

# RECOMMENDATIONS

The Reference Group made a number of recommendations to the Commission concerning nonpoint pollution in the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem. These recommendations are included in the Executive Summary of the report of the Reference Group, attached as Appendix III of this Report.

Based on consideration of the Reference Group's report and recommendations, the information gained from the efforts of the public panels organized by the Reference Group and from the Commission's public hearings, and in response to the Reference dated April 17, 1972, from the Governments of the United States and Canada,

## THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The Governments of Canada and the United States, in partnership with the state and provincial governments, and local jurisdictions where relevant, undertake to develop a comprehensive strategy of pollution control for the Great Lakes which would be specifically directed at but not restricted to nonpoint pollution. The Commission further recommends that such a strategy have sufficient flexibility to permit individual jurisdictions to maintain their resource and land management prerogatives to the extent that they are consistent with the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978. This flexibility should also ensure that the strategy can be responsive to future scientific, technological and socio-economic developments concerning the pollution control.
2. Ongoing and priority programs be pursued without awaiting complete development of the comprehensive management strategy.
3. As part of the management strategy, governments develop and implement remedial plans for achieving reductions in nonpoint pollution from priority areas. These priority areas should be selected on the basis of the most severe whole-lake and nearshore water quality problems, present land use activities and areas with a high potential or demonstrated ability to contribute pollutants, especially hydrologically active areas. Such areas are identified in Figures 1-3 of this Report. In accordance with the ecosystem concept, selection of remedial programs should also include consideration of the principle of non-degradation of higher quality waters (further to the Commission's Report on Water Quality of the Upper Great Lakes), impacts on other environmental components including plankton, fish stocks and wildlife, occurrence of severe local problems (especially the nearshore areas and tributary mouths), and the impacts to be realized in downstream lakes in the Great Lakes System via connecting channels.