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**Great Lakes Commission
1999 Semiannual Meeting**

Montreal, Québec

May 17-18

— and —

Seaway Symposium

May 19

Guest editorial**Building on progress: Congressional leadership
in protecting the Great Lakes**

By U.S. Senator Mike DeWine, Ohio

This editorial is an excerpt from Sen. DeWine's remarks at the Great Lakes Congressional Breakfast on March 17, 1999, in Washington, D.C. He shared the podium with Rep. Lynn Rivers (D-Mich.), who offered advice on the political process and how to ensure that Great Lakes issues receive the attention they deserve. DeWine assumed co-chairmanship of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force on April 21.

The Great Lakes are vitally important to Ohio. As I'm sure you know, Congress was busy last year on several bills affecting the Great Lakes.

The appropriations for maritime-related federal agencies were generally flat in FY1999, but Congress did provide the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with \$180 million more than the Administration requested for deepening navigation channels. They asked for \$40 million; we provided \$221 million.

We increased funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's charting and mapping by \$4.25 million to a total of \$34.26 million. \$14 million was provided to address NOAA's surveying backlog, a \$6.5 million increase from the Administration's original request. Also, \$12 million was provided for the collection and dissemination of real-time tide and current data.

Congress also prohibited the Administration from enacting proposed new user fees for certain Coast Guard and NOAA navigation programs. These user fees would put our shippers at a competitive disadvantage. This proposal is expected to surface again, and I expect that we will defeat it again.

We have been busy on the Great Lakes agenda, but I believe there's much further to go.

We need to build on the terrific environmental progress we've been making. Lake Erie, for example, has seen tremendous changes in just one lifetime.

Now, you can go to Lake Erie for some of the best walleye, yellow perch and smallmouth bass fishing in the whole country. Lake Erie now accounts for nearly half of Ohio's fishing. The spending and taxes collected from this segment of the economy, in and of itself, would justify a great deal of congressional attention.

I'm also very proud to be a co-sponsor of Rep. Steve LaTourette's Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. This bill supports very important research and protection efforts on the Great Lakes, and it would benefit dozens of fragile environmental communities on the lakes.

We also have addressed the threats posed to the Great Lakes by zebra mussels and other invasive species. They are a danger to our progress, and that's why we passed the National Invasive Species Act.

Clearly, we're going in the right direction. But we need to go further. In my view, the Administration needs to reconsider its requests for zero dollars for the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, as well as the Sediment Management Program. These are worthwhile programs that truly help us learn about sediment loading and methods to decrease it.

We have to continue these efforts. I applaud the Great Lakes Commission for its dedication to protecting the lakes, and its creativity in helping the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation find approaches that can succeed. Remember who we're doing it for: the children who are going to grow up in the 21st century and beyond.

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• The ADVISOR is published bimonthly by the Great Lakes Commission •

The Great Lakes Commission is an eight-state compact agency established in 1955

"to promote the orderly, integrated and comprehensive development, use and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes basin."

Irene Brooks, Chair; Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D., Executive Director

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Annual Meeting Highlights

Great Lakes Commission

The Great Lakes Commission, an eight-state compact agency founded in state and federal law and dedicated to the use, management and protection of the water resources of the Great Lakes basin, provides leadership in the implementation of principles of sustainable development throughout the basin. In partnership with the Great Lakes states, the Commission addresses issues of resource management, environmental protection, transportation and economic development by serving as an accurate and objective source of information; an effective forum for the development and coordination of public policy; and an active and committed advocate of basin interests.

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Vice Chair Nathaniel E. Robinson (WI)

Frank L. Kudrna (IL)

Larry D. Macklin (IN)

G. Tracy Mehan, III (MI)

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Getting our point across in Washington

One of the truly unique characteristics of the Great Lakes Commission is its legislative mandate to serve as a regional advocate for federal laws, programs and policies that benefit the Great Lakes region. Each year at this time, through our Great Lakes Day in Washington and associated federal legislative and appropriations priorities statement, the Commission initiates an aggressive advocacy strategy that reflects the views of its membership and the larger Great Lakes community.

This year's statement is the most comprehensive yet, a detailed 34-point

policy that touches on research and management institutions; resource management and environmental protection programs; and

maritime transportation and other infrastructure needs. Significantly, development of this statement is not a parochial, states-only exercise. A

wide range of agencies and organizations contribute to this effort; the process is an open and inclusive one. And, the moment the statement is formally approved, our advocacy efforts kick in. Immediately after this year's statement was approved, dozens of carefully targeted, issue-specific letters were on their way to key committee leadership and Great Lakes Congressional Delegation members. And, this correspondence will be followed by testimony opportunities, personal contacts and coalition building with like-minded interests.

These efforts make a difference. Year after year, tens of millions of dollars are appropriated – and dozens of programs and laws are enacted – primarily because there is a vocal Great Lakes constituency that knows how to get its point across. Despite the pervasive cynicism about Congress that seems to envelop the populace, we are blessed with a Great Lakes Congressional Delegation that, in spirit of bipartisanship, really does recognize its shared stewardship responsibility for the greatest freshwater system on the face of the earth. We at the Commission are also fortunate to benefit from a strong partnership

with the Northeast-Midwest Institute and the House and Senate Great Lakes Coalitions. This regional/Washington, D.C., combination is a real success story and, unquestionably, the envy of other regions that yearn for the unanimity of purpose that we have long enjoyed.

This issue of the *ADVISOR* presents an abridged vision of our federal *Legislative and Appropriations Priorities for the 106th Congress*. Each and every entry represents a critical element of the collective Great Lakes management effort. I urge every agency, organization and individual in the Great Lakes community to join with us in advocating

for their support. Commission staff are available to assist in any way possible. Some sectors of the Great Lakes community spend their time decrying the fact that Congress – and the federal government – are not responding to their needs. Other sectors choose to do something about it. I invite you to join the Great Lakes Commission in the latter category.

Commission News and Views



By Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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Mark your calendar!

Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission

September 14-15, 1999
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Under Chair Irene Brooks' leadership, the Commission's 1999 Annual Meeting will be an historic event at which river basin organizations from around the United States will gather to discuss common interests, explore collaborative opportunities, and raise their profiles and effectiveness in Washington D.C. The meeting is co-sponsored by the Interstate Council on Water Policy.

Great Lakes Day in Washington: Balancing economic and environmental issues in Congress

"We have an important agenda involving both economic and environmental issues. I believe we can and must balance these issues by working together and basing our decisions on the best science."

With these words, Sen. Mike DeWine (R-Ohio) offered a most appropriate introduction to the 1999 Great Lakes Congressional Breakfast on March 17 in Washington, D.C.

Sponsored by the Great Lakes Commission and Northeast-Midwest Institute as part of "Great Lakes Day" activities, the breakfast attracted 120 attendees. Approximately 30 congressional offices were represented, including a dozen senators and representatives. In addition, U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes leadership was present in force, including 15 agency/laboratory directors drawn from federal, state, provincial and regional government.

Sen. DeWine shared the podium with Rep. Lynn Rivers (D-Mich.) who offered, through a series of anecdotes, advice on the political process and means to ensure that Great Lakes issues receive the attention they deserve. Rep. James Oberstar (D-Minn.), ranking minority member on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, offered impromptu remarks. He acknowledged the global stature of the resource from both environmental and maritime transportation perspectives, and commented on shared responsibility with Canada for informed use and management of Great Lakes resources.

Commission officers Irene Brooks (Chair) and Nathaniel E. Robinson (Vice Chair) followed with a presentation of Great Lakes Commission priorities in the areas of research and management institutions; resource management and environmental protection programs; and maritime transportation and other infrastructure needs.

The breakfast event was followed by



a Great Lakes Issues Briefing, where more than a dozen Commission members and other Great Lakes leaders offered detailed briefings on key legislative and appropriations issues for the 106th Congress. David Ullrich from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, addressed U.S. obligations under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, while John Mills of Environment Canada offered a Canadian perspective.

A focus on the Water Resources Development Act was provided by commissioners Don Vonnahme (IL), George Ryan (OH) and Frank Kudrna (IL), who presented Commission priorities concerning a new lock in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., harbor maintenance funding, beneficial use of dredged material, and the need for a recreational boating benefits study. Commissioners Larry Macklin (IN), Nathaniel E. Robinson (WI) and Bill Moody (OH), joined by Gary Isbell, chair of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, touched on resource management priorities including spill prevention and response, nonpoint source pollution control, and aquatic nuisance species prevention and control.

These and other Commission priorities have been incorporated into a detailed 34-point policy statement comprising the foundation for the Commission's advocacy strategy for the 106th Congress (see insert in this *ADVISOR*). Contact: Mike Donahue, mtonahue@glc.org; or Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org.

GLIN e-mail lists gain popularity

Several thousand Great Lakes practitioners are currently subscribing and contributing to e-mail lists hosted by the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN). GLIN hosts more than 50 lists, ranging in topic from pollution prevention to education to air quality to general environmental news and information. Among the most popular is "glin-announce," with a subscriber base of more than 500. The newest lists include

com-net

An electronic meeting place where communications staff from Great Lakes agencies can discuss and exchange information to promote cooperation and to better address Great Lakes regional communications needs.

consdevelop

A forum to promote, disseminate and develop watershed-sensitive design practices for new subdivisions in the Great Lakes region.

gis-online

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) discussion forum for the exchange of technical information, resource tips and other items of potential interest to the Great Lakes GIS Online community.

glin-jobs

A forum for sharing job opportunities that involve the science, management or economic development of the water and land resources of the Great Lakes basin.

sci-vessel

Electronic meeting place where science vessel operators, managers and users can discuss and exchange information to promote wider communication and coordination among the Great Lakes science vessel community.

superior-eco

A forum to discuss a full range of Lake Superior protection interests, including air and water pollution, pollution prevention, forestry, sustainable development, land use, and spiritual and cultural connections to the lake.

To browse a list of all GLIN-hosted listservs, visit <http://www.great-lakes.net/lists/listlist.html>. If you're interested in creating a new list, contact Christine Manninen (manninen@glc.org).

Commission Briefs

Executive Committee addresses federal programs, funding issues

The Commission's Executive Committee, comprised of delegation chairs from member states, has had a strong presence in Washington, D.C. thus far in 1999, meeting twice to address program and funding issues of priority interest.

A Jan. 7 meeting featured consultations at the Pentagon with Dr. Joseph Westphal, assistant secretary of the Army for Civil Works (see related story below).

Later that day, Dr. Gerald Galloway, secretary to the U.S. section of the International Joint Commission, briefed the committee on an upcoming IJC reference on water diversion, consumptive use and export. Acknowledging the Great Lakes Commission's longstanding role in this issue area, and its vocal opposition to the recent Nova Group wa-

ter export plan, Galloway solicited and received Commission support for the reference, including representation on the study team.

The Executive Committee returned to Washington on March 16 as part of "Great Lakes Day" festivities, meeting at the offices of the International Joint Commission. IJC co-chairs Thomas Baldini (U.S.) and Leonard Legault (CA), along with U.S. Commissioner Alice Chamberlin, joined the members for a productive discussion on issues of mutual interest, including the water export reference, the upcoming IJC Great Lakes Water Quality Forum in Milwaukee, and opportunities for strengthened federal, state and provincial relations on binational management initiatives.

Commission Executive Director Mike Donahue presented committee

members with the 1998 Annual Report and received approval of the FY1998 audit statement. He noted that last fiscal year saw a 29.3 percent increase in investment income, a 10.9 percent increase in total assets, and a 25.4 percent increase in fund equity over the previous year. Also, almost 30 distinct revenue sources were accessed for multiple Commission projects, and most sources continue into FY1999.

Executive Committee members also approved a policy statement for distribution at the following day's Great Lakes Congressional Breakfast, reviewed plans for the 1999 Semiannual and Annual meetings, and discussed strategy for congressional advocacy efforts in the coming months. Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

Commission, Corps dialogue focuses on budgetary, policy and infrastructure issues

A Jan. 7 meeting between the Commission's Executive Committee and Dr. Joseph Westphal, assistant secretary of the Army for Civil Works, has resulted in a response to a 10-point policy position and the promise of continued dialogue and action on issues of concern to the states. In late 1998, the Executive Committee crafted the policy position, which is a composite of concerns and requests relative to the important role the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays in the Great Lakes basin. Issues addressed included restructuring of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division; the scope of Corps functions; the Corps' Operations and Maintenance Program; recreational harbor dredging; beneficial uses of dredged material; mediation concerning the Lake Michigan Diversion at Chicago; Chicago Harbor leakage control; a new lock at the Soo; harbor maintenance funding; and passage and

implementation of a new Water Resources Development Act.

A Corps-prepared response to the position acknowledged Commission concerns about division downsizing and pledged that "comprehensive programs advancing all Corps authorities" would be maintained, along with "advocacy for programs and priorities on the Great Lakes system." The Great Lakes Commission was recognized for its work in promoting the beneficial use of dredged material, and continued partnership as a means to reduce dredging costs and enable the Corps "to dredge more material for less money."

The Commission also was recognized as a "terrific" partner on the Soo Lock initiative, and the Corps stated its optimism that a Limited Reevaluation Report scheduled for a September 1999 release will yield a favorable recommendation to proceed. The Commission's prospective role as the

nonfederal sponsor was welcomed.

The Corps recognized Commission concerns over recreational harbor dredging needs, and requested that the states document the economic impact of recreational activity in the interest of establishing dredging priorities. Also, the Commission was encouraged to continue its dialogue with division and district staff over implementation of the Corps' Cost Saving Initiative, which the Commission fears may constitute a departure from the Corps' historical commitment to maintenance of harbors and navigation channels.

Commission officers Irene Brooks and Nathaniel E. Robinson have issued a standing invitation to Dr. Westphal to discuss and resolve these and other matters at Commission annual and semiannual meetings. Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org; or Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org.

Basin Program announces 22 new soil erosion grant awards

Twenty-two projects have been selected to receive funding of more than \$350,000 under this year's grant cycle for the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. A total of 55 proposals were reviewed by the Commission's Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force. Funding for the grants program is made available to the Great Lakes Commission through a cooperative agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Total FY1999 funding for the Basin Program is set at \$500,000. The program has now awarded more than \$4.2 million for 140 demonstrations and special projects, involving thousands of landowners, farmers, contractors and other parties in the Great Lakes region. Also, the program has leveraged an additional \$2.7 million in nonfederal funds. Contact: Tom Crane, tcrane@glc.org.

Michigan

Agricultural Impact Reduction Program. Michigan Agricultural Stewardship Association. \$25,000.

Improving Muskegon Lake Water Quality Through Proper Land Use in the Ryerson Creek Watershed. Muskegon Conservation District. \$24,654.

Lake Michigan Shoreline Erosion Control Project in Antrim County. Antrim Conservation District. \$23,422.

Michigan Water Trail. Michigan Dept. of Agriculture, Environmental Stewardship Division. \$23,850.

Psutka Lake Crossing Project. Conservation Resource Alliance. \$25,000.

Sauk River/Adopt a Stream Project. Branch County Soil Conservation District. \$18,200.

Minnesota

Knife River Watershed Education Project. Laurentian Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. \$10,230.

Miller Creek Sediment Trap Maintenance Demonstration Project. South St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District. \$10,000.

Multi-agency GIS Database & Planning Tools for Minnesota's Lake Superior Shoreline. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. \$20,800.

New York

Management Intensive Grazing in the Great Lakes Basin. Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District. \$15,000.

Penfield Watershed Management Education Brochure. Town of Penfield. \$3,375.

Protected Shores: Enhancing Your Shoreline Property Through Proper Management Practices. Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District. \$9,000.

Remedial Erosion and Sediment Control for Salmon Creek. Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District. \$9,250.

St. Lawrence River Shoreline: Bio-Technology Shore Stabilization. St. Regis Mohawk Tribe. \$21,950.

Ohio

Chagrin River Sediment and Erosion Management Guide. Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. \$10,485.

Lorain County Urban Sediment Erosion Control Program. Board of Commissioners, Lorain County, Ohio. \$22,500.

Sudden Soil Density Change Training Session. Conservation Action Project. \$4,600.

Pennsylvania

Cascade Creek Sedimentation Control and Educational Project. Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park. \$24,775.

Determination of Sediment Loading Potential to Pennsylvania Lake Erie Coastal Waters Due to Bluff Erosion and Storm Water Discharge Ravines. Edinboro Univ. of Pennsylvania. \$24,000.

Wisconsin

Bad River Integrated Resource Management Plan Dissemination Project. Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians. \$4,554.

Forest Road Building Workshops. Forest Industry Safety and Training Alliance. \$6,605.

Pensaukee River Watershed Riparian Buffer Project. Shawano County Land Conservation Department. \$14,100.

Example of a successful Basin Program project



Portable bridge project for temporary water crossings in the Lake Superior watershed. The goal of this 1997 project was to demonstrate the feasibility of using portable timber bridges for temporary stream crossings by timber harvesting equipment in order to reduce non-point source pollution in the Lake Superior watershed. *University of Wisconsin Agriculture Experiment Station, Ashland, Wisc.*

New resource for erosion control information

The Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control is pleased to announce a new quarterly newsletter titled *Keeping it on the Land*.



Keeping it on the Land

The newsletter will provide technical information and detailed accounts of soil erosion and sediment control activities at all levels, meeting needs expressed by the basin's soil erosion and sediment control community. Each issue will present a feature article or editorial as well as state, regional and federal agency updates, potential funding sources and a calendar of workshops and educational opportunities. The newsletter also will showcase projects funded by the Basin Program, enabling interested persons throughout the basin to benefit from the experience and knowledge gained through these projects. The newsletter is targeted at all involved in the development, funding, application and promotion of soil erosion and sediment control technology in the Great Lakes basin. For a free subscription or additional information, contact Jennifer Read, jread@glc.org.

Communicating science: Introducing the Great Lakes Communicators Network

More than 40 communicators from federal, state, provincial and binational agencies in the Great Lakes region convened March 10-11 in Ann Arbor, Mich., to address issues and opportunities in communicating science and to



Mehan

form partnerships on Great Lakes communications efforts.

Great Lakes Commissioner Tracy Mehan, director of the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality's Of-

ice of the Great Lakes, offered the keynote address, explaining the importance of communications in affecting public policy decisionmaking.

"If agency experts are to succeed at the task of civic education, they must connect with the public in a manner that combines expertise with trustworthiness," said Mehan. "Creating empathy, based on shared values, concerns or objects of affection, like the Great Lakes, can accomplish this goal."

Attendees tackled common issues, in-

cluding media relations and outreach, with a focus on tried-and-true methods for securing media coverage of agency priorities.

The group inventoried educational resources and strategized on ways to develop a clearinghouse and marketing plan for such materials.

In discussing the importance of the Internet, improving real-time information sharing through an online newsgroup on the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) was identified as a priority. Also, it was agreed that indexing and directing traffic to the numerous agency web sites would help all communicators better market their agency's information via the Web.

Workshop participants agreed to host and facilitate a communications session at the upcoming conference of the International Association for Great Lakes Research in Cleveland (May 25-28) and the International Joint Commission's Water Quality Forum in Milwaukee (Sept. 24-26).

GLIN is hosting a new "com-net" listerv to continue Great Lakes Communicators Network discussions. If you're interested in joining this forum,



A panel of media experts emphasized personal relationships with reporters as a means to both enhance media coverage and ensure its accuracy (l.to r.): Jim Detjen, Dave Poulson and Dave Hammond.

please see <http://great-lakes.net/lists/com-net/com-net.info> or contact Christine Manninen (manninen@glc.org).

Lead agencies for the Great Lakes Communicators Network include the Great Lakes Commission, International Joint Commission, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Ohio Lake Erie Office, Ohio Sea Grant and the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy.

For further information, or to receive a copy of the workshop proceedings, contact Julie Wagemakers (juliew@glc.org).

Congress urged to waive interest requirement on new Soo Lock

The Great Lakes Commission is calling on Congress to help overcome a major obstacle to the construction of a second large lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. In a March 23 letter to Rep. Bud Shuster, chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Commission asked for waiver of the interest requirement on the 50-year payback period, an amount that could approximate the total cost of the lock itself. According to Commission Chair Irene Brooks, "This amount is prohibitive and would likely mean the lock would not be constructed." The Great Lakes Commission is seeking inclusion of interest waiver language in the Water Re-

sources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999.

This obstacle aside, progress in securing a new lock has been substantial in recent years. Commission advocacy efforts, under the WRDA of 1996, reduced the total nonfederal share, eliminated an "up front" payment requirement and extended the payback period.

A Commission-brokered allocation of the nonfederal share among Great Lakes states is progressing. Sen. Cal Larson, a Minnesota Commissioner, introduced legislation on March 5 to secure his state's share, emphasizing that the seaway system "is vital to maintaining Minnesota's competitive position



in the mining and agricultural industries." Michigan Gov. John Engler has identified a new lock as a top priority. And, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supports the Commission's offer to serve as the nonfederal project sponsor. Contact: Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org.

Communication is key to success in Great Lakes science vessel coordination

Communication and information sharing were the primary themes of the Great Lakes Science Vessel Coordination Workshop conducted Feb. 17-18 at the University of Windsor's Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research in Windsor, Ontario. Nearly five dozen scientists, facilities managers and ship captains met to discuss priority needs and progress in coordinating the operation, maintenance and research use of Great Lakes science vessels. The meeting included small group discussions organized by lake basin that yielded priority needs concerning vessel operation and research.

"This meeting was a great success," said Michael Quigley, member of the Science Vessel Coordination Steering Committee and an ecologist with NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory. "Participants did an excellent job of focusing on short-term practical ideas that can be implemented."

An e-mail list already has been established to allow members of the research vessel community to more effectively communicate with one another (for more information, see <http://www.great-lakes.net/lists/sci-vessel/sci-vessel.info>). Announcements, requests for informa-



U.S. EPA research vessel *Lake Guardian*.
Photo credit: Philip Hoffman, U.S. EPA.

tion, and discussion of all aspects of science vessel operation, management and use are welcome and encouraged.

"The vessel coordination listserv is a great asset to the boat captains piloting Great Lakes science vessels," said Capt. John Friedhoff from the Great Lakes Center at Buffalo State College. "Operators are in constant need of information. This listserv provides opportunities for captains to talk about issues ranging from scheduling to dockage concerns to equipment needs and maintenance. This will increase the efficiency of the Great Lakes science vessel fleet."

Other products have included a comprehensive inventory of Great Lakes science vessels, and development of a strate-

gic plan for addressing unmet needs in operations, maintenance and research.

Workshop participants agreed on several priorities for 1999 and beyond:

- Expanding the online Great Lakes science vessel inventory to include more information, and possibly inclusion of smaller vessels (those under 60 feet in length);
- Expanding the Science Vessel Coordination Steering Committee membership to include at least one boat captain;
- Creation of lake committees and exploration of opportunities for meetings outside of the annual workshop; and
- Initiating the annual workshop planning process earlier, and enhancing publicity to encourage participation by additional interested groups.

The Great Lakes Science Vessel Coordination initiative is spearheaded by a binational consortium of grant agencies and university-based research institutes. In addition to GLERL, lead agencies include the Great Lakes Commission and the U.S. Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center.

Contact: Tom Crane, tcrane@glc.org.

Dredging and maritime commerce sector are focus of first Waterways Management Forum

A regional Waterways Management Forum has been created to identify and resolve maritime policy and infrastructure issues of concern in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence maritime transportation system. The group's first meeting, convened by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on March 12 in Cleveland, Ohio, included a Great Lakes Commission presentation on member state interests.

Waterways management is defined by the USCG as "the integrated efforts of public and private resources to ensure that infrastructure, systems and services of ports and waterways meet the demand for a safe, secure, efficient, accessible, economically viable and envi-

ronmentally sound component of the National Transportation System."

Dredging and maritime commerce emerged as leading issues for the forum participants. Activities of the Great Lakes Dredging Team, coordinated by the Commission, were highlighted and will be featured at the next forum meeting. Also discussed was the need to raise the public profile of the commercial maritime sector, document its role in the regional economy, and highlight its environmental attributes (e.g., less pollution and energy use compared with other modes).

On hand to host the event and sign the charter creating the Forum were Rear Adm. John McGowan, com-

mander of the U.S. Coast Guard's Ninth District, and Brig. Gen. Hans Van Winkle, commander of the Corps' Great Lakes and Ohio River Valley Division.

The forum has a diverse membership ranging from the Great Lakes Commission and Canadian Coast Guard to maritime, labor and environmental interests. The group will review interjurisdictional management issues in the binational region and develop operational solutions that improve the use and effectiveness of the Great Lakes for all users. Contact: Capt. Randy Helland, USCG Ninth District, 216-902-6045.

Great Lakes Dredging Team looks at sediment reduction, reuse

Priority setting on dredging issues and needs in the Great Lakes basin topped the agenda at the March 30-31 meeting of the Great Lakes Dredging Team (GLDT) in Chicago. GLDT members, drawn from state and federal agencies with commercial and environmental dredging responsibilities, agreed to focus on the beneficial use of dredged material, streamlining the dredged material management plan (DMMP) process and integrating watershed planning with dredged material management.

The team also discussed why federal funds for environmental dredging and beneficial use were not being fully used, particularly given the environmental dredging needs in the Great Lakes Areas of Concern and the growing shortage of suitable disposal sites.

This question will be the focus of a dredging team survey this summer.

Two presentations on dredging technologies were made. Norman Francingues of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station discussed the role of the Corps' Dredging Operations and Environmental Research Program. A Michigan manufacturer of environmental clamshell buckets described how his product not only reduces turbidity and sediment dispersal during dredging, but can dramatically improve contractor productivity.

A session on the Great Lakes Sediment Management Program, managed jointly by the Corps and the Great Lakes Commission, featured a progress report on sediment transport modeling for the Maumee (OH),

Nemadji (MN) and Saginaw (MI) rivers. A major focus of the session was on means to ensure that model outcomes are application-oriented, and promote the use of best management practices to reduce sediment loadings and impacts. The Corps and Commission also used the occasion to announce the selection of the Grand Calumet (IN), Buffalo (NY) and Milwaukee (WI) rivers for tributary modeling over the next year.

Find more information about the Great Lakes Dredging Team at <http://www.glc.org/projects/dredging/> and the Great Lakes Sediment Management Program at <http://www.glc.org/projects/sediment>. Contact: Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org; or Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

Mapping coalition provides land-use management tools

Four Great Lakes states, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, have announced ambitious plans for a new land-use decision support system. The Central Great Lakes Mapping Coalition, comprised of USGS offices and geological surveys in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan, plan to develop three-dimensional, computer-based models of surficial geology throughout the four-state area. While only 2 percent of the region is currently mapped, coalition officials believe comprehensive mapping is essential for sensible development decisions.

"Conflicting demands on resources and inadequate information about their nature have resulted in land-use decisions that we now see as incompatible with sustainable development in the region," coalition officials explain.

More than 250 resource managers, researchers and mapping specialists convened in Columbus, Ohio, on Feb. 23-24 for the coalition's 1999 Annual Meeting. Commission Executive Director Mike Donahue was among many featured speakers and addressed the topic, "Critical Environmental Issues of the 21st

Century." Donahue discussed current Commission mapping efforts and applications relating to coastal management; public beaches; Areas of Concern; and spill prevention and response. The conference was followed by a smaller workshop that yielded an action plan for pursuing mapping goals to meet stakeholder requirements and building the funding partnerships needed to fully implement coalition plans. Contact: Thomas Berg, chair of the Ohio State Geological Mapping Coalition, 614-265-6988, thomas.berg@dnr.state.oh.us.

New staff to advance member state priorities

The Commission is pleased to announce the hiring of three specialists in the Resource Management and Environmental Quality Program.

Ric Lawson will support the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, a new Lake Michigan Tributary Monitoring project and the Statewide Public Advisory Council for Michigan's Area of Concern Program. Lawson holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California-San Diego and a dual master's degree in public policy and environmental management from Duke University.

Erica Mirich and Elizabeth Repko also

have joined the staff as research associates. Mirich is supporting the Commission's area contingency planning efforts by collecting and mapping data and developing databases for environmentally and economically sensitive areas. She holds a bachelor's degree in resource ecology and management from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment.

Repko will work on several projects including aquatic nuisance species prevention and control, Great Lakes science vessel coordination and water resources management activities related to the operation of the regional water-use data-

base. She is a graduate student in the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan and holds a bachelor's degree in international relations from Michigan State University.

Also, the Communications and Information Management Program welcomes Morgan Anderson, who is webmaster of the Commission's web site and assists with maintenance of the Great Lakes Information Network. He also assists with GIS web development. Anderson has a bachelor's degree in anthropology and history from the University of Michigan.

Efforts underway to assess monitoring on Lake Michigan

Recognizing the importance of accurate information in making sound resource management decisions, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Region 5 Lake Michigan Team is sponsoring two new initiatives to assess monitoring programs in the Lake Michigan watershed.

U.S. EPA, Region 5 and the U.S. Geological Survey, together with numerous other federal, state, tribal and local agencies, are forming the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council. Following the lead of the National Water Quality Monitoring Council and numerous state-level councils, the Lake Michigan council will foster cooperation and coordination among groups involved in all types of water monitoring activities in the Lake Michigan basin. The Lake Michigan council is the first such entity to be based on watershed, rather than political, boundaries.

"Enhancing and coordinating monitoring was identified by the Lakewide Management Planning Committee as a priority activity for Lake Michigan, and I am pleased that the implementation of this priority is a partnership effort," said Judy Beck, Lake Michigan Team Manager, U.S. EPA, Region 5.

Council members hope to develop a systematic water quality monitoring plan for Lake Michigan by providing a forum for effective communication, cooperation and collaboration among those involved in monitoring; promoting the development of collaborative watershed-based monitoring strategies; documenting activities and identifying data gaps in the Lake Michigan basin; and promoting monitoring and data management procedures for efficient exchange of information.



Volunteer water watcher in a Great Lakes watershed.

The Great Lakes Commission is providing secretariat support for the council. Additional information on the council's mission and activities is available online at <http://wi.water.usgs.gov/lmmcc/index.html>.

In a related effort, the Lake Michigan Tributary Monitoring Project is assessing monitoring programs in major Lake Michigan watersheds, including the 10 Lake Michigan Areas of Concern plus Grand Traverse Bay, St. Joseph River and Grand River, Mich.; and Door County, Wisconsin. Monitoring is being viewed in the

broadest sense, including not only traditional water quality parameters, but also habitat, wildlife, land use, nonpoint source pollution and other measures of ecosystem health. Information collected under the project will advance the goals of the Remedial Action Plans and other local watershed management efforts as well as the Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan.

The Great Lakes Commission is coordinating the project on behalf of U.S. EPA (Region 5) and is collaborating with public advisory councils and related groups at the local level in the tributaries included in the project. Contact Matt Doss, mdoss@glc.org.

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement under review



The U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, signed in 1972 and amended in 1978 and 1987, is the centerpiece of binational efforts "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem." A review of the operation and effectiveness of the agreement, required after every three biennial reports on Great Lakes Water Quality, is now underway.

Initiated by the two federal governments under the auspices of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada and within the binational Executive Committee structure, a small group of volunteers from federal, state, provincial and other agencies is providing direction and guidance to the process. This group, the Binational Steering Committee, is participating in a three-phase review process consisting of prioritization of review elements; evaluation and assessment; and reporting of options and recommendations that would require either Agreement renegotiation or an exchange of letters. Commission Executive Director Mike Donahue serves on the steering committee.

The Binational Executive Committee ultimately will make formal recommendations to the governments as to any desired changes to the Agreement and the likely mechanism for effecting such change. Throughout the review and report preparation process, input from the larger Great Lakes community will be solicited and considered. Contact: James Schardt, U.S. EPA, 312-353-2117.

" . . . I am pleased that the implementation of this priority is a partnership effort."

— Judy Beck, U.S. EPA

Around the Lakes

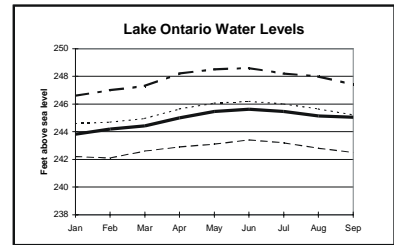
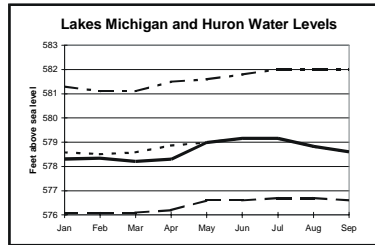
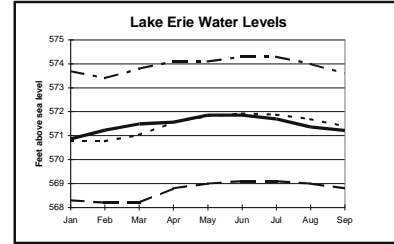
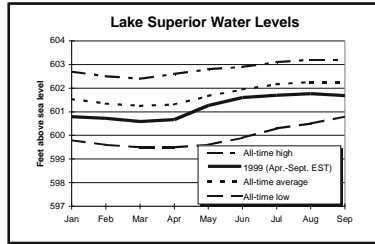
Lower lake levels still close to historic averages

Although the water levels of the Great Lakes are presently viewed as low, they are relatively close to the average levels the lakes normally experience and significantly higher than the recorded extreme low levels. Weather and the hydrologic cycle are the main factors that affect the Great Lakes levels.

The Great Lakes have incurred prolonged periods of lower than average precipitation and warmer than average temperatures, resulting in lowering of water levels. Snow totals for the 1998-99 winter were below average in all of the Great Lakes basins except Lake Ontario, where it was average. Since snowmelt is a key component of the Great Lakes hydrologic cycle, the effect of lower amounts of snow will be seen on the water levels. The water from melted snow saturates the ground or becomes overland runoff and flows into waterways and the Great Lakes.

Temperatures in the northern latitudes were near normal during the winter, while the southern portion of the Great Lakes received a mix of temperatures, with the average for the winter being well above average.

"The predicted levels for lakes Superior,



Lake levels in 1999 (values for April through September are estimated). Data: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District.

Michigan and Huron are expected to remain approximately eight inches below their monthly averages through September," says John Love of the Great Lakes Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District. "Lake Erie and Lake Ontario levels are predicted to be very close to their average levels from April through September."

The shipping industry and recreational boating are among the sectors directly af-

ected by a sharp drop in water levels. The load that a Great Lakes freighter can carry decreases with lower water levels and may make it more challenging to maneuver in certain areas of the Great Lakes. For more information on lake levels and forecasts, visit the GLIN Hydrology section: <http://www.great-lakes.net/envt/water/hydro.html> Contact: John Love, 313-226-6443, john.b.love@usace.army.mil.

Water export is focus of binational study

The United States and Canadian federal governments have presented the International Joint Commission with a new reference on "Consumption, Diversions and Removals of Great Lakes Water." Prompted by the Lake Superior water export scheme of The Nova Group, the reference states the governments' concern that "current management principles and conservation measures may be inadequate to ensure the future sustainable use of our shared water." Specifically, the IJC has been requested to develop recommendations on existing and potential consumptive uses and diversion (including exports); the cumulative effects of existing and potential diversions; and current laws and policies that affect the sustainability of water resources.

The study, with plans for an interim Great Lakes-focused report in six months and a more comprehensive report six months after that, is managed by a 10-member study team led by Col. James Houghon of the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ralph Pentland, formerly of Environment Canada. Commission Executive Director Mike Donahue is a U.S. study team member and will be responsible for preparing a report on consumptive uses and projections, which is one of multiple study team tasks.

Other agencies represented on the team include the Council of Great Lakes Governors, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Canadian Institute of Resources Law, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment Canada, and the Government of Québec. Public hearings were held in eight Great Lakes cities in mid-March as a component of this intensive study.

The study team will meet in conjunction with the Great Lakes Commission's Semianual Meeting in Montreal in mid-May; the Commission agenda features an update on study progress. Contact: Gerry Gallo-way, 202-736-9000; or Murray Clamen, 613-995-2984.

Canada places moratorium on water exports

Canada's Environment Minister Christine Stewart and Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy have invited all provinces to join the federal government in a temporary moratorium on water exports. Announced on Feb. 10, the moratorium will continue until the provincial and federal governments sign a national accord to protect Canadian watersheds, which is expected to occur this spring.

A simple ban on the export of water would define water as a tradable commodity, and export bans generally are not allowed under trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement. By focusing the issue on water resource management, the government does not have to define water as a tradable good.

The ministers plan to pass regulations to properly ban the bulk removal of water from boundary waters that fall under federal jurisdiction after receiving recommendations from the IJC study. Contact: Debora Brown, Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, 613-995-1851.

Heading into the woods: Wildlife-associated recreation is popular in Great Lakes region

This excerpt is from "Tourism and Outdoor Recreation: The Region is a Special Place" by Steve Thorp, Great Lakes Commission. The essay will be included in the forthcoming book titled *The Future of the Great Lakes: Perspectives on North America's Most Vital Region*, to be released by Harbor House Publishers, Inc. The publication will contain contributions from Commission staff and other noted experts within the region.

The gray wolf is a symbol of the North Woods in the Great Lakes region. Its prevalence compares to its near non-existence elsewhere in the continental 48 states. This apex predator has reached recovery goals in Minnesota and is increasing in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and northern Wisconsin. This dramatic turnaround in area wolf populations follows a quarter century of protection under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). During this time, the area wolf population has more than doubled to an estimated 2,500 individuals. In June 1998, the U.S. Department of Interior proposed "de-listing" of the wolf in the upper Great Lakes areas and turning continued wolf recovery efforts and management over to the states and tribes. This goal could be achieved as early as the year 2000, but simmering controversies need to cool down first. The politics of the federal wolf plan in terms of building support for reauthorizing ESA is obvious. What isn't so clear is how the various interest groups will resolve their concerns.

A relatively large deer herd, despite periodic hard, starving winters, has abetted the wolf recovery. Some hunters fear that increased predation will result from continued growth in wolf populations. Some people believe federal protection is still needed, especially to guard against a return of the vicious wolf killing



Gray wolf in Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Minnesota. Photo credit: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, J. & K. Hollingsworth.

frenzies of the past. There is even a line of reasoning that laments the apparent bias for "charismatic megafauna" at the expense of smaller, less interesting creatures that may face extinction. Justified concern about livestock losses and threats to pets always crop up in wolf discussions, but not much has been said about the connection with tourism and outdoor recreation.

In the United States, wildlife-associated activities are a popular pursuit both at home and away. Although the number of individuals 16 years old and older engaged in observing, feeding and photographing wildlife declined by 17 percent from 1991 to 1996, the amount of related expenditures increased by 21 percent.

A comprehensive federal survey indicated that for 1996, the Great Lakes states accounted for 35 percent of the national participant total and 16.5 percent of national trip-related expenditures. Nature abounds in the Great Lakes woods and wildlife is one of the draws taking people on the road. The sights and sounds of nature have

nearly universal appeal. Loon calls, wolf howls and bald eagle sightings are becoming more important not only to back country campers but fancy resorters as well. Nature-based tourism comes in many different forms and man has a hand in most of them.

In Michigan's Upper Peninsula, a large tract of federal land has embraced this trend toward wildlife-associated recreation. The 95,000-acre Seney National Wildlife Refuge was developed in 1935 for the protection and production of waterfowl and other wildlife. This Civilian Conservation Corps project built a series of small dams and pools, creating a diverse landscape of wetlands and forest. Man's ingenuity in reshaping and managing nature here has left a large footprint. On the other hand, this real world experiment has resulted in habitat for more than 200 bird species, quality hunting and an excellent program for wildlife observation. It was this latter effort that was recognized in 1998 when the American Recreation Coalition presented Seney manager Mike Tansy and his staff with its Legends Award.



Drawing by Robert Savannah, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Great Lakes Calendar

This calendar is a compilation of selected events of interest to the Commission. Further details and a more extensive calendar are available online via the Great Lakes Information Network (www.great-lakes.net). We encourage your input to the calendar. If you know of an event you'd like us to include, please contact Lara Slee, ADVISOR editor, at 734-665-9135; lslee@glc.org.

Commission events

May

17-18 Semiannual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission. Marriott Chateau Champlain; Montreal, Québec. Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

19 Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway Symposium. Marriott Chateau Champlain; Montreal, Québec. Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

20-21 13th International Great Lakes St. Lawrence Mayors' Conference. Marriott Chateau Champlain; Montreal, Québec. Contact: Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org.

September

14-15 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

Basin events

May

2-5 Sustainable America: A National Town Meeting. Cobo Convention Center; Detroit, Michigan. Contact: Sustainable America NTM, ntm@getf.org, 888-333-6878.

19-22 Canadian Coastal Conference. Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Contact: Christian J. Stewart, 250-658-4844, cstewart@vgivision.com.

25-28 International Association for Great Lakes Research Conference. Cleveland, Ohio. Contact: Frank R. Lichtkoppler, 440-350-2267, lichtkoppler@postoffice.ag.ohio-state.edu.

June

17-July 1 Oceanography and Coastal Processes Workshop for Teachers. University of Minnesota-Duluth; Duluth, Minnesota. Contact: Minnesota Sea Grant, 218-726-8106, seagr@d.umn.edu.

September

24-26 International Joint Commission's 1999 Biennial Forum on Great Lakes Water Quality. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Contact: Jennifer Day, IJC, 519-257-6733 in Canada, 313-226-2170 ext. 6733 in U.S., dayj@windsor.ijc.org.

Changes ahead for the ADVISOR

The ADVISOR soon will have a new look, format and content, and we need your input! Please take a moment to respond to the online survey at <http://www.glc.org/docs/advisor/survey.html>.

You also can send your general comments by fax to 734-665-4370, or by e-mail to Lara Slee, lslee@glc.org. Thank you for your input!

These are some of the questions we'd like answered:

- What do you find most informative and/or interesting in the ADVISOR?
- What would you like to see that is not already there?
- Do you read the electronic version of the newsletter (<http://www.glc.org/docs/advisor/advisor.html>)?

Save trees and money!

If you prefer to read the electronic version of the ADVISOR, let us know! We'll cancel your print subscription and help the Commission save materials and mailing costs. This means we'll have more money to spend on keeping the lakes great!

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