



Advisor

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Council on Environmental Quality official praises regional efforts Restoration planning moves forward

There have been many calls in recent years for the development of a Great Lakes restoration plan. Thankfully, much of the foundation has already been laid, a White House official told a recent gathering of Great Lakes stakeholders.

Speaking at the “Moving Toward a Sustainable Great Lakes” conference in June, Bill Leary, a senior policy official at the Council on Environmental Quality, said the basis for such a plan has already been developed by the region’s many Great Lakes institutions.

“It is that local passion that is the foundation of efforts to restore those areas ... Progress comes from igniting that passion.”

– Bill Leary

“Most of the pieces of a restoration plan are scattered around the card table in front of you,” Leary said. “We now need to simply organize their assembly and fill in the gaps.”

As foundations for this effort, Leary cited the Commission’s *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity*, along with the U.S. Policy Committee’s *Great Lakes Strategy*, as complementary documents on which to build. The former identifies resources needed to achieve specific goals, while the latter sets specific goals to be reached with existing means.

Calling the region’s many Great Lakes institutions a source of strength, Leary questioned assertions that a single authority is needed to oversee an all-encompassing plan. He also emphasized the importance of local stewardship by those with a passion for the lakes, rivers, mountains, ocean shores or other natural features that help define their lives.

“It is that local passion that is the foundation of efforts to restore those areas, as we see here and around the country,” Leary said. “Progress comes from igniting that passion.”

He applauded the leadership taken by the Council of Great Lakes Governors in identifying restoration priorities, and predicted that an emerging partnership between the governors and other parties would help move the restoration process forward in the months ahead.

The conference, co-hosted by the Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with approximately two dozen partner agencies and organizations, drew more than 200 stakeholders. Held in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., its participants included representatives of local, state, and federal governments and agencies; business and industry; citizen environmental organizations; elected officials; tribal/First Nations governments; and researchers and academics; among others. Lt. Col. Thomas Magness, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Detroit District, spearheaded the event, along with Commission President/CEO Mike Donahue.

“Our intent was to bring many interested parties together to celebrate shared inter-

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The Advisor is published bimonthly by the Great Lakes Commission. The Great Lakes 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/CEO...

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: Isle Royale National Park, Christine Manninen

Rekindling the passion

This past summer, we at the Great Lakes Commission had the pleasure of co-sponsoring the second iteration of the biennial Great Lakes Congressional Staff Tour. The title, Great Lakes Odyssey II, was a bit presumptuous but the experiences over the three-day event did it justice. We and several of our Ann Arbor-area partners (Great Lakes Fishery Commission, U.S. Geological Survey – Great Lakes Science Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory) set out to introduce 15 congressional staff to the lakes and their problems, opportunities and prospective solutions.

Our venues ranged from Buffalo, N.Y., to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, and many points in between. Issues ranged widely as well. We touched on aquatic nuisance species, cleaning up Areas of Concern, hydropower production and water-based recreation, to name but a few. The many participants brought a diverse set of interests and responsibilities to the tour, but it was clear that they all shared one common characteristic – a passion to make a difference. It was also clear that this passion grew as the tour progressed.

To truly understand the Great Lakes, one needs to experience them up close and personal. Over the course of these three short days, we had many such opportunities. To see the awesome power of the Niagara River as it tumbled over the falls to pull five-pound smallmouth bass from the depths of Lake Erie and onto the deck of a research vessel to see oceangoing vessels squeeze through the Welland to view the remnants of a community ravaged

by the environmental abuses of the past at Love Canal and to see the promise of the future rise out of the legacy of the past at a redeveloping brownfields site. And of course, how can you truly experience the lakes until you've had an opportunity to affix the business end of a sea lamprey to your forearm?

Over the course of my career, I've been fortunate to have had many such experiences. Whether they showcased the best or the worst of our lakes, they always made a lasting impression. More importantly, they rekindled and fed my passion to make a difference.

The art and science of Great Lakes governance can be an exercise in abstractions. We talk of concepts, plans, policies and budgets; toss acronyms around with wild abandon; and discuss career-length timelines needed to accomplish goals. We get drawn away from the lakes to meetings in windowless hotel rooms, and endless conference calls and emails. While these might be inescapable elements of the governance process, we simply cannot afford to lose touch with the very resource we're entrusted to protect.

We all need a Great Lakes Odyssey now and then. It makes no difference whether it's a formal event like the Congressional Staff Tour or a personal experience such as a solitary walk on the beach. Passion is the most important attribute that any of us can bring to our work. Like anything else, it needs to be nurtured.



Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

Passion is the most important attribute that any of us can bring to our work. Like anything else, it needs to be nurtured.

Congressional staff get close look at Great Lakes issues

Congressional staff play a vital role in the Great Lakes governance process, briefing their senators and representatives on matters of critical importance and helping them forge laws and policies with significant regional implications. It's essential then, that these staff members are familiar with the range of problems, opportunities and needs facing the region, and the agencies responsible for addressing them.

That was the purpose of "Great Lakes Odyssey II: Restore the Greatness!" a congressional staff tour held in August. Fifteen staff from congressional offices representing the Great Lakes region spent three days touring the Niagara/Buffalo area and gaining firsthand experience with environmental and economic issues typical of those facing the larger Great Lakes region.

Hosted by the Great Lakes Commission, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory and the USGS Great Lakes Science Center, the tour introduced the congressional staffers to Areas of Concern (AOCs) in the Buffalo and Niagara River watersheds, aquatic invasive species issues, Great Lakes restoration needs, and binational cooperation opportunities with Canada, among other matters.

Gerry Mikol and Don Zelazny, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation officials and members of the Great Lakes Com-

mission, led site visits addressing AOC remediation and associated cleanup/containment projects such as Love Canal. Participants saw a vivid illustration of a successful brownfields and shoreline restoration project at Woodlawn Beach State Park, established on the site of a former Bethlehem Steel complex south of Buffalo on Lake Erie.

Other elements of the tour included demonstrations of aquatic invasive species research aboard Lake Erie research vessels, application of chemical controls for sea lamprey in a Lake Erie tributary, a visit to the Welland Canal, and a tour of the Robert Moses Power Facility in Lewiston, N.Y.

Also participating in this year's tour was the office of the Canadian Counsel General, U.S. and Canadian elected officials, and representatives of the Friends of the Buffalo and Niagara Rivers. Canadian portions of the tour were funded by the government of Canada. Contact: Jon McDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org



Robert O'Gorman, chief of the USGS Lake Ontario Biological Station in Oswego, NY, discusses procedures for sampling aquatic organisms with congressional staff aboard the Kaho, a USGS research vessel on Lake Erie. Photo: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler.

Region's expertise benefits world's lakes

Representatives of the Great Lakes Commission were among more than 80 international leaders in lake basin management at a workshop to share experiences in preserving, protecting and restoring endangered lakes and their watersheds worldwide.

The International Workshop on World Lakes, which was held at St. Michael's College in Burlington, Vt., was part of the World Lakes Basin Management Initiative, coordinated by the International Lake Environment Committee Foundation and LakeNet.

Focusing on the world's 25 largest freshwater

lakes, the initiative draws upon lake basin management experiences in the developed world for application to developing countries. Funding is provided by the World Bank and U.S. Aid to International Development (USAID).

Proceedings of the June conference will be published and used by the World Bank in guiding water resources projects it funds in developing countries. Conference documents will also be available on the LakeNet website, www.worldlakes.org Contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org

Advocacy targets threatened programs, new initiatives

The Great Lakes Commission has been “down in the trenches” this past summer, pressing for action on a range of essential Great Lakes initiatives and budget proposals now before Congress.

The *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity*, a theme-based listing of the Commission’s federal legislative and appropriations priorities, provided a basis for congressional correspondence, Capitol Hill visits, and testimony on a range of regional priorities.

Among them, special emphasis has been placed on adequate support for key federally funded research agencies; aquatic nuisance species prevention and control efforts; continued and enhanced support for the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control; expanded authority for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding beneficial use of dredged material; and various monitoring, modeling and research initiatives that provide the basis for informed public policy decisions.

Written testimony of Commission President/CEO Mike Donahue was submitted to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Affairs, which held a hearing in mid-July focusing on the development and funding of a comprehensive Great Lakes Restoration Plan.

Donahue called for a strong federal/ state part-

nership with a lead role for the governors; an open and inclusive process to ensure stakeholder input; recognition of the basin’s binational character; and avoidance of unnecessary bureaucracy by fully exploiting the capabilities of existing institutions, programs and plans.

He also urged consideration of the Commission’s *Great Lakes Program* priorities as a foundation for the planning effort.

More recently, Commission Chair Sam Speck appeared at a National Governors Association hearing on efforts to forge a national ocean policy. Speck emphasized the importance of the nation’s “freshwater seas” and called for a regionally based national policy that fully acknowledges the significance of freshwater resources.

“Recent months have seen considerable energy and attention focused on large-scale, long-term ecosystem restoration initiatives,” said Donahue. “This is an essential activity, but we must not lose sight of the need to maintain existing federally funded research and management infrastructure. The Commission has seen an increase in the number of ‘threatened’ Great Lakes programs and has responded accordingly.”

Contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org

NOSPILLS 2004

January 20-22, 2004,
Traverse City, Mich.

Water for a Sustainable and Secure Future: A National Conference

January 29-20, 2004,
Washington, D.C.

IAGLR 2004 Conference

May 24-28, 2004
Waterloo, Ontario

mark your calendar

New web site for sustainable land use info

A simple, convenient way to obtain information on sustainable land use in the Great Lakes region is now available from the Great Lakes Commission.

The Great Lakes Sustainable Land Use web site (www.glc.org/bridges) provides access to a broad range of information and resources related to sustainable land use practices, policies, programs and news.

The web site has four main topics (i.e., brownfields, greenfields, smart growth, and planning) and also features a library. The site also links

to current news stories on sustainable land-use issues and enable users to keep up-to-date on this fast-changing field.

Formerly known as the Bridges project, the site represents a consolidation of three separate web sites focusing on different aspects of sustainable land use into a single, user-friendly portal. It provides greater ease of navigation for users, and facilitates site maintenance to provide the most current information and resources.

Contact: Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org

Annual Meeting: “Thinking Regionally, Acting Locally”

How are watersheds and municipalities asserting themselves as leaders in environmental stewardship? Are we moving toward a national/international ocean policy and what might that mean for the Great Lakes? What’s the status of large-scale Great Lakes-St. Lawrence initiatives, including Annex 2001, restoration plan development and the seaway system review, among others?

These and other essential questions will be explored in depth at the 2003 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission, Oct. 1-3 in Chicago. With the theme “Thinking Regionally, Acting Locally!” the meeting will provide a special look at the roles that Great Lakes mayors, legislators, conservation authorities and others familiar with local issues and circumstances are

playing in regional resource management.

As an added dimension, the meeting will be held jointly with the Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP), a national organization of state and regional water resource management agencies, of which the Commission is a member. It will be the second joint meeting of these two leading water resources agencies, the first having been held in 1999 in Pittsburgh.

Special sessions at the meeting will be devoted to case studies of local and regional innovations in resource management; the development of a national/international water policy; a look at emerging large-scale Great Lakes-St. Lawrence initiatives; and efforts to advance the region’s environmental and economic prosperity.

Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org

Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting

For more information, please visit www.glc.org/meeting.

Outreach program to lend expertise to Great Lakes ports

New efforts to extend National Sea Grant services to working ports nationwide will include an outreach to Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway ports, coordinated by the Great Lakes Commission.

The Commission will help identify and enlist an array of specialists that Great Lakes ports may call upon for assistance in addressing management challenges. Funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Coastal Services Center, the project is part of an initiative to develop a Sea Grant network of port specialists accessible to each of the four U.S. coasts, including the Great Lakes.

Among others, specialists will be sought in the areas of air and water quality management, aquatic nuisance species, dredging and disposal of dredged material, land-use conflicts, spill preparedness, waterfront development planning

and financing, port security, and public education and awareness.

“One function at which Sea Grant has been very successful over the years has been acting as an honest broker when conflicting interests in the port community need objective, science-based intervention,” said Jim Kruse, a national ports and harbors specialist at the Texas Sea Grant/Texas Transportation Institute.

The project fits in with a Sea Grant strategic initiative to work with business and community leaders to advance coastal and marine-related economies, protect marine and environmental assets of coastal communities, maintain U.S. coastal and offshore industries in positions of global leadership, and provide the scientific and engineering professionals needed to maintain our vital infrastructure.

Contact: Dave Knight, dknight@glc.org

Restoration planning moves forward (cont’d from page 1)

ests and develop the networks and relationships needed to resolve differences,” said Mike Donahue, president/CEO of the Great Lakes Commission. “We’re pleased with the outcome.”

Preliminary plans call for a follow-up confer-

ence next spring in Cleveland, Ohio, with a focus on showcasing restoration efforts that have taken place over the preceding year.

Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org



Oceangoing vessel being docked. Photo: Jerry Bielicki, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Commission Briefs

Two lieutenant governors named to Commission



Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn (IL)



Lt. Gov. John Cherry (MI)

Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn and Michigan Lt. Gov. John Cherry are among three new appointments to the Great Lakes Commission.

Quinn was recently appointed by Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, while

Cherry and former state Sen. Ken DeBeaussaert were named to the Michigan delegation by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

A former Illinois state treasurer, Quinn has served the people of his state as a public official and consumer advocate for over a quarter century leading up to his election as lieutenant



Ken DeBeaussaert

governor last year.

Cherry is a 20-year veteran of the Michigan legislature, in both the House and Senate. He served as Senate Democratic Leader from 1995 until his election as lieutenant governor last year.

DeBeaussaert is director of Michigan's Office of the Great Lakes and a former vice chair of the Great Lakes Commission, having previously served as a Commissioner in the 1980s. He was a member of the Michigan House for 10 years and of the state Senate from 1995-2002.

Did you know

That zebra mussels in different parts of the Great Lakes can be traced back to different parts of Europe? Genetic testing has enabled scientists to determine that zebra mussels in Lake Superior probably descended from original populations in the Rhine River, while those in lakes Huron and Erie seem to have come from Poland and the Netherlands, and those in Lake Ontario mostly from Poland. This suggests that zebra mussels were introduced into the Great Lakes multiple times. Source: Ohio Sea Grant College Program.

Lake St. Clair monitoring plan released

A new set of products released by the Great Lakes Commission provides a comprehensive look at monitoring efforts in the Lake St. Clair watershed.

Developed by the Commission in consultation with experts from a variety of public agencies, universities and citizen organizations, these products include an inventory of monitoring programs in the watershed, an assessment of what they fail to cover (monitoring gap analysis), and a strategic plan for improving monitoring efforts. The project was initiated and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District.

The monitoring inventory is web-based and publicly searchable. It will serve as an access point for monitoring data from throughout the watershed. Gaps in monitoring were identified by comparing the results of the monitoring inventory to monitoring needs in the watershed. The strategic plan examines opportunities to better coordinate monitoring programs to meet these needs.

The Great Lakes Commission found that there has been little effort to coordinate monitoring

programs addressing key environmental issues in the watershed. Recommendations for collaborative data collection and other matters have been integrated into a draft Lake St. Clair-St. Clair River Management Plan recently submitted to the Corps.

For more information, including links to the monitoring inventory and strategic plan, visit <http://glc.org/monitoring/stclair> Contact: Anne Sturm, asturm@glc.org

Lake St. Clair specialist joins staff

The Great Lakes Commission is pleased to welcome Suzan Campbell to its staff. Campbell is assisting with the development of a draft coastal habitat plan for Lake St. Clair, one major component of a suite of Commission projects directed at the "Heart of the Great Lakes." Campbell is completing a graduate degree in ecological restoration at the University of Michigan. She has worked as a senior naturalist at the Belle Isle Nature Center in Detroit since 1996 and brings with her considerable knowledge of the Lake St. Clair watershed.

Contact: Suzan Campbell, campbell@glc.org

GLIN looks to the future at Wingspread conference

After a decade of service to the Great Lakes region, the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) is looking ahead.

A diverse group of stakeholders, with a shared interest in Great Lakes communications, gathered in August to help map out the future of GLIN, one of the Great Lakes Commission's longest-running and most successful projects.

Held at the Wingspread Conference Center in Racine, Wis., the meeting focused on how GLIN can best fulfill its roles as a regional data repository, portal for Great Lakes basin geographic information systems (GIS), and information-sharing tool for engaging the public in Great Lakes restoration and water management planning efforts.

The group addressed key questions about GLIN content, new technologies, and opportunities to ensure the sustainability of its services. These discussions will provide the basis for the *Wingspread Vision for GLIN*, a guiding statement for the project, and will inform development of a five-year strategic plan.

Hosted by The Johnson Foundation, the conference marked the official start of the 2003-04 observations of GLIN's 10th anniversary.

GLIN went online in July 1993 as one of the first web sites serving a multi-state, binational community.

The GLIN portal now boasts more than 4 million "page visits" per month and is widely used by policymakers in the region and worldwide. Visit GLIN at www.great-lakes.net or www.glin.net

Anniversary celebrations will culminate with a large, regional GLIN conference in 2004.

For more information, contact: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org



Environmental consultant Scudder Mackey makes a point during discussions at the GLIN planning conference while Ken Theis, deputy director of Michigan's Department of Information Technology, listens. Photo: Brad Jaeck, Photographic Design.

Rapid response provides line of defense against ANS

National and regional invasive species experts came together in July to help advance the development of a rapid response plan to head off new introductions of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) in the Great Lakes.

The July workshop, in Ann Arbor, Mich., identified critical elements to be included in a rapid response plan, and also addressed strategies for building support for its implementation. Participants included scientists who have been at the forefront of efforts to address the nation's most serious invasive species problems, including Asian carp, snakehead fish, and noxious weeds.

"Our objective is to build partnerships among agencies at all levels and help people understand why, in certain cases, we need rapid response," said Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, a senior project manager at the Great Lakes Commission. "It's about capturing the critical elements of rapid

response plans and then building the political will to implement them."

Shwayder said rapid response does not replace ANS prevention efforts, but is a "safety net" to employ if those efforts fail to prevent a high-risk species from entering the ecosystem. Rapid response focuses on the brief window of time when there is an opportunity to prevent a new ANS introduction from becoming permanently established.

Supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Great Lakes National Program Office, the project is an initiative of the Commission-supported Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species.

The draft plan is available for review and comment at www.glc.org/ans/initiatives Contact: Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, shwayder@glc.org



Celebrating GLIN – interactively!

www.glin.net/10th

To help celebrate GLIN's

10th anniversary, Commission staff have developed a new interactive, multimedia program highlighting the project's history and features. Now available at www.glin.net/10th, the audio slideshow traces the evolution of GLIN and highlights a few of its many products and services, including BeachCast, Daily News, Lake Conditions, Maps & GIS and T.E.A.C.H. There's also comments from GLIN partners and supporters, along with an introduction to planning efforts for GLIN's next decade.

Commission Briefs

Board acts to “Restore the Greatness”

As a planning, research and advocacy organization of the states and provinces, the Great Lakes Commission is ideally suited to advance

the development and implementation of large-scale restoration activities in the binational Great Lakes basin.

Such was the message of the Commission’s Board of Directors, meeting in late August in Put-in-Bay, Ohio. The board applauded

governors’ restoration priorities initiative. The board further agreed to fully exploit the Commission’s unique advocacy role and aggressively advance the region’s restoration interests through its annual “Great Lakes Day in Washington” and related activities.

“As primary stewards of the resource, our governors – and our states – must have a leadership role in restoration planning,” said Commission Chair Sam Speck. “Ultimate success will depend upon strong partnerships at every level of government and throughout the stakeholder community.”

An initial Commission activity will be to conduct restoration workshops throughout the region in partnership with relevant Sea Grant programs, governors’ offices and state agencies, with support from the National Sea Grant College Program.

In other actions, the board agreed to seek a substantive role with the Great Lakes- St. Lawrence Seaway System review study to ensure that state interests are addressed; continue to explore full provincial membership; and initiate a Strategic Plan update to accommodate the organization’s broad mandate and growing scope of interest.

Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org

Basin Program receives funding



The Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control received a boost over the summer with the presentation of \$2.5 million in federal conservation funds from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). From left, Great Lakes Commission President/CEO Mike Donahue and Chairman Sam Speck are presented with the check by Kevin Brown, NRCS Ohio state conservationist. The program helps protect the environment in Ohio and the rest of the Great Lakes basin by promoting soil and water conservation.

emerging congressional leadership on ecosystem planning initiatives, and reiterated its full support and assistance for the Great Lakes

Online atlas focuses on the Lake Michigan basin

A sophisticated new tool for obtaining land use and environmental data has been added to the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN).

The Lake Michigan Online Atlas provides users with access to local and regional data, and to basic data discovery and mapping tools. Developed by the Great Lakes Commission with U.S. EPA funding support, the atlas will improve information-sharing across the region and provide support for decisions on water resources protection and restoration.

The atlas, available to anyone with an Internet connection, allows users to select and map

any combination of features such as rivers and streams, managed resource areas, sensitive species, cities, highways, dams, water intakes, tribal interests and others. Site-specific data is available by choosing a type of feature and clicking on the desired location.

A work in progress, the atlas will continue to be upgraded with new features and functionality, improvements to the dynamic mapping component and new data from other projects and partnering agencies.

See www.glin.net/gis/lakes/michigan Contact: Stuart Eddy, seddy@glc.org

Should personal watercraft be allowed in national parks?

Sean Smith, Bluewater Network

National parks are required by law to serve two purposes: conservation and public enjoyment of our country's scenic, natural and historic resources. That is to say, parks are preserves for beauty and wildlife, but also for people of this and future generations. Parks must therefore prohibit activities that cause harm to these resources or inhibit the public's ability to enjoy them. Personal watercraft (PWC) such as Jet Skis®, Wave Runners®, etc., do both.

Personal watercraft are designed for speed and thrills, not for the enjoyment of scenery and natural wonders. PWC release between 25 and 30 percent of their fuel unburned into the environment. Many PWC emit noise at levels that threaten public health and safety. This water, air, and noise pollution has negative effects on wildlife and other natural resources and impairs

the experience of other park visitors.

The National Park Service recognizes these negative impacts and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is currently the only park unit in the Great Lakes region still considering opening its boundaries to PWC damage. With such overwhelming support from both scientific research and the public, it is clearly the mandate of the National Park Service to ban all PWC use at Pictured Rocks.

PWC users insist they have the right to enjoy the parks as much as anyone else does. But as Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. famously observed, "The right to swing my fist ends where the other man's nose begins." So too does the right to ride a PWC in a national park end where the impacts are intolerable to other visitors and threaten the very resources the park is entrusted with protecting.

POINT
POINT



Sean Smith is public lands director for Bluewater Network, which was a plaintiff in a legal action that resulted in the National Park Service permanently banning personal watercraft from most national parks in 2001. See www.bluewater-network.org

Stephan Andranian, Esq., American Watercraft Association

The National Park Service has the unique challenge of managing some of America's most beautiful and pristine wilderness areas. Places like Yellowstone National Park and Yosemite are perhaps the first places that come to mind when people think of "national parks."

However, the reality is that the National Park Service manages hundreds of different "units" (as the parks are referred to), some which are huge, like the Grand Canyon, and some of which are smaller and more obscure. In between, there are national recreation areas, seashores and lakeshores, which host activities ranging from motor boating to air tours.

In those few National Park units that do allow motor boating, personal watercraft (PWC) should be allowed access. These are places like the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, a man-made lake just outside of Las Vegas, which allows just about every type of motorboat imaginable.

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is another unit that should allow for continued use of PWC. All types of boats are allowed access to this national treasure – in addition to every conceivable type of vessel allowed on Lake Superior. This opinion is shared by park administrators at Pictured Rocks, who recently released their PWC management proposal that includes continued PWC access.

PWC owners do not want carte blanche access to all national parks. They are merely asking to be managed as other motorboats are. After all, PWC are subject to the same rules and regulations as other "traditional" motorboats, and are considered boats by the Coast Guard.

Today's PWC are safer and more environmentally friendly than most of the "conventional" boats on the water. And the National Park Service has taken note of this, allowing PWC owners back into many of the units.

counterpoint
counterpoint



Stephan Andranian is government affairs manager for the American Watercraft Association, the nation's largest personal watercraft owners' organization. www.watercraft-association.com

For further information, see related story on page 10.

Indiana Gov. O'Bannon mourned

The passing of Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon on Sept. 13 has brought with it the arrival of tributes great and small.

"In all my years of association with him, I never once saw him do something that was mean or petty," said Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh, memorializing O'Bannon in the U.S. Senate. "He understood very well that it was far better to be loved than feared."

In the U.S. House of Representatives, O'Bannon was called "a man of honor." In neighboring Michigan, Gov. Jennifer Grahm said "Governor O'Bannon reflected the best of America's heartland. He was a dedicated public servant who worked hard every day to serve his citizens with integrity, honesty, and a vision for a bright future in Indiana."

An editorial in The Indianapolis Star said his



Gov. Frank O'Bannon
1930-2003

greatest legacies were his economic plan and the community college system he helped create.

O'Bannon, 73, died five days after suffering a stroke while attending a meeting in Chicago. In accord with his previously

stated wishes, he became an organ donor.

Former Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan, sworn in as governor shortly after O'Bannon's passing, will serve out the remaining 14 months of his predecessor's term.

Pictured Rocks mulls personal watercraft rules

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing a new rule that would allow personal watercraft back into the waters of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, although on a limited basis.

Commonly known by the trademarked name Jet Skis®,* personal watercraft are currently prohibited at all national parks and lakeshores in the Great Lakes. The ban is permanent at all except Pictured Rocks, where it has been in effect since April 2002, pending adoption of a final rule regulating their use.

The NPS is proposing that recreational watercraft be allowed only at the western end of the park, from Munising up to Miner's Beach, a distance of roughly seven miles. Other alternatives include a total ban, allowing them along the entire shore, or including the eastern and western ends of the park in the permitted area. The proposed rule must still undergo further review and public comment, and is not expected to take effect until at least summer 2004.

The NPS banned personal watercraft from all but 21 of the nation's 397 parks and recreation areas in March 2000, and directed that rules be established to guide their use in each of the others. In the Great Lakes, the ban ended their use at all but Pictured Rocks and Indiana Dunes national lakeshores; they were permanently banned from the latter in April 2002. Prior to 2000, they had also been allowed at Isle Royale, the Apostle Islands and Sleeping Bear Dunes.

The NPS prohibition only applies to the waters within the park's boundaries, which typically extend a quarter mile from shore, unless otherwise specified.

For more on this topic, see the Point-Counterpoint editorials on page 9 of this issue.

*Jet Ski® is a registered trademark of Kawasaki Motors Corp. U.S.A.

Environmental Monitoring Inventory for the Lake St. Clair Basin
<http://glc.org/monitoring/stclair>

Great Lakes Tributary Modeling Program
www.glc.org/tributary

GLIN 10th Anniversary website
www.glin.net/10th

2003 Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity
www.glc.org/restore

Lake Michigan Online Atlas
www.glin.net/gis/lakes/michigan

Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species Initiatives
www.glc.org/ans/initiatives

Great Lakes Commission Policy and Advocacy
www.glc.org/policy.html

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
www.nps.gov/piro

Bluewater Network
www.bluewaternet.org

American Watercraft Association
www.watercraftassociation.com

The Council of State Governments Midwestern Legislative Conference
www.csgmidwest.org/MLC/default.html

U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
<http://oceancommission.gov>

Regional legislators form Great Lakes caucus

An important step toward more consistent and coordinated laws and policies in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region has been taken with the formation of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus.

Lawmakers from all eight states and two provinces of the region have agreed to participate in the bipartisan caucus, which was approved by legislators attending the Council of State Government's Midwestern Legislative Conference in Milwaukee in August.

The caucus will help legislators work together across state, provincial and national boundaries to address issues and coordinate laws and policies affecting the region. The formation of such an entity was endorsed by the Great Lakes Commission through a resolution unanimously approved at its 2003 Semiannual Meeting in April.

"The new caucus will provide an opportunity for legislators to study and adopt model legislation from other jurisdictions, such as Michigan's ballast control measures," said Michigan state Sen. Patty Birkholz, who played a leading role in forming the caucus. "It will also strengthen the collective role of state and provincial legislators in development of public policies govern-

ing the use, management and protection of the Great Lakes."

Birkholz, who is a member of her state's delegation to the Great Lakes Commission, has requested that the Commission's scientific, technical and organizational capabilities be directed, as available, to support the caucus.

"We have not put any effort at all into coordinating our laws with respect to the Great Lakes, and it's long overdue," said Wisconsin state Rep. Jon Richards. "With the increasing threats of invasive species, the concerns over beach closings that are stretching across the Great Lakes, and always the concerns over water diversions, it's time for us to start paying close attention."

The caucus is scheduled to meet for the first time at the Council of State Government's national meeting in Pittsburgh, Pa., in October.

The text of the resolution establishing the caucus, as well as other information on the Midwest Legislative Conference, is available at www.csgmidwest.org/MLC/default.html

Contact: Sen. Patty Birkholz, senpbirkholz@senate.state.mi.us

(Stateline.org reporter Kathleen Murphy contributed to this report)



Sen. Patty Birkholz

Great Lakes Calendar

3rd National Conference on Nonpoint Source Pollution Information & Education Programs
October 20-23, 2003, Chicago, Ill.
 Contact: Bob Kirschner, bkirschn@chicagobotanic.org

Lake Michigan: State of the Lake '03 Conference
October 21-22, 2003, Muskegon, Mich.
 Contact: Janet Vail, 616-331-3048, vailj@gvsu.edu

International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions
November 3-8, 2003, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
 Contact: Lori Hiding, 202-833-8773, ipinams@esa.org

NALMS 2003: Protecting our Lakes' Legacy
November 4-8, 2003, Mashantucket, Conn.
 Contact: NALMS Office, 608-233-2836, nalms@nalms.org

TMDL 2003
November 16-18, 2003, Chicago, Ill.
 Contact: 703-684-2400 ext. 7010, tmdl03@wef.org

NOSPILLS 2004
January 20-22, 2004, Traverse City, Mich.
 Contact: Bill Murphy, 231-632-6080, emabill@torchlake.com

Water for a Sustainable and Secure Future: A National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment
January 29-30, 2004, Washington, D.C.
 Contact: Peter Saundry, 202-530-5810, info@NCSEonline.org

National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting
February 1-5, 2004, Waikoloa, Hawaii
 Contact: Trindal Stanke Aboud, 202-547-6223, trindal-stanke@nacdnet.org

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 734-971-9135 or kirkh@glc.org

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The Last Word

Ocean policy should address "Fourth Seacoast"



Sam Speck

Our oceans have been getting a lot of attention lately. The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy is wrapping up the first comprehensive review of our national ocean policy in more than 30 years and is due to present its recommendations to Congress and the president this fall. In June, the independent Pew Oceans Commission released a report, *America's Living Oceans*, calling for reform of U.S. ocean laws and policies.

The Great Lakes Commission has taken an active interest in the development of this policy. We provided testimony before the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy last fall. More recently, I had the opportunity to participate in a National Governors Association workshop on the role of the states in the emerging ocean policy.

A comprehensive national ocean policy must recognize the Great Lakes as an essential element.

It should acknowledge the key role of the region's states and governors in managing the resource. It should promote a regional, watershed-based approach to policy development. And it should ensure that the Great Lakes receive a full and equitable share of federal support and funding.

With more than 10,000 miles of shoreline and stretching some 2,400 miles from Minnesota to the Atlantic, the Great Lakes system deserves equal standing with the nation's other coasts. Congress has long recognized the Great Lakes as the nation's "Fourth Seacoast." A national ocean policy should give them the respect they deserve.

Samuel W. Speck, chair, Great Lakes Commission

Where in the Great Lakes?



Photo courtesy U.S. Maritime Administration

You could win a prize if you can identify the subject of this Great Lakes-St. Lawrence photo! E-mail your answer, along with your name, address and phone number to kirkh@glc.org You can also call Kirk Haverkamp at 734-971-9135 with your answer or mail it to the *Advisor* at the address below. All correct responses received by Oct. 24 will be entered into a drawing. The winner will receive his/her choice of a Great Lakes Commission beach towel or a \$10 credit toward the purchase of any Commission publication.

Karen Rodriguez, of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office in Chicago,



correctly identified this photo of Chicago's Navy Pier. We had a record number of entries for this one – thank you to all who participated!

Photo: Peter J. Schultz, courtesy Chicago Office of Tourism

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