



Regional Coordination

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

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

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

Featured Projects

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

What we do

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



A blueprint to “Restore the Greatness”

www.glc.org/restore

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

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

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

Expanding our international outreach

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

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

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

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