

Advisor

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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.

Ensuring prosperity is priority Robinson-Speck team signals new era of bold leadership for the Great Lakes Commission

The Great Lakes Commission's 2000 Annual Meeting (in Hamilton, Ontario, Oct. 16) featured the election of two new officers to lead the binational agency into the future. Nathaniel E. Robinson, a senior executive policy advisor to Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson, was elected chair by unanimous vote. Robinson has the distinction of being the first African-American to chair the 45-year-old organization.

Vice Chair Samuel W. Speck, appointed director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources by Gov. Bob Taft in February 1999, will join Robinson at the Commission's helm. Prior to joining Gov. Taft's team, Speck was president of Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio.

The central theme for the new leadership is *Ensuring Prosperity for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region*. This theme will guide the development of a bold agenda that will be implemented by fully utilizing a broad team approach designed to tap

the talent, interest, expertise and contribution of the Commission and its many partners and supporters. The strategy includes prudent policy development, increased information sharing and improved effectiveness of the Commission's advocacy initiatives for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region regarding environmental protection, resource management, transportation, and sustainable and economic development initiatives.

Under the Robinson-Speck leadership, the Commission is developing a more focused advocacy strategy for the new Congress to ensure that prosperity for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region is a priority. The agenda will continue to emphasize maintaining the necessary balance between our roles in environmental stewardship (sustainability) and informed decisionmaking for economic growth. The Commission's increased advocacy will be bolstered by a recently approved staff position that will devote time and effort toward this goal.

"I have had the pleasure of representing Gov. Thompson and the residents of Wisconsin as chair of our delegation to the Great Lakes Commission since 1992. Since October 1998, I have had the honor of serving as vice chair of the Commission," said Robinson. "Thanks to the trust and confidence of my fellow colleagues, I now have the privilege of contributing to the mission of the Commission as its chair. Complementing our theme, *Ensuring Prosperity for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region*, through enhanced advocacy efforts and improved effectiveness among our partners and within the U.S. Congress, is my commitment to increase our effectiveness in providing services to our member states, provinces and throughout the entire Great Lakes-St. Lawrence community," Robinson added.



Left to right: Chair Nat Robinson, Immediate Past Chair Irene Brooks, Vice Chair Sam Speck.

Commission News & Views

From the desk of the executive director...

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: Niagara Falls. Credit: Jennifer Read.

Egrets, alligators, lake trout and eagles

In the closing weeks of the 106th Congress, landslide votes in both the House and Senate yielded one of the largest environmental restoration projects in U.S. history. Some \$7.8 billion will be directed at efforts to reverse decades of environmental damage in the Florida Everglades. One leading advocate of the project described the bill as “our best hope to save the Everglades, to protect the egrets and alligators, and to restore the balance between the human environment and the natural system in south Florida.”

Who was this advocate? Was it a Florida legislator looking after the interests of his constituents and their treasured resource? No. It was none other than Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, an upstate New York Republican and chair of the House Transportation Water Resources Subcommittee. And, I might add, a good friend of the Great Lakes.

What induced Rep. Boehlert, and his House and Senate colleagues, to collectively vote 479-15 in favor of this landmark initiative? The answer is obvious. It was a large-scale, long-term strategy that succeeded through a groundswell of unified local support and bipartisan action in Congress. And, it succeeded because the Florida Everglades were (very appropriately) characterized as a resource of national significance. The New York Times recently called them a “treasured ecosystem that lawmakers ranked with the Mississippi River, the Grand Canyon and the redwood forests of California.” (Note that the Great Lakes were not mentioned among these treasures. Talk about adding insult to injury!)

As a former Florida resident, I’ll be the first to agree that this initiative is important and well-deserved. The Everglades are indeed a national treasure, woven into the ecological and economic fabric of south Florida. I’m glad they’re receiving this much-deserved attention and support. But, with all due respect,

they aren’t the Great Lakes.

What was the status of Great Lakes deliberations as all this was going on? While a nationwide bipartisan coalition was brokering a multibillion dollar initiative for the Everglades, Great Lakes advocates seemed content to seek only incremental improvements to the status quo. And, when a modest infusion of prospective funds was proposed by the administration (\$50 million for Areas of Concern cleanup), advocates seemed to expend all their energy debating how to allocate the funds, rather than how to develop a unified front to make sure the funds became a reality.

It’s time to think big, to raise our sights and our ambitions. It’s time to reassert the national and global stature of the Great Lakes and let Congress know that saving the Everglades and the Mississippi and the redwoods is only part of the equation. It’s time for all Great Lakes advocates to join forces and support the big picture, and leave quibbling over the details for another time and place. And, it’s time for us to reject the “inside the beltway” philosophy that focuses on what is possible from a political standpoint; we need to focus on what is good for the resource. Indeed, the greatest system of freshwater on the face of the earth deserves no less.

Let’s take the “phantom \$50 million” of last session, add one or two zeros, and make it the goal for the Great Lakes in the 107th Congress. Working together, it can happen. Wouldn’t it be great, a year or two from now, to have a Florida congressman singing the praises of a bill that is “our best hope to save the Great Lakes”? The egrets and alligators are enjoying their day in the sun; our lake trout and eagles deserve theirs.



Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

Note: The Great Lakes Commission is supporting a renewed focus on congressional advocacy through a new staff position and regional strategy. For details, contact Mike Donahue at 734-665-9135 or mdonahue@glc.org.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Robinson-Speck team, continued from page 1

“Vice Chair Sam Speck and I are excited and energized, and are hitting the ground running to ensure that the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region remains an environmentally great and safe place to live, work, play, attend school and conduct business. We look forward to both the challenges and the opportunities. With the support of our colleagues, friends and partners, Sam and I are confident we and the Commission will succeed,” Robinson concluded. (For more on Robinson’s vision, see “The Last Word” on the back cover.)

“I look forward to working with Nat in not only strengthening the Commission’s advocacy efforts, but also ensuring that we provide the data, information and technical support needed to strengthen decisionmaking throughout the region,” added Speck.

Presently, Robinson is executive assistant to the director of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board. From 1992 to February 2000 (when his current appointment was made), he advised Gov. Thompson on a broad range of energy and environmental policies. His numerous key appointments include the National Sea Grant Review Panel, Advisory Council of the University of Wisconsin’s Sea Grant Program, Board of Visitors of the University of Wisconsin’s Institute for Environmental Studies (immediate past member), State Integration Committee of the National Ocean Service (past member), Gov. Thompson’s Law Enforcement and Crime Commission, Board of Directors of the National Crime Prevention Council, and the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (held oversight management responsibility).

Robinson succeeds Irene Brooks, who will remain active as the “immediate past chair,” a newly created position, and as chair of the Commission’s Pennsylvania Delegation. Recognizing Brooks’ leadership in many new initiatives during her two years as chair, Robinson has asked Brooks to concentrate on ensuring the continuity and productivity of numerous partnerships formed during her term.

The annual meeting theme, *Effective advocacy for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region*, provided an excellent platform for the beginning of the Robinson-Speck leadership era. Commissioners agreed on a bold new strategy that will significantly

raise the organization’s profile and impact in Washington, D.C., as the region’s advocate for Great Lakes-related laws, programs and funds. (See related article on page 2).

SELECTED POLICY ACTIONS

(See www.glc.org/announce/00/Resolutions/resOct00.html for full text of resolutions.)

First Nations/tribal authorities and the Great Lakes Commission. Recognizing the current and prospective benefits of partnership with First Nations/tribal authorities on matters of mutual interest, the Commission resolved to explore and pursue opportunities to enhance the role and participation of First Nations/tribal authorities in its programs and activities.

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

The Commission endorsed the “Great Lakes Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species.” It encouraged the Great Lakes governors and premiers to sign the plan and use it as guidance in their individual and collective prevention and control efforts.

Beach closures in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence basin. The Commission regards the contamination of recreational waters at Great Lakes-St. Lawrence public beaches as an unacceptable risk to public health. As a regional priority, the Commission urged government jurisdictions at all levels in the region to adopt consistent criteria for beach closure decisions, ensure the periodic monitoring of public beaches, provide timely notification of closure decisions, undertake related research, and direct funds to reduce associated risks to public



The Ontario Delegation hosted the annual meeting in Hamilton, Ontario. Ontario delegates (left to right) David de Launay, Lorraine Ratnik and Douglas Harper (not pictured: Jim Whitestone).



Irene Brooks presents gifts to (left to right) Mike Ripley, environmental coordinator for the Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority and Commission Observer; Henry Lickers, director of the Department of the Environment for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne; and Dean Jacobs, executive director of the Walpole Island Heritage Center. The men participated in a panel discussion on First Nations/tribal authorities and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence governance.



Roy Norton, executive director of international relations and chief of protocol of the government of Ontario, was a keynote speaker at the meeting. “We in the government of Ontario applaud the kind of forward thinking and cooperation fostered by bodies like the Great Lakes Commission,” he said.

continued on page 4

Annual Meeting Highlights

Selected policy actions, continued from page 3



Nat Robinson (third from left) presents the Commission's Outstanding Service Awards to Alternate Commissioners (left to right) Wayne Warren (Ohio), Mike Leffler (Michigan) and Gerry Mikol (New York).



Illinois Delegation Chair Frank Kudrna (left) presents the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Maritime Forum's Person of the Year award to George Ryan, Ohio Commissioner and president of the Lake Carriers' Association. "It is quite an honor to be selected as Person of the Year," Ryan said. "I look forward to seeing many others follow me in providing vision and leadership to the maritime industry and being so recognized."



Immediate Past Chair Irene Brooks passes the gavel to new Chair Nat Robinson. Both were recognized for their outstanding service to the Commission.

health. The Commission also urged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to aggressively implement its 1999 Beach Action Plan and urged the U.S. Congress to enhance its support for the plan and provide adequate funding for associated initiatives.

10th anniversary of the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control.

The Commission formally recognized the 10-year anniversary of the Great Lakes Basin Program and requested that its Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force evaluate and pursue opportunities to extend its technology transfer efforts to Canada. The Commission also encouraged Ontario, Québec and the Canadian federal government to consider developing similar programs to address soil erosion and sedimentation problems.

Binational Lake St. Clair Management Initiative.

The Commission endorsed the development of a binational Lake St. Clair Management Initiative within the existing Four Party Agreement and agreed to collaborate with its U.S., Canadian and First Nations/tribal partners to ensure that the initiative has a locally driven, binational orientation that builds on and strengthens existing activities.

A volunteer monitoring network for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system.

The Commission agreed to promote water quality monitoring efforts in the Great Lakes basin and collaborate with the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council on a pilot effort that can eventually be expanded to the other Great Lakes. The Commission also called for the convening of a binational conference to assess ecosystem monitoring in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system, enhance and coordinate existing programs, evaluate monitoring information needed to support environmental indicators, and identify gaps and unmet needs in regional monitoring efforts.

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence System Atlas. The Commission endorsed the development of a new Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Atlas (in English and French) that incorporates the latest available data sets, information and electronic technology. The Commission will approach the U.S. EPA, Environment Canada, interested states and provinces, and other prospective parties in the interest of developing a proposal and securing the support required.

Binational data and information management policy.

The Commission endorsed an International Joint Commission (IJC) recommendation for a binational data and information policy. It also urged the two federal governments to address this unmet need. Such a policy should address accessibility, management and integrity of data, and focus on indicator development and how these data sets can contribute to a binational decision support system. The Commission offered to work with the IJC, federal governments and interested parties to develop and implement such a policy.

Recreational boating.

The Commission urged governments at all levels to provide adequate Coast Guard search and rescue (SAR) service by maintaining the existing network of SAR boat-based stations, to enhance boater safety instruction and services, to expand and upgrade public launch ramps and dock structures, and to provide adequate public access infrastructure for boaters. The Commission also urged governments to ensure that shallow draft harbors and other publicly maintained recreational navigation channels be dredged, to avoid federal user fees for recreational boats, to ensure that boating-generated revenue from other types of fees be directed exclusively for boating-related activities, and to maintain a healthy sport fishery. The Commission further urged the governments to fully recognize and account for the economic benefits of recreational use of navigation facilities when planning for operation, maintenance, construction, dredging and related activities.

Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

Commission launches Freshwater Spills Information Clearinghouse: www.freshwaterspills.net

For many, talk of oil spills conjures up images of the huge *Valdez* oil spill in Alaska's Prince William Sound; few think of the Great Lakes region. However, U.S. Coast Guard District 9 reports that there were nearly 3,000 spills in the region from 1990 to 1999. Those spills accounted for petroleum product releases of more than 660,000 gallons, and this figure only includes coastal areas. Also, because tens of millions of people draw their drinking water from surface waters throughout the region, any major spill here could be disastrous. Freshwater spills are an under-recognized environmental and economic danger.

The Great Lakes Commission recently launched the Freshwater Spills Information Clearinghouse (www.freshwaterspills.net) to increase education, foster freshwater oil spill research and

serve as an entry point for people searching the Internet for spills information. With nearly 200 links to planning, response and regulatory resources, as well as scientific studies, information is readily available on a wide range of relevant topics. A new e-mail list also is available for those who wish to discuss or share information about freshwater spills. Subscribe to the list online at www.freshwaterspills.net/list.html. Contact: Karl Geil, kgeil@glc.org.



Moving toward a Water Resources Management Decision Support System for the Great Lakes

The Great Lakes Commission, in its project secretariat role, has convened the first formal meetings associated with its Water Resources Management Decision Support System project. Supported by the Great Lakes Protection Fund, the project is laying the framework for the data, information and process required to ensure timely and well-informed public policy decisions concerning the use and management of surface and groundwater resources. A meeting of federal partners from the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Environment Canada was held Sept. 1 to discuss the status assessment element of the project, the state of available data and information, and to identify key technical experts to address project specifics.

The first meeting of the Project Management

Team was held Sept. 25. The team provides overall leadership and direction in the design and conduct of all project elements. It is composed of representatives from all of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system states and provinces, as well as Canadian and U.S. federal representatives. Richard Bartz, assistant chief of the Division of Water, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, has been appointed chair of the Project Management Team.

The next meeting of the team is Jan. 25-26, 2001, in Ann Arbor, Mich., and will be held in conjunction with a stakeholders meeting to raise issue awareness and provide advice on project direction. In the interim, subcommittee work associated with status assessment, water use inventory and ecological impact project elements is underway. Contact: Tom Rayburn, tray@glc.org.

mark your calendar

Great Lakes Commission Semiannual Meeting
May 15-16, 2001
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Symposium
May 17-18, 2001
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting and Associated Events
Oct. 9-12, 2001
Milwaukee, Wis.

FY2001 Request for Proposals for the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
Now available online at www.glc.org/basin/rfplet01.html The proposal deadline is Jan. 17, 2001. For more information, contact Tom Crane, tcrane@glc.org, 734-665-9135.

Commission helps Coast Guard prepare for hazardous spills



Coast Guard Cmdr. Steve Garrity responds to questions posed in a mock press conference during the exercise. The map in the background was produced by Commission staff.

What if there was a collision between a downbound barge and upbound freighter at the southern entrance to the Detroit River Channel, resulting in an oil spill? This was the scenario played out by U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Offices Detroit and Toledo as they hosted a joint National Preparedness for Emergency Response Program (PREP) Exercise in Trenton, Mich., Sept. 20-21. This exercise was the first joint Marine Safety Offices PREP since its inception as a mandate of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

Great Lakes Commission staff participated in the exercise as technical advisers to the inte-

grated Incident Command System, providing state, federal and responsible party command staff with detailed situational maps and planning assistance. The maps tracked asset movement, oil plume location and sensitive area impacts. The Commission and Coast Guard anticipate extending this partnership to upcoming exercises scheduled in the Great Lakes, including a joint Canada/U.S. drill in 2001. These exercises will help identify a prospective support role for the Commission in the event of a major incident. Contact: Tom Rayburn, tray@glc.org.

ANS action plan moving forward: Governor/premier signatures underway

The Great Lakes Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) is moving forward, with seven of the 10 Great Lakes governors and premiers having signed on to the document in recent weeks. The plan, an initiative of the Great Lakes Commission-supported Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, is a regional policy agreement to facilitate prompt, multijurisdictional action on ANS prevention and control. It articulates a broad vision and a concise series of goals and principles to guide regional prevention and control efforts. Formally presented to the Great Lakes governors

and premiers in September, it has been endorsed by the governors of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana and New York, with the balance of signatures (Wisconsin, Ontario and Québec) anticipated in the immediate future. The associated action plan addendum provides a more detailed statement of objectives and strategic actions to implement the goals and principles. The addendum has been endorsed by the entire panel membership. Funding for the plan is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Great Lakes National Program Office. Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

Soil Erosion Task Force welcomes new chair

Jim Bredin, assistant to the director of Michigan's Office of the Great Lakes, is the new chair of the Great Lakes Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force. He succeeds Jerry Wager from Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Soil and Water Conservation. Wager, the task force's first and only chair, has stepped down after 14 years of service. "We are extremely grateful to Jerry for his tremendous leadership and are pleased that he will continue to work with us as Ohio's representative," said Mike Donahue, Great Lakes Commission executive director. "We are also excited to have Jim Bredin serve as chair and look forward to working with him on this important program."

Great Lakes Dredging Team elects new co-chairs

The Great Lakes Dredging Team (GLDT) elected two new co-chairs at its meeting in Milwaukee, Wis., Oct. 5-6. Jan Miller, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was elected federal co-chair and Kelly Burch, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, was elected state co-chair. Other meeting highlights included a joint session with the Great Lakes Commission's Beneficial Use Task Force and a field trip to Milwaukee's port facilities. Presentations featured new technologies for cleaning contaminated sediments and reducing dredging-related turbidity, environmental dredging

windows, and public participation in the dredging process. The GLDT agreed to send a panel of members to a national dredging conference in winter 2001; to organize a workshop next summer in Cleveland, Ohio, on the connection between shallow draft harbor maintenance and recreational boating; to create a working group to guide implementation of the Beneficial Use Task Force recommendations; and to develop a means through which the GLDT and others can objectively assess the merits and facilitate resolution of local dredging controversies. Contact: Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org.

“Great Lakes Daily News” service among new GLIN features

Now in its eighth year online, the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) — among the most successful and longest-running projects of the Great Lakes Commission — has unveiled numerous content enhancements to better serve the region’s needs.

One of the most popular new products is the “Great Lakes Daily News” e-mail list, which provides a free daily news feed of recent coverage of Great Lakes-St. Lawrence issues by print, radio and television media outlets in the United States and Canada. This section of GLIN, which provides an “electronic clipping service” for more than 50 major regional newspapers and news services, is updated Monday-Friday by noon. For the latest headlines, visit www.glin.net/news/. To subscribe to the “dailynews” e-mail list, visit www.glin.net/forms/dailynews_form.html

Future expansions to the Daily News section on GLIN will include a Press Room featuring press releases supplied by partner agencies and organizations, and a searchable archive of online news articles. Also under consideration is a service that will allow partner agencies and organizations to feature a “Great Lakes Daily News Box” on their own web sites. Maintained daily by Commission staff, this box will provide a “window” to the latest regional news and

the related suite of GLIN News services.

The Daily News enhancements were among many topics addressed by the GLIN Advisory Board, which convened in Ann Arbor, Mich., Sept. 22. Two new sections on GLIN — The Education And Curriculum Homesite (TEACH) and Maps and GIS — were reviewed and discussed in detail. In new business, the need for a binational information management policy, as proposed by the International Joint Commission in its 10th Biennial Report, was highlighted, as were web accessibility issues dictated by the Americans With Disabilities Act. A virtual presentation on strategies for citizen engagement via the Internet was made by Sarah DiJulio, emediacy director for TechRocks in Washington, D.C. For a complete meeting summary, visit www.glc.org/proj/glin/min/mnts09_00.pdf. Contact: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org.



The Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) was featured in a series of presentations at the Third International Water Information Summit and the Annual Meeting of the American Water Resources Association. Both events were held in Miami, Fla., Nov. 3-8. Sponsored by the Water-Web Consortium (of which GLIN is a member), the summit brought together water information managers from 57 countries to discuss the status, challenges and future opportunities of Internet-based communications in supporting sustainable water resources management. For more information, see www.waterweb.org.

New staff to strengthen, expand Commission initiatives

The Great Lakes Commission welcomes Chase Huntley and Sarah Whitney to its staff.

Huntley comes to the Commission as a research associate funded by the Edna Bailey Sussman Fund of New York. He supports the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, focusing primarily on ballast water management policy. He holds a bachelor’s degree in government and philosophy from Claremont College and is pursuing master’s degrees in public policy and natural resource policy at the University of Michigan.

Whitney, a program specialist, provides support to the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nui-

sance Species, the Ohio watershed planning training project, and the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. Prior to joining the Commission, she worked for the University of Michigan on the Toxic Metals in the Geosphere project and as the communications director for the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association. Whitney holds a master’s degree in natural resource management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, as well as a bachelor’s degree in biology from Bates College.

Artificial reefs in the Great Lakes: Full speed ahead, or proceed with caution?

POINT
BOIN



James Ficociello, Tournament Director, Lake Erie Bass Anglers

Ohio Sea Grant describes its Lake Erie projects as underwater reefs. A better name would be Underwater Five Star Hotels. I have an Aqua View underwater television camera that has permitted me to see firsthand the results of one of the artificial reefs they built in Lake Erie. With a lot of study and planning, this reef has been a huge success for the area. To construct the reef, rubble was dropped in piles in a straight line, 1,500 feet long. Located in 27 feet of water, the reef is deep enough to be inhabited most of the year, and the peaks of the rubble are deep enough not to be a hazard for boating. The area above the lake bottom is free of silt, which will keep the reef productive for many years. The nooks and crannies are alive with crayfish and aquatic insects. Moss grows in some areas,

attracting gobies. Smallmouth bass cover the area and can enjoy a meal with little effort. The bass are either on top of or next to the rubble.

Lake Erie Bass Anglers is a member of the B.A.S.S. National Federation. Our club's environmental project has been the tagging and release of smallmouth bass on the reef. Date, location and size are documented for future study. This has been conducted under the supervision of David Kelch of Ohio Sea Grant.

I have two words to say to Sea Grant concerning their underwater reef projects: "Thank you!" The reefs have been a great success in Lake Erie. It's time we share the success with other anglers in the region by seriously considering building more artificial reefs throughout the Great Lakes.

counterpoint
counterpoint



John E. Gannon, Science Coordinator, U.S. Geological Survey-Great Lakes Science Center

Jim Ficociello is correct in stating that artificial reefs, constructed of environmentally safe materials and properly placed on lake bottoms devoid of natural hard structure and relief, will attract fish to a known location with the likelihood of increasing an angler's harvest. There are now 14 artificial reefs in the Great Lakes. Most are constructed of natural limestone rock, while others are made of demolition concrete from highway bridges and Cleveland's former Municipal Stadium. This number pales in comparison with the hundreds of artificial reefs in marine coastal waters of the United States. There, so-called artificial reefs are often built in the guise of creating fish habitat, when in reality, they are excuses for refuse dumping. Decommissioned ships, barges and train cars are sunk for artificial reefs in marine coastal waters; some states even allow the dumping of junk cars and refrigerators.

This begs the question, how many artificial reefs

should we have in the Great Lakes? What kinds of materials should be used? Where should they be placed and in what configuration? Will they enhance fish productivity in addition to increasing vulnerability to harvest? Will "hotels" made for desirable species actually become homes for invasive species such as gobies and zebra mussels? These kinds of questions prompted the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Habitat Advisory Board to form the Artificial Reef Task Force that I had the privilege of chairing. The document¹ developed by the task force is not pro or con on artificial reefs in the Great Lakes, rather it has a cautionary tone. It considers artificial reefs in the Great Lakes as experimental and recommends long-term assessment and evaluation of existing artificial reefs to determine their effectiveness. Further, fishery management objectives, not waste disposal, must be the principal driving force behind artificial reefs in the Great Lakes.

¹Gannon, J.E. (ed.). 1990. International position statement and evaluation guidelines for artificial reefs in the Great Lakes. Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Special Publication 90-2, 22 pp.

Editor's note: Views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of their affiliated organizations.

U.S. election outcomes: A Great Lakes region snapshot

Recent U.S. elections found the Great Lakes region with three new members of the Senate and 12 new members of the House.

In Senate races, Debbie Stabenow (D) defeated Spencer Abraham (R) in Michigan, Mark Dayton (D) defeated Rod Grams in Minnesota (R), and Hillary Clinton (D) took Daniel Patrick Moynihan's (D) open seat in New York. Incumbents won all other Senate races in the Great Lakes states, resulting in a balance of 10 Democrats and six Republicans for the region.

In House races, Mark Kirk (R) took John Porter's (R) open seat in Illinois' 10th District, Timothy Johnson (R) took Thomas Ewing's (R) open seat in Illinois' 15th District, Mike Pence (R) took David McIntosh's (R) open seat in Indiana's 2nd District, Brian Kerns (R) took Edward Pease's (R) open seat in Indiana's 7th District, Michael Rogers (R) took Debbie Stabenow's (D) open seat in Michigan's 8th District, Mark Kennedy (R) defeated David Minge (D) in Minnesota's 2nd District, and Betty McCollum (D) took the late Bruce Vento's (D) open seat in Minnesota's 4th District. Felix Grucci (R) defeated Steve Forbes

(D) in New York's 1st District, Steve Israel (D) took Rick Lazio's open seat (R) in New York's 2nd District, Patrick Tiberi (R) took John Kasich's (R) open seat in Ohio's 12th District, Melissa Hart (R) took Ron Klink's open seat (D) in Pennsylvania's 4th District, and Todd Platts (R) took William Goodling's (R) open seat in Pennsylvania's 19th District. Incumbents won all other House races in the region, resulting in a balance of 70 Democrats and 64 Republicans from Great Lakes states and 31 Democrats and 29 Republicans from Great Lakes basin districts.

At the state level, all Great Lakes Commission delegates running for re-election were successful. These included Rep. William Callahan, D-Mich.; Rep. George Cassel, R-Minn.; Rep. Tom Huntley, D-Minn.; Sen. Cal Larson, R-Minn.; Sen. Edward Oliver, R-Minn.; Rep. Rex Damschroder, R-Ohio; Sen. Robert Gardner, R-Ohio; and Sen. Jane Earll, R-Penn. Congratulations to all of them! Additionally, there are no changes in the region's governors; Indiana, the only Great Lakes state holding a gubernatorial election this year, re-elected Democrat Frank O'Bannon.

SOLEC 2000: Implementing indicators of ecosystem health

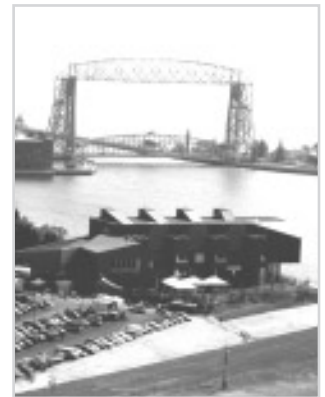
"Implementing Indicators" was the theme of the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference 2000 (SOLEC), held Oct. 17-19 in Hamilton, Ontario. The conference occurs biennially, hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and Environment Canada in response to a reporting requirement of the binational Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The conference reports on the state of the Great Lakes ecosystem and major factors impacting it. It also provides a basinwide forum for information exchange among Great Lakes stakeholders. SOLEC 2000 sessions included reports on almost 30 indicators that help define the status of the ecosystem and its components, local involvement and success stories that underscore the importance of ecosystem indicators to progress and improvement of ecosystem health, and the use of indicators for individual lakes.

Great Lakes Commission involvement included co-hosting the welcoming reception; a plenary presentation by staff member Victoria Pebbles on land-use indicators; and involvement in a variety of breakout sessions, including in-depth indicator discussions, individual lake sessions and associated cross-cutting issues. According to Pebbles, "The indicators are a valuable tool for assessing the state of the ecosystem. However, much indicator information we have to date is incomplete. Systematic and comparable monitoring, surveys and coordinated data collection are needed for each indicator throughout the basin." For more information about SOLEC, visit Environment Canada and U.S. EPA's web sites at www.on.ec.gc.ca/solec/ and www.epa.gov/glnpo/solec. Contact: Harvey Shear, Environment Canada, 416-739-4704; or Paul Horvatin, U.S. EPA, 312-353-3612.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Great Lakes Aquarium in Duluth, Minn., is the United States' only all-freshwater aquarium. It opened July 29, 2000. (See photos below.)

*The Great Lakes Aquarium,
www.glaquarium.org*



Photos courtesy of the Great Lakes Aquarium.



Great Lakes appropriations update

The following table, adapted from a report by the Northeast-Midwest House and Senate Coalition Great Lakes Task Force, addresses selected aspects of the Great Lakes Commission's federal legislative and appropriations priorities statement released in March 2000. **The status of relevant bills as of Nov. 22 is presented in bold typeface immediately following the bill titles in the table.** Congress is reconvening on Dec. 5 to complete its business. View appropriations updates online at www.nemw.org/greatlakes.htm. Contact: Rochelle Sturtevant, 202-224-1211, rochelle_sturtevant@levin.senate.gov; or Mike Donahue, 734-665-9135, mdonahue@glc.org.

Great Lakes Commission's Annual Meeting

View the full text of adopted resolutions at www.glc.org/announce/00/Resolutions/resOct00.html

Freshwater Spills Information Clearinghouse

www.freshwaterspills.net
To subscribe to the freshwater spills e-mail list: www.freshwaterspills.net/list.html

FY2001 Request for Proposals for the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control

www.glc.org/basin/rfplet01.html

Great Lakes Daily News

www.glin.net/news/
To subscribe to the "dailynews" e-mail list: www.glin.net/forms/dailynews_form.html

GLIN Advisory Board meeting summary: www.glc.org/proj/glin/min/mnts09_00.pdf

WaterWeb Consortium

www.waterweb.org

State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference

www.on.ec.gc.ca/solec/ or www.epa.gov/glnpo/solec

Great Lakes Appropriations Updates

www.nemw.org/greatlakes.htm

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve

www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov or www.glerl.noaa.gov/glsr/thunderbay

Québec in the USA

www.quebecusa.org

Great Lakes links & publications

Congressional action on selected Great Lakes Commission priorities (as of November 2000) <i>Funding in millions of dollars</i>	Great Lakes Commission request	House	Senate	Conference
Agriculture (10/28 signed by president: P.L. 106-387)				
Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control	0.75	0.7	0.75	0.725
Farmland Preservation Program	65	0	0	0
Commerce, Justice and State (under veto threat)				
National Sea Grant College Program	65.8	61.25	64.75	62.25
Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (NOAA)	7.5	7.125 (OAR)	7 (NOS)	7 (OAR)
Great Lakes Fishery Commission	12.4	9.353	12.353 ¹	12
International Joint Commission	4.5	3.418	3.771	3.771
National ANS Task Force & Ballast Water Demonstration Program	1.65	1.65	1.85	1.65
Energy and Water (10/27 signed by president: P.L. 106-377)				
Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)				
Environmental Dredging (Sec. 312)	3	2.084	0.384	2.084
John Glenn Great Lakes Basin Program (Sec. 455)	1.5	0 ²	0.1	0.1
Restoration of Environmental Quality (Sec. 1135)	20	18	17	21 (87% earmarked)
Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials (Sec. 204)	10	4	2	4
Sediment Transport Models and Sediment Management Planning (Sec. 516)	1	0.5	0 ³	0.5
RAP Assistance (Sec. 401)	1.5	0.6	0 ³	0.6
Improvement of Soo Lock	1	1	1	1
Dispersal Barrier Demonstration (NISA, Sec. 1202)	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4
Interior (10/11 signed by president: P.L. 106-291)				
National Invasive Species Act				
Aquatic Nuisance Species Program (F&WS)	4.6	Probably level (4.692)	Probably level (4.692)	Probably level ⁴ (4.692)
Great Lakes Science Center (USGS/BRD)	8.5	6.575 + 0.5 for vessel retrofit ⁵	7.375 + 0.5 for vessel retrofit	7.375 + 0.5 for vessel retrofit ⁶
Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Restoration	8	1.978	1.978 ⁷	1.978
USGS Great Lakes Mapping Coalition	0.5	0.5	0.5 ⁸	0.5 ⁹
Transportation (10/23 signed by president: P.L. 106-346)				
Ballast Water Guidelines and Prevention Program (NISA) <i>Includes Ballast Discharge Study and Information Clearinghouse</i>		Continued funding	3.5	3.592 + not less than 1 R&D
VA, HUD and Independent Agencies (10/27 signed by president: P.L. 106-377)				
Great Waters Program	3	President's Request	EPA discretion	EPA discretion
Great Lakes National Program Office	15.1	13.2 ¹⁰	no less than FY2000	no less than FY2000
EPA Brownfields	91	91.6	91	91.6
FY2000 Emergency Supplemental				
Icebreaker <i>Mackinaw</i>	110	110	110	110
International Joint Commission Lake Ontario Study	2.5	2.1	2.1	2.1

1 Of the amount provided for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC), not less than \$300,000 shall be used to treat Lake Champlain with lampricide.

2 Rep. Ehlers offered an amendment to provide \$100,000 for Great Lakes Biohydrological Information. The amendment was withdrawn following assurances from Chairman Packard that the committee would reconsider this program in conference.

3 In floor colloquy, Sens. DeWine and Levin gained the assurances of Subcommittee Chairman Sen. Domenici that the committee would reconsider these programs in conference.

4 The conference provides an increase of \$10.776 million for the fish and wildlife management account. However, \$12.659 million are earmarked for specific increases above FY2000. Therefore, a \$1.8 million cut (6%) will have to be borne by the remaining (unearmarked) programs in the account, which includes the aquatic nuisance species program.

5 A small increase was approved for the Facilities account, but it is uncertain whether this will go to deferred maintenance. The research vessel retrofit is currently listed as the administration's number one

priority within deferred maintenance.

6 "Increases above the House for facilities include \$1,418,000 for uncontrollable costs." The conference report does not comment on priorities within the Deferred Maintenance account.

7 Not less than \$398,000 shall be awarded as grants to federal, state, local and tribal entities to restore native fish and aquatic habitats.

8 No mention of the program. The committee appears to be using FY2000 as the benchmark. Report language explicitly directs that the increase to base for the Science Centers "[is] not intended to meet DOI Science Priorities as described in the budget estimate," which would include the integrated science initiatives.

9 The conference does not mention the program explicitly but does provide additional funds for "development of the National Geologic Map Data Base" and "work with state geological surveys" (+\$500,000). In the absence of contradictory language in the conference report, the House direction for \$500,000 for cooperative geological mapping should stand.

10 Lack of a specific earmark for GLNPO indicates that the program funding decisions devolve to the agency.

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve dedicated

The designation of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, the first U.S. Great Lakes sanctuary, was announced Oct. 7 in Alpena, Mich. The new 448-square mile sanctuary and underwater preserve will protect an estimated 116 historically significant shipwrecks in Lake Huron. Many of these shipwrecks have been preserved by the lake's cold freshwater and are in exceptional condition.

In an innovative partnership, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Ocean Service and the state of Michigan will jointly manage the sanctuary and underwater preserve through the creation of a Joint Management Committee. Priorities for the first five years of

operation include conducting an archaeological survey of Thunder Bay's shipwrecks, installing a mooring buoy system, establishing underwater video links from shipwrecks to school classrooms, and examining the potential for a Maritime Heritage Center.

For more information, visit www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov or www.glerl.noaa.gov/glsr/thunderbay. Contact: Ellen Brody, NOAA-Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, 734-741-2270, Ellen.Brody@noaa.gov.



Photo credit: Great Lakes Visual Research.

Québec strategy features enhanced Great Lakes region presence

Québec Minister of International Relations Louise Beaudoin announced Québec's new U.S. strategy Oct. 19. "The great diversity of the American political and economic landscape and the growing role of American states on the international stage oblige Québec to seek greater interaction with the major regions of the United States, namely, the Midwest, California and the Southeast," said Beaudoin.

This strategy will take the form of changes in Québec's offices in Chicago and Los Angeles (which will become delegations), a new office in Miami,

and increased resources for the General Delegation in New York and the Boston Delegation. The creation of university chairs also was announced, as well as an increase in the budgets earmarked for public affairs in the United States, translation and the Internet site www.quebecusa.org. The annual budget for Québec's representation in the United States will jump from \$8.7 million to \$13.8 million. Contact: Denis Auclair, direction des affaires publiques à l'étranger, 418-649-2400 ext. 5267, denis.auclair@mri.gouv.qc.ca.

Great Lakes Calendar

Ohio Watershed Training Workshop

January 10-11; Columbus, Ohio

Contact: Ric Lawson, 734-665-9135, rlawson@glc.org

5th Annual Great Lakes Science Vessel Coordination Workshop

January 22-23; Windsor, Ontario

Contact: Tom Crane, 734-665-9135, tcrane@glc.org; or Mark Burrows, 519-257-6705, burrowsm@windsor.ijc.org

Project Management Team Meeting, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Water Resources Management Decision Support System

January 25-26; Ann Arbor, Michigan

Contact: Tom Rayburn, 734-665-9135, tray@glc.org

Marine Community Day

January 31; Cleveland, Ohio

Contact: Bill Schmidt, 216-902-6056, wschmidt@d9.uscg.mil

NACD Great Lakes Committee Meeting

March 12-13; Toledo, Ohio

Contact: Jennifer Read, 734-665-9135, jread@glc.org

Great Lakes Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force Meeting

March 14; Toledo, Ohio

Contact: Tom Crane, 734-665-9135, tcrane@glc.org

Great Lakes Commission Semiannual Meeting

May 15-16; Ann Arbor, Michigan

Contact: Mike Donahue, 734-665-9135, mdonahue@glc.org

Aquatic Nuisance Species Symposium

May 17-18; Ann Arbor, Michigan

Contact: Mike Donahue, 734-665-9135, mdonahue@glc.org

Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting and Associated Events

October 9-12; Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Contact: Mike Donahue, 734-665-9135, mdonahue@glc.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 Courtney Shosh, Advisor editor, at 734-665-9135 or cshosh@glc.org.

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If you prefer to read the electronic version of the Advisor online via the Commission's home page (www.glc.org), please let us know and we'll cancel your print subscription.

The Last Word

Ensuring regional prosperity: *The right time, right place, right now!*



Ensuring Prosperity for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region is the theme Vice Chair Sam Speck and I have selected for our administration and stewardship, as we proudly lead the Great Lakes Commission into this new millennium. It is a bold vision but, backed by a fine tradition, a rich heritage, a committed can-do team and hard work, I know that we can and will succeed!

Make no mistake about it, promoting and ensuring prosperity throughout the region is everybody's business. It's not just the role of the Commission's staff, the Executive Committee or the Commission. If we are to prevail, *and we will*, participation must be inclusive. Therefore, it is going to take the collective effort of the full team — our friends, colleagues, partners and stakeholders — operating at full performance, all working together, to achieve a clear vision, a common purpose, a mutual goal!

Promoting and ensuring prosperity throughout the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region is more than a slogan. It reflects our values, our future. Vice Chair Speck and I will work hard to inspire each of you to make a personal commitment, to take personal responsibility to help achieve success within your neighborhoods, your communities, your statehouses and in the U.S. Congress. Sam and I pledge to work for you!

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River benefit us all and, to ensure regional prosperity, we must all share in their stewardship. We CAN do it! We only have to believe we can!

NATHANIEL E. ROBINSON, CHAIR
Great Lakes Commission

Note: For more information on the Robinson-Speck leadership team, see cover story.



Photo credit: Jennifer Read

Where in the Great Lakes?

Guess the location pictured in this Great Lakes-St. Lawrence photo, and you could win a prize! Send your guess via e-mail to cshosh@glc.org along with your name, address and daytime phone number (or call Courtney Shosh at 734-665-9135). All correct responses received by Feb. 1 will be entered into a drawing. The winner will receive his/her choice of a Great Lakes Commission t-shirt or a \$10 credit toward the purchase of a Commission publication.



The location of last issue's "Where in the Great Lakes?" photo was Grand Island Lighthouse on Lake Superior. The contest winner was Walt Pomeroy of Harrisburg, Penn. Thank you to all who participated!

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