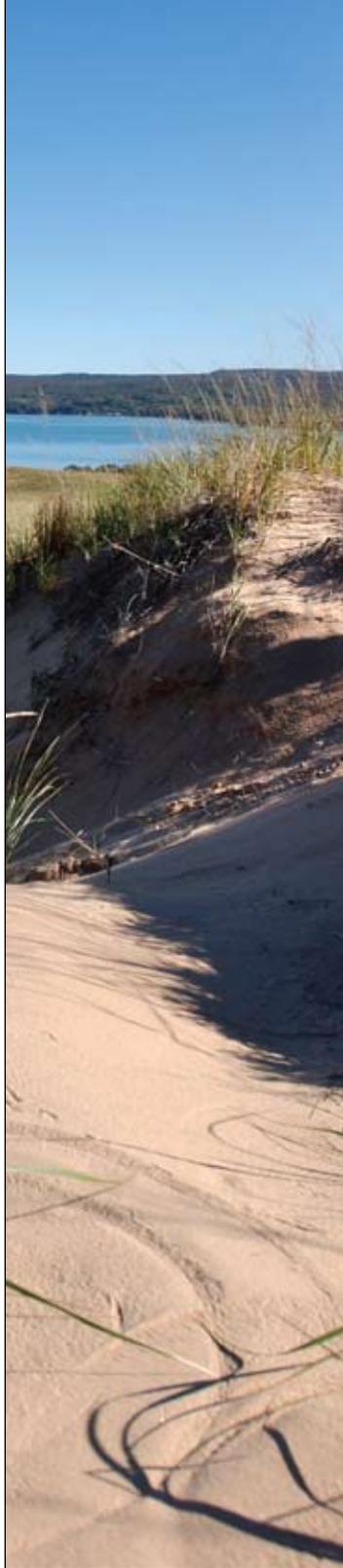
Continuing its role as administrator for the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, the Commission hosted a major event in 2007 combining the Panel's spring meeting with that of the national Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force. The joint meeting was held in Erie, Pa. The session provided the Great Lakes states an opportunity to address the ANS Task Force regarding the progress and obstacles of state management planning for AIS.

Commission staff worked with the Executive Committee of the Panel in 2007 to form an ad-hoc Committee on Rapid Response and early in the year released the publication "Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions." Distribution of this educational tool has been targeted toward state and federal legislators, as well as other prime user groups from the recreational and commercial sector. Staff are working closely with Panel members to develop an appropriate dissemination strategy and mechanism for feedback. Work has also been initiated with the province of Québec to develop a French translation of the publication. This initiative is being coordinated by project staff with the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs in conjunction with the Commission's Quebec internship program.

The project "A Collaborative Approach to Advance Implementation of State Management Plans for Prevention and Control of ANS in the Great Lakes Region," supporting state ANS management planning efforts was completed in May 2007. The culminating event of this project was an all-day session of the ANS Task Force spring meeting showcasing state management plans in the Great Lakes region with a focus on successes and obstacles in state management planning.

The Commission received funding from the Great Lakes Protection Fund for a new planning project focused on the risks posed by the trade of live organisms. The project seeks to identify and evaluate high-risk commercial pathways contributing to AIS introduction and spread, including the role of aquaculture, live bait, and aquarium and water garden industries, among others. Project findings will be used to develop strategies to reduce the likelihood that invasive species will be introduced or spread through these activities.

The Northeast-Midwest Institute, the Great Lakes Commission, Cornell University and several other partners are collaborating on a new project to address the problem of VHS and other pathogens that could be introduced and/or spread through the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system via ballast water and other pathways. The purposes of the three-year project, funded by the Great Lakes Protection Fund, are to: 1) develop testing/sampling tools such as genetic markers to identify pathogens such as VHS; and 2) develop monitoring protocols to sample fish, water and/or other media in the Great Lakes.



Protection and restoration of natural coastal wetlands in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system is critical to the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem. This has been a longstanding program priority for the Great Lakes Commission and was articulated once again by the recently drafted Regional Collaboration Strategy.

One Commission-led initiative, the Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium, reached a significant milestone in 2007 with the completion of a long-term plan to monitor Great Lakes coastal wetlands. The Consortium was formed in 2000 with the Great Lakes Commission as secretariat and a goal of producing a cohesive, long-range wetlands monitoring plan for Great Lakes coastal areas. Since inception of the Consortium, more than 50 organizations have contributed to the plan from initial pilot studies, to development of a Great Lakes coastal wetlands inventory and classification system and drafting of final coastal wetlands monitoring protocols, to the design of a publicly accessible international database. The partners included science and policy experts drawn from key U.S. and Canadian federal, state and provincial agencies, nongovernmental organizations, academia, and members of other interest groups with responsibility for coastal wetlands monitoring.

The project represented nearly seven years of work and produced a plan using a scientifically validated sampling design and suite of indicators and metrics developed by project partners. It includes a thorough cost analysis that describes estimated costs associated with each element of the plan. The document should be of great value and benefit to agencies planning to incorporate coastal wetland monitoring into their overall monitoring strategy.

In December 2006 the Commission was awarded a six-month contract to help support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Great Lakes Habitat Initiative (GLHI). The Commission's role was two-fold: 1) create a database to house an inventory of habitat restoration and protection projects across the Great Lakes region; and 2) conduct a series of outreach meetings to individual states to inform them of the GLHI, demonstrate how to enter projects into the database through a web-based project form and encourage state participation.

In 2007, staff held workshops in all eight states. Feedback and information gathered at the workshops was used to inform improvements to the habitat project database. An overriding issue raised by the states is the need to ensure that federal agencies will use the database as part of their funding process for habitat restoration and protection. Between March and July 2007, 188 projects totaling nearly \$635 million related to habitat restoration and protection in the Great Lakes region were entered into the habitat project database, illustrating its broad applicability as a living repository for this information.



# Coastal and Terrestrial Habitat

# Economy and Society

**The continued health of the Great Lakes is more than simply an environmental issue. It is tied directly to the economic future of our region.**  
- Michigan Lt. Gov. John D. Cherry, Jr.  
Chair, Great Lakes Commission

The Great Lakes Commission's commitment to dynamic, sustainable economic growth in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region is defined in its 2008-2010 Work Plan by four topical areas: ports and navigation; clean energy; coastal community development; and tourism/recreation. The Commission pursued activities on all these fronts in 2007, taking some innovative new directions in the process.

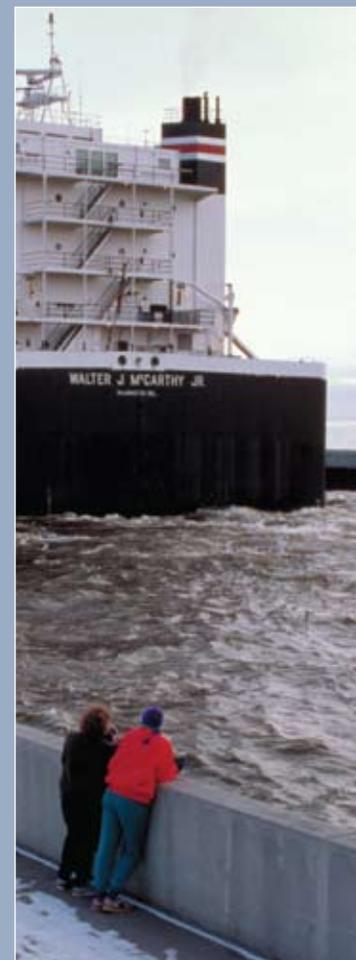
Growing interest among the Great Lakes states and provinces in clean renewable energy sources has prompted a number of new collaborative efforts such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative involving New York, Québec and Pennsylvania, and the Midwest Governors' Association's Energy Security and Climate Stewardship Platform with participation from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Wind energy has attracted particular interest among the states and provinces, but until recently there has not been a regional forum to share and disseminate information.

To address this need, the Commission helped create the Great Lakes Wind Collaborative (GLWC) in 2007 to build consensus and identify and address issues affecting the planning, development, and operation of wind power facilities in the Great Lakes region. The group provides a forum for dialogue and an opportunity for analysis and exchange of information among key stakeholders to facilitate sustainable wind power development in the region. The GLWC is administered by the Commission and reaches across sectors and disciplines to identify and address the technical, environmental, regulatory, educational and financial issues related to the deployment of wind energy resources. Members include representatives from a broad spectrum of interests throughout the Great Lakes region.

The full economic contribution of recreational boating to the Great Lakes states was summarized in the Great Lakes Commission's report "The Economic Impact of Recreational Boating in the Great Lakes," findings of which were released in 2007. In addition to calculating boater spending on actual trips, and on maintaining their watercraft, the report describes a network of manufacturers, retailers, restaurants, marinas, charter operators, repair facilities, lodgings and other businesses that depend upon or get a significant chunk of their business from recreational boating. The study estimated that boating on the Great Lakes generates some \$2.35 billion a year on trip spending and another \$1.44 billion on boats, equipment and supplies, along with supporting 60,000 jobs.

A follow-up product to the report was also produced in 2007, the "On-Line Boating Economic Impact Model" ([www.marinaeconomics.com](http://www.marinaeconomics.com)). This web-based tool allows users to estimate boater spending and the associated economic impacts in terms of jobs, sales, income, and value added associated with the ownership and use of different sizes and types of recreational boats. Economic impacts may be estimated for a marina, groups of marinas, a boat access/launch site, or for all registered power boats and sailboats in a designated region.

To build awareness and support advocacy efforts in fighting an ongoing navigation dredging backlog in the Great Lakes, Commission staff developed in 2007 the brochure "Dredging on the Great Lakes" for the Great Lakes Dredging Team. The publication highlights the importance of keeping navigation channels and harbors open, identifies implications of not dredging and discusses the funding needs for an adequate Great Lakes dredging program.



**Water scarcity throughout the world - and even in parts of the Great Lakes region - will put mounting pressure on one of the most abundant freshwater ecosystems on earth.**  
- Peter Annin, *Great Lakes Water Wars*

Some of the most pervasive and insidious contributors to decreased water quality in Great Lakes-St. Lawrence waters are nonpoint sources of pollution such as surface runoff and atmospheric deposition. The Commission has long been active in combating nonpoint source pollution through such programs as the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, which has delivered several million dollars of federal funds to projects in all eight Great Lakes states, and the Great Lakes Air Deposition program for addressing deposition of toxic pollutants in the waters of the Great Lakes region.

Mercury is a particularly harmful contaminant moving from the atmosphere into the region's lakes and watercourses and, ultimately, the human food supply through fish. In 2007 the Great Lakes Commission released a new report on how to better understand mercury deposition into the Great Lakes and what can be done to reduce the resulting health risks. Prepared with the help of state environmental protection agencies and other experts, the report offers specific recommendations on analyzing mercury contamination, learning more about how to track it, and how to coordinate existing efforts into a national monitoring program.

The Commission is also heavily involved in monitoring and remediating Areas of Concern (AOCs) in the Great Lakes, designated sites of chronic pollution. The Commission developed and maintains detailed websites on each of the 31 U.S. AOCs in the lakes, as well as a "virtual library" of AOC resources, including AOC contacts, an inventory of delisting targets, reports and conference proceedings, delisting documents, funding sources, and related information.

The Commission works with U.S. EPA and other AOC partners to convene regional conferences for the AOC program, the latest of which was held in June 2007 and attracted more than 170 participants. The Commission maintains a list of AOC contacts as well as a mailing list with all members of local AOC advisory groups. For 14 years the Commission has supported the Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC) for Michigan's AOC Program, a coalition of Michigan's 14 AOCs. The Commission assisted the SPAC and the State of Michigan in developing statewide delisting criteria, and is now supporting development of site-specific restoration plans for two fish and wildlife in Michigan's AOCs. The Commission is also assisting U.S. EPA in developing a detailed database of BUIs, including their status, delisting criteria, restoration needs and more.

A report released in early 2008 by the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and funded by The Joyce Foundation, concluded that local governments in the United States and Canada invest an estimated \$15 billion annually to protect and restore the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. Results from the 143 U.S. and Canadian local governments that responded to a Commission survey indicate that 2006 local investments totaled \$2.5 billion on water quality management activities, including wastewater systems operation, maintenance and infrastructure, and \$784 million on ecosystem protection activities such as greenspace protection and recycling/reuse programs. By extrapolating to incorporate the entire survey population of 688 local governments, which included cities, towns, villages, counties, regional municipalities and conservation authorities, the estimated local government investment is \$15 billion annually, with \$12 billion for water quality management and \$3 billion for ecosystem protection.



# Water Quality

# Water Supply

Eight years of low water levels on the Great Lakes have resulted in economic and environmental consequences to the region that are clearly significant, though not yet thoroughly understood. A combination of biological, chemical and physical factors has degraded the ecologic balance of the Great Lakes system, with the current low water conditions amplifying some of these problems. Low water has also impeded commercial navigation and recreational boating on the lakes, two critical sectors of the regional economy.

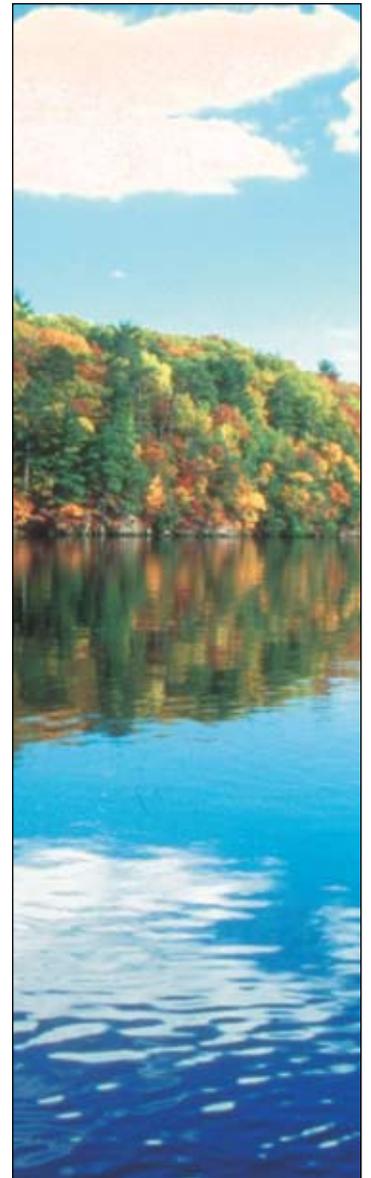
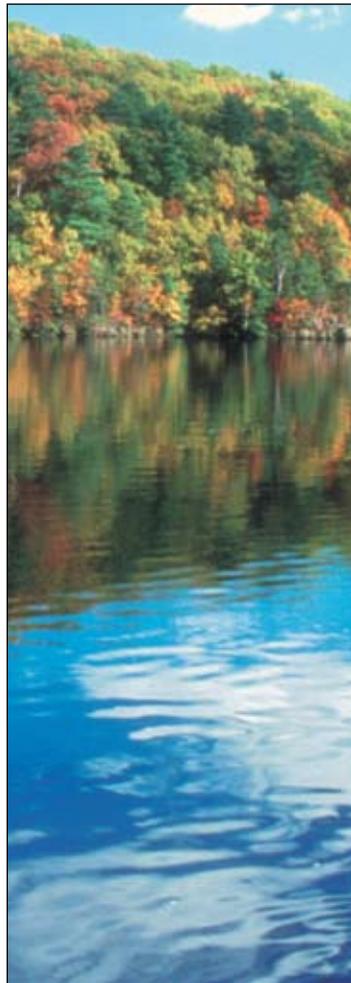
In 2007, the Commission called for several strategic investments from Congress to help adapt to current conditions on the Great Lakes. A fundamental mandate of the Commission is to foster the informed use, management and protection of Great Lakes water resources. Foremost at the moment are concerns about water withdrawal, consumption, diversion, and export of our vulnerable water resources. The Commission has consistently supported implementation of the provisions of the 1985 Great Lakes Charter and adoption of its successor, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. The Compact is the best means available to assure that water quantity is managed for the long-term benefit of the region's economy and ecology. Two states ratified the Compact in 2007, Minnesota and Illinois, and since then it has been ratified by Indiana, New York and Wisconsin.

The Commission also pushed for comprehensive and integrated monitoring and analysis tools to assess cumulative effects of water uses and their impacts on regional ecosystem viability and economic sustainability. It developed resolutions calling on Congress to fund investigations related to reducing economic and environmental damages occurring as a consequence of current low water level conditions on the upper Great Lakes.

The Commission has also consistently championed maintenance of the Great Lakes water level gauging stations, managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This network is essential for supporting regional information needs on lake level changes.

**It is very important for all of us in the Great Lakes Basin, stretching from Minnesota to Montreal, to ensure that our region controls the rules that will govern the use of Great Lakes water.**

**- Robert Cowles and  
John Lehman**





# Information Management and Communications

Over the last two decades, the Commission has built a reputation for assembling information about the binational Great Lakes basin, effectively conveying it to policymakers and hosting discussions among them to focus attention on Great Lakes issues. Projects such as the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) are a popular, broadly supported conduit of information for people engaged in Great Lakes issues. The Commission actively sought funding and new partnerships for GLIN in 2007, which will culminate in a major restructuring of GLIN in 2008-10. The new GLIN will focus on better engaging users to combine accessible information with technology-driven tools and delivery devices to impact on-the-ground decisionmaking in the Great Lakes region.

Also in 2007, with support from the Wege Foundation, the Commission developed a web-based tool to provide up-to-date information on Great Lakes legislative priorities. This new portal – part of GLIN – helps to increase support for Great Lakes protection and restoration by providing easy access to the status of federal legislation and appropriations through a single web site. The site offers a searchable database of current legislative priorities, news updates, announcements of hearings and briefings, and information about members of the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation, including bills they've sponsored, maps of congressional districts and much more.

Hand in hand with effective communications is information integration and coordination. Through projects such as the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS), the Commission is providing ready access to timely, comprehensive, consistent and integrated information for use by Member states/provinces and tens of thousands of other lake users in planning, resource management and other activities. The goal of GLOS is to draw data from numerous monitoring efforts (federal, state/provincial, local), consolidate it, and then make it available to meet the needs of various communities, including municipal drinking water and wastewater managers, commercial shippers, recreational boaters, environmental and social researchers, educators, beach users, policymakers and a wide variety of other users. In 2007, the GLOS Regional Association became an independent nonprofit organization that governs and guides the system to ensure that stakeholder needs are met and that optimal information-gathering tools and innovative products are in place and secure, and pursued a suite of projects in the Huron to Erie Corridor, including 2D and 3D hydrodynamic modeling of the channel beds and flow regimes. This work will allow for better protection of water supplies for millions of people in the area at risk from hazardous spills.

GLOS is a cooperative activity of U.S. and Canadian federal, state and provincial agencies as well as academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations and commercial interests across the region. GLOS is one of 11 regions within the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), a multidisciplinary network led by NOAA to improve ecosystem and climate understanding, sustain living resources, improve public health and safety, reduce impacts of natural hazards and environmental changes, and enhance the safety and efficiency of maritime commerce. IOOS, in turn, is the U.S. ocean observing component of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS); Canada's engagement in GEOSS parallels the U.S. IOOS initiative.

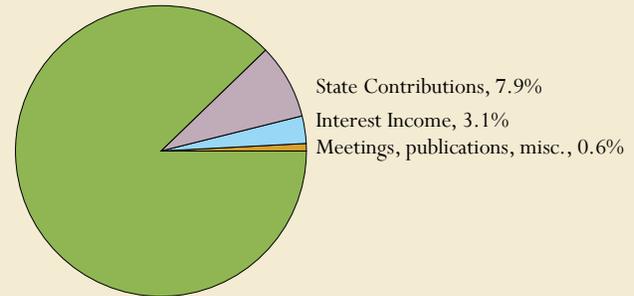




## Revenues

Grants and Contracts	5,338,441
State Contributions	480,000
Interest Income	185,802
Meetings, publications, misc.	33,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,037,843</b>

Grants and Contracts, 88.4%



The Great Lakes Commission concluded FY 2007 in sound financial condition, with operating revenues of \$6.04 million.

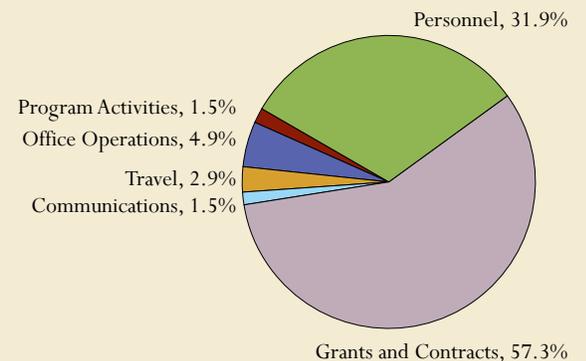
Expenses exceeded revenues by \$90,600, less than 1.5 percent. This was largely due to higher-than-anticipated expenses for personnel and less-than-anticipated indirect cost recovery from project work.

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

These figures were confirmed by an independent audit, which is conducted each year to examine the Commission's financial operations. The FY 2007 fiscal year ended June 30, 2007.

## Expenses

Personnel	1,957,910
Grants and Contracts	3,511,646
Communications	89,468
Travel	180,112
Office Operations	298,930
Program Activities	90,377
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,128,443</b>



# Revenues and Expenses: FY 2007

# 2007 Funders



The great majority of Commission programs and projects are pursued in partnership with other agencies and organizations, and benefit from their funding support. A listing of 2007 funders is provided below. Thanks to all for their assistance!

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
The Environment Report  
Government of Québec  
Great Lakes Fishery Commission  
Great Lakes Protection Fund  
Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant  
Industrial Economics, Inc.  
International Joint Commission  
Joyce Foundation  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Michigan Sea Grant  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),  
Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services  
NOAA Coastal Services Center  
NOAA National Ocean Service/National Marine Fisheries Service  
NOAA National Ocean Survey  
NOAA National Sea Grant College Program  
State of Illinois  
State of Indiana  
State of Michigan  
State of Minnesota  
State of New York  
State of Ohio  
State of Wisconsin  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service,  
Eastern Region  
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Great Lakes  
National Program Office  
U.S. EPA, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response  
U.S. EPA, Region 5, Air and Radiological Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 5, Superfund Division  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Geological Survey, Federal Geographic Data Committee: National  
Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program  
Wege Foundation

# Commissioners and Alternates

Delegation chairs are in **bold**.

## Illinois

**Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn (Vice Chair)**  
 Rita Athas, Office of the Mayor, City of Chicago  
 Jack Lavin, Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity  
 Douglas P. Scott, Gov. Appointee  
 Leslie A. Sgro, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources

### Alternates

Gary Clark, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources  
 Joe Deal, City of Chicago  
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## Great Lakes Commission 2007 Annual Report

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# Staff and Observers

# About the Commission

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

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

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

