



Resource Management

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

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

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

Featured Projects

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

What we do

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

Protecting our water resources

www.glc.org/wateruse/wrmdss

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

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

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

Stopping invasive species

www.glc.org/ans

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

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

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

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

