



Advisor

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Action Plan to provide binational approach Governors, premiers join forces to combat aquatic nuisance species

Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) prevention and control efforts have taken a major step forward, thanks to a landmark agreement recently signed by the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence governors and premiers. The *Great Lakes Action Plan* is the culmination of a major, 18-month initiative that yielded a shared vision and common set of principles, goals and strategies to which all eight governors and both premiers have committed. Plan development was coordinated by the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, with support from Great Lakes Commission staff.

It's the first time that the region's leadership has formally embraced a single set of principles to guide their individual and collective efforts. The Action Plan signatories acknowledge their responsibility to act "promptly and decisively" to achieve three goals: preventing unauthorized introductions; limiting the spread of established nuisance species; and minimizing the impacts of those already present.

"The governors and premiers recognize that regional problems demand regional solutions..."

—Commission Chair Nathaniel E. Robinson

The Action Plan presents 10 principles to be used as guidance in achieving these goals. Among others, they call for regional and global approaches to prevention and control, a primary emphasis on prevention of new introductions, interjurisdictional cooperation, comprehensive multi-disciplinary research, and a coordinated and responsive management structure. Augmenting the Action Plan is an addendum adopted by the Great Lakes Panel, which presents several dozen specific objectives and strategic actions designed to realize Action Plan goals. Categories include management programs; research and monitoring; and information, education and collaboration.

According to Michigan Governor John Engler, the Action Plan is an important step in developing a unified, regional approach to one of the leading environmental issues of our time. "Aquatic nuisance species pose a double threat," he noted. "They harm both our ecosystem and our water-based economy. The Great Lakes Action Plan affirms my commitment, and that of my fellow governors and premiers, to work together to address this problem." Commission Chair Nathaniel E. Robinson added, "The governors and premiers recognize that regional problems demand regional solutions, and we applaud their initiative in signing this landmark agreement."

The Action Plan promotes a unified and aggressive regional agenda that will showcase and advance ongoing efforts to develop and implement comprehensive state and provincial management plans, which are the primary mechanisms for ANS prevention control efforts in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region at this time. As a non-bind-

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The Advisor is published bimonthly by the Great Lakes Commission. The Commission is a binational agency established in 1955 to promote 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.

Commission News & Views

From the desk of the president...

Great Lakes Commission

The Great Lakes Commission is a binational public agency dedicated to the use, management and protection of the water, land and other natural resources of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system. In partnership with the eight Great Lakes states and provinces of Ontario and Québec, the Commission applies sustainable development principles in addressing issues of resource management, environmental protection, transportation and sustainable development. The Commission provides accurate and objective information on public policy issues; an effective forum for developing and coordinating public policy; and a unified, systemwide voice to advocate member interests.

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Cover photo: The U.S. Brig Niagara, courtesy Tall Ships Newswire

Stepping out of the comfort zone

One of my mentors, a former professor and state Department of Natural Resources director, once observed that “you can be comfortable or you can be successful, but you can’t be both.” Over the years, I’ve embraced this observation and have come to realize that it applies to institutions as well as individuals.

Public institutions have a survival, or self-preservation, instinct. It’s a predisposition to stay in the comfort zone, to embrace the status quo and effect change only through cautious adjustments at the margins. Unfortunately, comfort breeds complacency, and complacency stifles creativity.

The collective Great Lakes management effort is anything but the product of cautious and tentative decisions.

Our institutions, agreements and collaborative arrangements have garnered global recognition for good reason. Yet there’s a growing sense that we may be losing our edge. After decades of innovative thinking and bold initiatives, has the collective Great Lakes management effort retreated into the comfort zone? Has it become complacent? If so, what needs to change?

These are important questions, yet they seldom receive the attention they deserve. We tend to be so consumed by maintaining a multiplicity of laws, policies, programs and institutions that we lose sight of such questions.

That’s where the Canada-United States Interuniversity Seminar (CUSIS) comes in. CUSIS is a periodic gathering of academics and policy practitioners that, since the early 1970s, has been taking the lid off the “black box” we call Great Lakes governance to examine the mechanism and determine whether it needs fine tuning, an overhaul or outright replacement. CUSIS activities, including seminars, student summits and publications, have had a remarkable impact over the years.

In June, I had the pleasure of co-chairing

(with Professor Marcia Valiente of the University of Windsor) the fifth iteration of CUSIS, funded by the Canadian Consulate in Detroit. The academics and policy practitioners present, many of whom are in regional leadership roles, all had an opportunity to step far outside the comfort zone and address the tough questions. For example: Is the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement capable of guiding us into the new millennium or is it a memorial to old problems and old ways of doing business? Are current institutions and institutional arrangements capable of addressing our water management needs or is an entirely new framework

required? Is the notion of sustainable development compatible with our existing management framework?

These and related questions produced an agenda for governance research that will yield practical recommendations over the next several years. Most importantly, CUSIS afforded us an opportunity to take a step back from the business of governance, question the status quo, and engage in the type of creative thinking that has become the hallmark of the collective Great Lakes governance effort.

Earlier this year, the Great Lakes Commission stepped boldly out of the comfort zone in advancing its *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity*. We argued that incremental adjustments to the status quo will not “Restore the Greatness” and stated flatly that recent efforts to address regional needs have been “an injustice to our world class resource.”

My former professor was right; we do need to step out of the comfort zone to be successful. The recent CUSIS initiative should prompt us all to ask and answer the tough governance questions that will help us retain – or regain – our edge.



Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

Great Lakes Program guides Commission advocacy efforts

The mid-March release of the Commission's *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity* signaled the beginning of an aggressive, targeted Congressional advocacy campaign. Correspondence, testimony and personal communications with members of Congress have pressed for action on the program's 39 priorities in the areas of cleaning up toxic hot spots, shutting the door on invasive species, controlling nonpoint source pollution, restoring and conserving wetlands and critical coastal habitat, ensuring the sustainable use of our water resources, strengthening our decision support capability, and enhancing the commercial and recreational value of our waterways.

Advocacy efforts in recent weeks have included, among others, testimony supporting the Great Lakes Legacy Act (which would provide \$50 million annually for remediating contaminated sediment); recommendations for

amendments to the National Invasive Species Act; and support for upgrades to NOAA's lake level gauging stations, Farm Bill amendments to advance regional nonpoint source pollution control efforts, Soo Lock planning and construction funds, and for the recreational boating and biohydrological components of the John Glenn Basin Program. Complementing the advocacy efforts have been a series of specialty workshops that are generating the data, information, plans and regional support needed to move such initiatives forward.

Great Lakes Program implementation and advocacy efforts in general have emerged as a priority of the Commission's Board of Directors. Dr. Jon MacDonagh-Dumler has joined the staff to advance these and related initiatives. For more information on Commission advocacy efforts, contact MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org, or Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

Funding urged for new Soo lock

The Great Lakes Commission has urged Congress to appropriate \$6.5 million in FY2002 to complete planning and initiate construction of a new lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The new Soo lock is expected to cost in the range of \$225 million with approximately \$60 million in non-federal cost sharing funds to be committed by the eight member states of the Commission. Michigan, Illinois and Pennsylvania expect to have funding in hand this summer or fall, while the other five states are reviewing funding options and legislative strategies.

Construction would begin with the dewatering and permanent closure of the Sabin and Davis locks.

Commission staff, along with Commissioner Don Vonnahme (Ill.) and Alternate Commissioner Mike Leffler (Mich.), are working with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers legal staff to iron out details pertaining to the Project

Cooperation Agreement (PCA). The PCA is required for projects where cost sharing is involved. A standard federal indemnification provision is problematic because the Commission's organizing instrument, the Great Lakes Basin Compact, prohibits the Great Lakes Commission from pledging the credit of any party state. Substitute language has been proposed and is under review. Contact: Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org.



The Soo Locks accommodate the Great Lakes' largest commercial vessels, such as the 1000-foot freighter Oglebay Norton. Construction of a new large lock will enhance system reliability and efficiency. Photo by Mike Donahue.

Commission Briefs

Action plan, continued from page 1



Commission Chair Nat Robinson

ing “good-faith” agreement, the Action Plan does not amend or replace existing laws, agreements and policies, but builds upon them to maximize effectiveness. (Note: Two jurisdictions, Wisconsin and Québec, have received new leadership since their respective governor/premier signed the Action Plan; efforts are underway to obtain the new leaders’ signatures.)

“The Action Plan and Addendum is a call for action by the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence community,” according to Ron Martin, water resources manager of the Wisconsin DNR and chair of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species. He added, “I will make implementation of the Action Plan a priority, and I urge the rest of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence community to join me in this effort.”

The Great Lakes Panel membership, with broad-based governmental, private sector and citizen/user group representation, will coordinate implementation and monitor progress in achieving Action Plan goals. Scientists have documented the introduction of more than 145 non-native aquatic nuisance species into the Great

Lakes-St. Lawrence system over the last 150 years. The problem has accelerated in recent decades; almost one-third of such species have been introduced since the late 1950s, coinciding with the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway system and attendant problems of ANS introduction via ballast water of commercial vessels.

U.S. federal legislation (Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act) first adopted in 1990 established a comprehensive national program and also authorized the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species. The panel, with Great Lakes Commission support, has

“Aquatic nuisance species pose a double threat. They harm both our ecosystem and our water-based economy.”

—Michigan Gov. John Engler

developed a model comprehensive state management plan, model state legislation, a regional information/education strategy, and a Ballast Water Policy Statement, among other products. The Action Plan, developed with U.S. EPA funding support, is among the panel’s most recent initiatives.

See the Action Plan signature page at right. The full text and addendum are available at: www.glc.org/announce/01/7-01GLaction.pdf. Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

Hydrometeorological data available on GLIN

Managing Great Lakes water supplies and quality requires meteorological, hydraulic and hydrological data. These data are used to evaluate current conditions and provide a record of long-term trends required for planning and forecasting. A map-based directory of Great Lakes hydrometeorological stations is now available online, thanks to funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Detroit District and the technical work of the Great Lakes Commission and NOAA’s Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory.

This online mapping application lists station characteristics from the more than 11,000 hydro-

logical and meteorological stations throughout the Great Lakes region, some of which began collecting data in the mid-1800s.

Planners, researchers and others can now determine which stations have gathered data of interest and whom to contact to retrieve those data sets. The mapping tool provides a geographic orientation and allows the database to be searched both by station characteristics and location.

The directory is available on the Great Lakes Information Network at www.glin.net/gis/online/hydromet.html. Contact: Stuart Eddy, seddy@glc.org.

Join the Great Lakes Commission for its Annual Meeting and associated events Oct. 10-12, 2001, in Milwaukee, Wis.

To register, see the yellow insert in this issue of the Advisor. More information available at www.glc.org. Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org

Annual Meeting

A Great Lakes Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species


Vision

We, the Governors and Premiers of the Great Lakes States and Provinces, envision healthy aquatic ecosystems where new introductions of nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species are prevented, and adverse ecological and economic impacts of species already present are minimized.

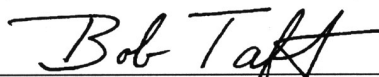
Goals and Principles

We recognize the threat posed by nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species and acknowledge our responsibility, both independently and collectively, to act promptly and decisively to attain three goals: 1) prevent the unauthorized introduction of nonindigenous aquatic species; 2) limit the spread of established aquatic nuisance species within the region; and 3) minimize the harmful ecological, economic, social and public health impacts resulting from aquatic nuisance species already present. Individually and collectively, we agree to use the following principles as guidance in addressing these goals:

- ▶ Responsibility for prevention and control efforts is shared by all who manage, use or otherwise benefit from our water resources and related aquatic life.
- ▶ Recognizing the interconnections between hydrologic basins in North America, jurisdictions within and outside the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region share an individual and collective responsibility to prevent the spread of nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species.
- ▶ Preventing the unauthorized introduction of nonindigenous aquatic species is the fundamental aim of our collective management effort.
- ▶ Measures to control the spread of nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species should not cause as much or more environmental or economic harm than the species does itself.
- ▶ Sound prevention and control decision making incorporates comprehensive, multidisciplinary research.
- ▶ A coordinated and responsive management structure, functioning on a binational, multijurisdictional basis, is needed for effective prevention and control.
- ▶ Interjurisdictional cooperation, coordination and advocacy, based on a spirit of consensus, is needed for effective prevention and control.
- ▶ Partnerships and collaborative initiatives among all who use, manage or benefit from our water resources and related aquatic life are an important component of the collective management effort.
- ▶ An informed public is a fundamental component of our collective management effort for preventing the introduction and spread of nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species.
- ▶ All who use, manage or benefit from our water resources and related aquatic life shall be afforded the opportunity for meaningful involvement in the development and implementation of prevention and control programs.



George H. Ryan, Governor, State of Illinois



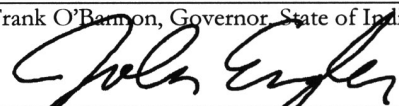
Bob Taft, Governor, State of Ohio



Frank O'Bannon, Governor, State of Indiana



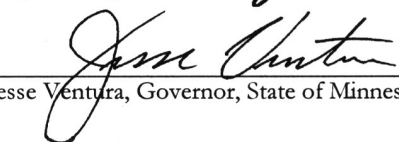
Mike Harris, Premier, Province of Ontario



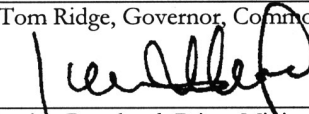
John M. Engler, Governor, State of Michigan



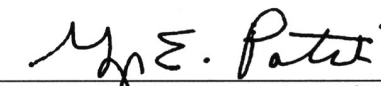
Tom Ridge, Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Jesse Ventura, Governor, State of Minnesota



Lucien Bouchard, Prime Minister, Province of Québec



George E. Pataki, Governor, State of New York



Tommy G. Thompson, Governor, State of Wisconsin

Commission Briefs

World's largest, most prestigious coastal management gathering held in Great Lakes region

Coastal Zone 01, the 12th biennial international symposium on coastal and ocean management, was held July 15-19 in Cleveland, hosted by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The world's largest, most prestigious gathering of coastal resource management professionals, CZ01 featured more than 500 oral and poster presentations, along with workshops and plenary sessions on topics of special interest. Great Lakes Commission involvement included symposium planning, opening remarks, presentations, posters and session sponsorships.

Among other activities, the Commission co-sponsored a symposium that brought together marina representatives and dredging experts to discuss current low water levels, dredging needs, and the status of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' dredging budget. With one-third of the nation's registered recreational boats, these combined factors could have a marked effect on the Great Lakes region, as many coastal communities depend on marine recreation to support the seasonal economy. The symposium was co-sponsored by the Great Lakes Dredging

Team, a federal/state partnership.

Commission staff also participated in a panel discussion on access to coastal data, focusing on efforts to standardize and coordinate data collection and the role of monitoring in coastal management. The Commission is presently involved in numerous efforts to coordinate monitoring activities and consolidate and disseminate critical information in the Great Lakes basin, including online monitoring and data inventories, clearinghouses and online mapping, GIS standardization, and indicator development.

A poster presentation titled "Connecting Policy, Science and People: The Great Lakes Information Network" profiled the Commission's online initiatives including The Education And Curriculum Homesite (TEACH Great Lakes) and a regional GIS/spatial data clearinghouse.

Contacts: Ric Lawson (coastal data), rlawson@glc.org; Steve Thorp (dredging), sthorp@glc.org; Christine Manninen (posters), manninen@glc.org.



Rear Adm. James D. Hull, operational commander of the Ninth U.S. Coast Guard District in Cleveland, was honored with the Great Lakes Commission's Outstanding Service Award at the Coastal Zone 01 conference. Hull, the Coast Guard's designated observer to the Commission, was cited by Commission president/CEO Mike Donahue for his many achievements in service to the Great Lakes region. These included an instrumental role in the creation of the Waterways Management Forum, enhancing binational cooperation, and his efforts to protect the Great Lakes from toxic spills and aquatic nuisance species. Photo: Scott Parker.

Sharing knowledge from two continents

Despite their difference in salinity, the Great Lakes and Baltic Sea nonetheless share many features in common and face many of the same environmental threats. The Great Lakes-Baltic Fellowship Program, now in its third year, brings researchers and officials from the two regions together to share information, expertise and management approaches to improve water quality in the two systems.

The program, managed by the Great Lakes Commission with funding through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Great Lakes National Program Office, is presently focusing on the eradication and control of alien invasive species. This is a follow-up to its previous work on the subject, recently published in the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*, and a cooperative effort

with the Global Invasive Species Program, which is working to develop an international treaty on invasives.

Six researchers and policymakers from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland have been selected as fellows. They will visit U.S. and Canadian organizations and share expertise in managing this highly complex but critical issue.

The tour begins Sept. 25 in Chicago with a U.S. EPA workshop. Next, the fellows will travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with U.S. State Department, Monitor International and U.S. EPA headquarters representatives. The tour will culminate at the 11th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species Oct. 1-4 in Alexandria, Va.

Contact: Julie Wagemakers, juliew@glc.org.

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence governance at the crossroads

Do decades-old agreements still meet the challenges of today's ever-evolving environmental, economic and political circumstances? More than 50 participants, including leading U.S. and Canadian academics, policy practitioners and other interested parties met in Ann Arbor, Mich., June 21-22 to find out.

The Canada-United States Interuniversity Seminar (CUSIS) examined the effectiveness of current regional and binational arrangements in addressing major Great Lakes issues such as water diversion and export, aquatic nuisance species prevention and control, the effects of land use on water quality, and the continued challenges of addressing toxic substances in the environment.

Agreements discussed included the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the Great Lakes Charter and its new annex, and the Environmental Side Agreement to the North American Free Trade Agreement. The meeting was convened by Commission President/CEO Mike Donahue and professor Marcia Valiente of the University

of Windsor. Featured speakers included Thomas Baldini, U.S. chair of the International Joint Commission; William Testa, Federal Reserve Board of Chicago; and CUSIS founders Henry Regier of the University of Toronto and George Francis of the University of Waterloo.

The group identified a range of research needs in Great Lakes-St. Lawrence governance. Among others, they called for a thorough analysis of mechanisms for binational governance, including a review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement by an independent body such as the National Academy of Sciences.

The CUSIS series began in the 1970s and each of the five gatherings to date have made a significant contribution to binational governance. CUSIS was funded by the Canadian Consulate-Detroit and proceedings will be printed in the University of Toledo's *Journal of Great Lakes Science, Policy and Law*. Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.



Little creatures, big problem. Fresh approaches to coping with aquatic nuisance species, such as the zebra mussel, were among the binational governance topics under discussion at the fifth CUSIS meeting. Photo: Center for Great Lakes and Aquatic Sciences.

Guidelines proposed for delisting U.S. Areas of Concern

After more than a decade of work restoring Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs), officials are now pondering how and when to formally delist the areas. In response, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Great Lakes National Program Office has proposed guidelines for delisting U.S. AOCs.

To give local leaders involved in remedial action plans (RAPs) a chance to review and discuss the proposed guidelines, the Great Lakes Commission coordinated an AOC workshop June 22-23 in Toledo, Ohio. The workshop featured federal and state perspectives on the AOC program, as well as case studies of how different AOCs have developed delisting targets.

The U.S. EPA's draft document, *Restoring United States Areas of Concern: Delisting Principles and Guidance*, provides 11 principles to guide efforts to restore, and ultimately delist, the

U.S. AOCs. A key question is whether delisting should occur only after restoration targets are achieved, or when remedial activities are fully completed but before targets, such as reduced toxin levels in wildlife, have been met.

The guidelines emphasize the need for clearly defined targets to gauge progress in restoring beneficial uses in the AOCs. The guidelines also propose interim steps, such as delisting individual beneficial use impairments or subwatersheds as they are restored. Alternatively, an AOC could be redesignated as an Area of Recovery when all remedial actions have been taken and the ecosystem is responding.

The delisting guidelines will be finalized later this summer. The draft guidelines are available online at www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/restore.html. Contact: Mark Elster, U.S. EPA-GLNPO, elster.mark@epa.gov.

Did you know?

The U.S. and Canadian governments have listed 43 places on Great Lakes shorelines as Areas of Concern. One of these, Collingwood Harbor on Georgian Bay, has been delisted because beneficial uses have been restored.

Great Lakes Facts, Michigan Sea Grant

Commission project supports Annex 2001 implementation

Annex 2001, a supplementary agreement to the Great Lakes Charter of 1985 signed June 18 by the Great Lakes governors and premiers, presents a series of directives to guide efforts to develop a management regime for basin water resources. Supporting this process is a Great Lakes Commission project that will yield a water resources management decision support system (WRMDSS) providing the data, information and process needed for scientifically sound and legally defensible decisions on water use.

Financed by the Great Lakes Protection Fund, the initiative is fully underway, with a regional project management team overseeing three major elements: a status assessment of water resources, an inventory of water withdrawal and use, and an inventory and analysis of information on the ecological impacts of water withdrawal.

The WRMDSS project will fulfill one of the Annex 2001 directives and contribute to several others. It will, for example, assist the governors and premiers in their efforts to establish a decisionmaking standard that will guide the review of water withdrawal proposals on the basis of a series of principles designed to safeguard the integrity of the resource and its uses.

Work to date includes a literature search and workshop focusing on the ecological impacts of withdrawals; the development of a descriptive listing and analysis of computer models addressing ecological impacts; updating and refining basin water use data by jurisdiction, lake basin and use category; the development of a project web site; and initiating a multi-agency status assessment of water resources.

Contact: Thomas Rayburn, tray@glc.org

Regional emissions inventory updated

In a pair of related measures, the Great Lakes Commission has released the latest update to the Great Lakes Regional Air Toxic Emissions

Inventory and an improved version of the Regional Air Pollutant Inventory Development System (RAPIDS). The inventory, based on 1997 data, categorizes major sources for 82 specific toxic air contaminants as either point, area or mobile sources. The new version of RAPIDS allows inventory data to be exported in a format compatible with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Emissions Inventory (NEI).

The regional inventory represents the best single compilation of emissions data for the Great Lakes basin and the most complete since annual inventories began with the 1993 data year. Funded by the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency and managed by the Great Lakes Commission, the individual inventories are conducted by the air quality departments of the eight Great Lakes states and the province of Ontario.

The upgrade to RAPIDS makes it one of the most progressive emissions inventory systems available and meets the federal requirement that all states submit data in the NEI-compatible format for the upcoming national inventory of 1999 data.

Basinwide inventories for 1998 and 1999 data are expected to be released in late summer 2001 and spring 2002, respectively.

For an online copy of the 1997 Great Lakes Air Toxic Emissions Inventory update, see www.glc.org/air/inventory/1997/. For the latest version of RAPIDS, see www.glc.org/air/rapids/rapids.html. Contact: Julie Wagemakers, juliew@glc.org.

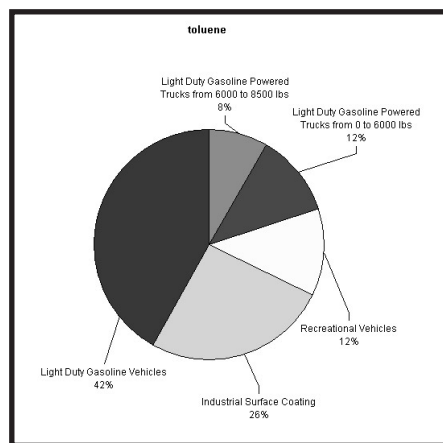


Chart based on RAPIDS data shows sources of atmospheric toluene by percentage.

Bottling basin water: Is there cause for concern?

James Clift, Policy Director, Michigan Environmental Council

The proposed Perrier plant in Mecosta County, Michigan, is not the first water bottling plant proposed in the Great Lakes basin and will not be the last. According to the International Bottled Water Association, U.S. sales of bottled water grew to 3.6 billion gallons in 1998 and continue to grow at 10 percent per year, with single-serving containers accounting for 75 percent of that growth. The Michigan Environmental Council's main concern is that the states and provinces are not ready to properly manage the increased demand on the basin's water.

Michigan's current law requiring bottling plants to obtain a permit is far too limited in scope and fails to comprehensively examine the impact withdrawals can have on our natural resources. Other Great Lakes states have water withdrawal statutes but their application to either groundwater or water bottling plants remains unclear. Although

overall quantities of water in the basin are huge, we need a mechanism that focuses on the relationship of water recharge to water loss to avoid the "mining" of basin water.

The Council of Great Lakes Governors' work on Annex 2001, the supplemental agreement to the Great Lakes Charter, shows great promise in addressing these issues head on. When implemented, the Annex will require a thorough evaluation of both the localized impacts of a bottling plant as well as the cumulative impacts of withdrawals across the basin. Governments should move quickly to support this agreement with the funding and staffing necessary to develop new standards and the legal mechanisms necessary to implement them. The Great Lakes states and provinces need to act swiftly to bolster the legal protections available to prevent misuse of the basin's water.

POINT
POINT



Clift, a former policy director to the Michigan Senate Democratic Office, coordinates the MEC's work on clean energy, air quality, water protection, children's health and open government.

William R. Rustem, Senior Vice President, Public Sector Consultants

Residents, industry and opinion leaders across the Great Lakes region rightly are concerned about the long-term management of the water resources that we enjoy. Today the issue garners front-page attention, with reports of low lake levels and proposals for sending water to dry parts of the globe. The challenge for state and provincial governments is to develop a comprehensive, long-term plan to manage the region's water resources. The Annex 2001 amendment to the Great Lakes Charter provides a framework for such a plan and should be applauded.

Currently, the State of Michigan is considering a water-bottling project in Mecosta County. The popularity of bottled water has grown in the past 10 years, although the industry still represents a small part of overall water use. The International Joint Commission reports that 14 times more bottled water is imported to the basin than is exported and that bottled water has no effect on overall water levels in the basin.

Plans for the Perrier plant set an example of the high standards that should be met for

all water withdrawals, including manufacturing, agricultural, municipal and power generation. The company behind the project has demonstrated its commitment to the spirit of conservation and responsible use outlined in Annex 2001. Scientific studies have demonstrated the project will not harm groundwater, surface water or other resources in the area. Perrier also has developed a long-term monitoring plan to ensure resources are protected.

The region needs sound science, and practical and contemporary regulatory approaches to protect water resources. Elements of a plan should incorporate specific limits on withdrawals, regular monitoring and reporting to state and local agencies, scientific evidence of long-term sustainability, and a commitment to natural resource enhancement.

It's important that leaders adopt a tough, even-handed approach to all water withdrawals throughout the basin. The economic and recreational vitality of Great Lakes water depends on wise use and management.

counterpoint
counterpoint



Rustem, formerly senior environmental policy adviser to Gov. William Milliken, is an environmental issues specialist whose duties include advising Great Spring Waters of America on environmental issues.

Tall ships tour the Great Lakes

Boating enthusiasts this summer are enjoying the rare and special thrill of seeing old-time sailing vessels move under their own power across the waters of the Great Lakes.

The 2001 Great Lakes Tall Ships Challenge has assembled a collection of more than two dozen square-riggers and other historic types of sailing vessels that are touring the Great Lakes from June through August. The fleet – which includes the 198-foot brig *Niagara*, a replica of John Paul Jones's flagship; the 188-foot barquentine *Concordia*; and the majestic 170-foot topsail schooner *Pride of Baltimore II* – is following an itinerary built around special events at Kingston, Port Colborne, Cleveland, Detroit-Windsor, Bay City and Muskegon, plus stops at other Great Lakes ports. In all, tall ships are scheduled to participate in 17 port festivals on the Great Lakes this summer.

Huge crowds have been turning out to welcome the ships at each port of call. An estimated

200,000 were drawn to the Detroit waterfront July 19, the first of a four-day visit that coincided with the city's tricentennial celebration. Mike Donahue, Commission president/CEO, was among a group who viewed the ships from the "water side" on board the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Neah Bay* as a guest of Admiral James Hull, Ninth District commander.

The "challenge" comes in a series of four races between ports of call, each lasting 2-3 days. Crews are a mix of professional sailors and students who have signed on for sail training as part of the Tall Ships Challenge.

The Challenge is tentatively scheduled to return to the Great Lakes in 2004.

The Tall Ships Challenge is sponsored by the American Sail Training Association, a non-profit organization devoted to the development, support and promotion of sail training and education under sail. For more information, visit: www.tallships.sailtraining.org.

Lake Erie walleye limits reduced

Concerned over dwindling walleye stocks in Lake Erie, fishery managers there have cut the allowable harvest of that species by more than half.

Acting on a report by its Walleye Task Group, the Lake Erie Committee, comprised of senior staff from the fishery agencies of Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Ontario, has limited the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2001 at 3.4 million walleye, down 59 percent from last year's 7.7 million.

The limit, which applies to both commercial and sport fishing, will not be increased for at least three years.

The committee also approved a small increase in the allowable harvest of yellow perch, stocks of which have been rebounding after reductions in the early 1990s. The actions were taken at the committee's annual meeting in March.

Despite the limit of 7.7 million fish last year, the actual number of walleye taken from Lake

Erie in 2000 was 3.6 million, the smallest harvest since 1983 when 3.4 million were caught. The committee has revised its methods for estimating walleye numbers and setting harvest levels in response to concerns it was overestimating the walleye population.

Walleye stocks in Lake Erie have declined approximately 60 percent since the late 1980s. The committee noted that fishing may not be the sole cause of the decline but high harvest levels could prevent the population from recovering.

For yellow perch, the TAC was increased to 7.1 million pounds, up from 6.5 million in 2000. While there are indications perch levels are increasing in the center of the lake, other survey results are mixed and the committee chose to increase the harvest only slightly.

Contact: John Cooper, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 519-873-4613.

**Great Lakes Commission
Annual Meeting**
www.glc.org/announce/01/8-01SAMregistr.pdf

Great Lakes Action Plan
www.glc.org/announce/01/7-01GLaction.pdf

**U.S. AOC draft delisting
guidelines**
www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/restore.html

**Great Lakes hydrometeorological
station directory**
www.glin.net/gis/online/hydromet.html

**Regional Air Pollutant
Inventory Development
System (RAPIDS)**
www.glc.org/air/inventory/1997

**Linking Brownfields
Redevelopment and
Greenfields Protection for
Sustainable Development**
www.glc.org/bridges

**American Sail Training
Association**
www.tallships.sailtraining.org

**U.S. EPA St. Lawrence River
dredging**
www.epa.gov/region2/news/01071.htm

**Wisconsin Wetlands Mitiga-
tion**
www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/wetlands/whatsnew.htm

Wisconsin law asserts control over isolated wetlands

Five months after a U.S. Supreme Court removed federal protection from small, isolated wetlands across the country, Wisconsin became the first state to pass a law giving the state authority to protect such wetlands from filling and dredging.

Effective May 8, the law gives the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources authority to protect wetlands that were previously regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Supreme Court ruled in January that the Corps' authority under the Clean Water Act does not extend to isolated, unnavigable wetlands. Under the new state law, no person can fill in such a

wetland unless the state certifies that the project meets Wisconsin's water quality standards for wetlands.

The law covers at least one million acres of wetlands, among them sedge meadows, shallow marshes and seasonal wetlands that are among the state's most productive in providing waterfowl and amphibian habitat, storing flood waters, and protecting water quality. Contact: Scott Hausmann, Wisconsin DNR, 608-266-7360.

Editor's note — Ohio adopted its own wetlands ordinance July 17. For more information, contact: Laura Powell, Ohio EPA, 614-644-2782.



Lake Superior Bark Bay, Wisconsin. Photo: Karen Holland, US EPA.

Dredging removes toxic sediments from St. Lawrence

A project to dredge more than 77,000 cubic yards of chemically contaminated river sediments from the St. Lawrence River has begun and is scheduled to be completed this November. The \$47 million Superfund cleanup is financed by the Reynolds Metals Company, whose aluminum production facility in Massena, N.Y. contaminated river sediments and plant property with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other chemicals, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The cleanup involves dredging more than 30 acres of the river bottom that are contaminated with several chemicals, including PCBs above 1 part per million (ppm). Sheet piling was installed around the dredging area to prevent the movement of sediments downstream. Sensors were placed around the work area to identify any impacts to water quality and allow the use of corrective measures, if necessary.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/region2/news/01071.htm.

Great Lakes Calendar

10th Annual Ohio Lake Erie Conference

September 6, Mentor, Ohio
Contact: Jill Woodyard, 419-245-2514,
oleo@www.epa.state.oh.us.

International Joint Commission Public Forum on Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Water Quality

September 14-15, Montreal, Quebec
Contact: Jennifer Day, 313-226-2170 (U.S.),
519-257-6733 (Can.), commission@windsor.ijc.org.

U.S. National Pollution Prevention Week

September 17-23
Contact: Ericka Alonso, 202-466-P2P2 (202-466-7272),
ealonso@p2.org.

Great Lakes Economic Development Conference 2001

September 20-22, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Contact: conference organizers,
GLEDConference2001@hotmail.com.

International Ballast Technology Investment Fair

September 20-21, Chicago, Illinois
Matt Little, mlittle@nemw.org

11th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species

October 1-4, Alexandria, Virginia
Contact: 800-868-8776, profedge@renc.igs.net

Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting and Associated Events

October 10-12; Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Contact: Mike Donahue, 734-665-9135, mdonahue@glc.org

SOLEC Biological Integrity Workshop

December 4-5, Windsor, Ontario
Contact: Stacey Cherwaty, 905-336-6458,
stacey.cherwaty@ec.gc.ca

Further details and a more extensive calendar are available online via the Great Lakes Information Network (www.great-lakes.net). If you have an event you'd like us to include, please contact Kirk Haverkamp at 734-665-9135 or kirkh@glc.org.

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The Last Word

Someone's Been Talking!

Our Story is Having an Impact



It is becoming perfectly clear! Some of you are talking, telling our story, and guess what? People are listening! I am not at all surprised. You see, our story is simple but compelling. It is plain but powerful. It is concise, succinct and persuasive.

What is our story? It is about ensuring the greatness of the Great Lakes. It is about maintaining our rich natural resource heritage. It is about improving our quality of life!

Look at what can happen when we work together as a team. Our aggressive advocacy is already paying off, as shown by initial successes with the legislative and appropriations priorities articulated in our "Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity." The Great Lakes Congressional Delegation, the Great Lakes governors and premiers, state legislators, policymakers and local leaders alike have heard our voices and joined in telling our story.

No doubt about it, we are getting attention. But major challenges and opportunities still lie ahead. We must transform that initial interest into momentum that will yield the desired result – environmental and economic prosperity for the Great Lakes!

We can't afford to rest on the buzz we have created. Just because we have managed to excite our key partners and stakeholders doesn't mean the job is done. Not by a long shot! Keep talking! Keep telling our story! Let's continue to give them something to talk about *and* to act on!

NATHANIEL E. ROBINSON, CHAIR
Great Lakes Commission



Photo: Veronique LeVelly

Where in the Great Lakes?

For this photo the question isn't where, it's what! Identify the above vessel from this summer's Great Lakes Tall Ships Challenge and you could win a prize! Send your answer via e-mail to kirkh@glc.org along with your name, address and daytime phone number (or call Kirk Haverkamp at 734-665-9135). All correct responses received by Sept. 21 will be entered into a drawing. The winner will receive his/her choice of a Great Lakes Commission t-shirt or a \$10 credit toward the purchase of a Commission publication.



The location of last issue's "Where in the Great Lakes?" photo was Gooseberry Falls State Park, along Minnesota's Lake Superior shoreline. The contest winner was Henry Hanka, alternate commissioner from Minnesota. Thank you to all who participated!

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