



What is the GLSPI?

Launched in May 1992, the Great Lakes Spill Protection Initiative (GLSPI)

- ensures that the Great Lakes are well protected from environmental damage from crude oil and petroleum product spills; and
- provides for a strong regional economy by promoting cooperative approaches to spill protection between the public and private sectors.

The initiative is a partnership between the governors of the Great Lakes states and the CEOs of Amoco Oil Company, BP America, Marathon Oil Company, Mobil Oil Corporation, Sun Oil Company and Total Petroleum. To expand dialogue and opportunities for cooperative approaches, the GLSPI membership was expanded in 1995 to include federal and state agencies.

The unique nature of this public/private partnership serves the petroleum industries' and state and federal agencies' need to address spills-related issues vital to the environment, economy and quality of life in the Great Lakes region.

For More Information

Great Lakes Commission

Argus II Building
400 Fourth Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Phone: 313-665-9135
Fax: 313-665-4370
E-mail: glc@great-lakes.net
Web: www.glc.org

Council of Great Lakes Governors

35 East Wacker Drive
Suite 1850
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-407-0177
Fax: 312-407-0038
Web: www.cglg.org

Visit the GLSPI online at

www.cglg.org/projects/spills



Cover photo credit: Lake Michigan beach, Michigan Travel Bureau.*

* Courtesy of U.S. EPA GLNPO, Visualizing the Great Lakes, www.epa.gov/glnpo/image/.

❖ Printed on recycled paper. Great Lakes Commission, 5/97



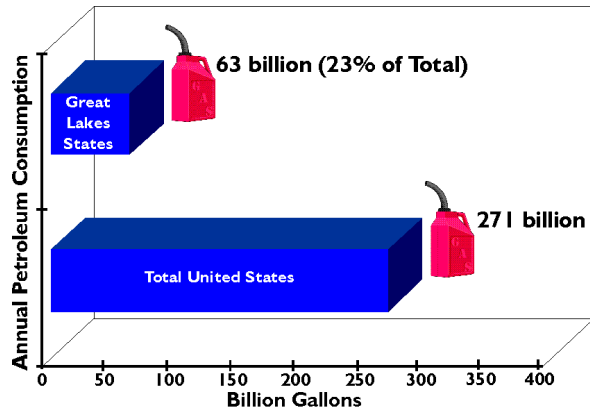
Great Lakes Spill Protection Initiative

*Federal and state agencies and
major petroleum companies
working together to
protect the Great Lakes*

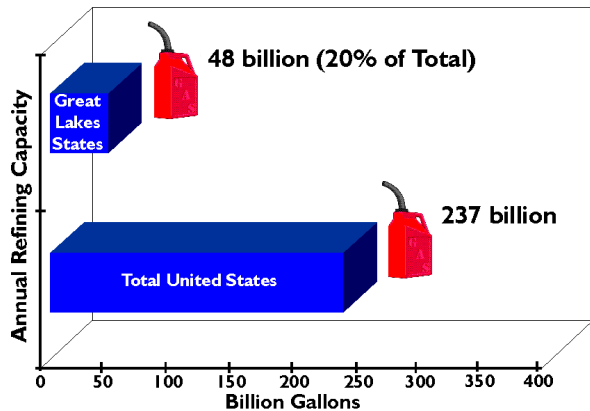
The Petroleum Industry

The Great Lakes region is a major population and manufacturing center with the ability to refine and consume billions of gallons of petroleum each year, as indicated in the charts below.

1995 Consumption

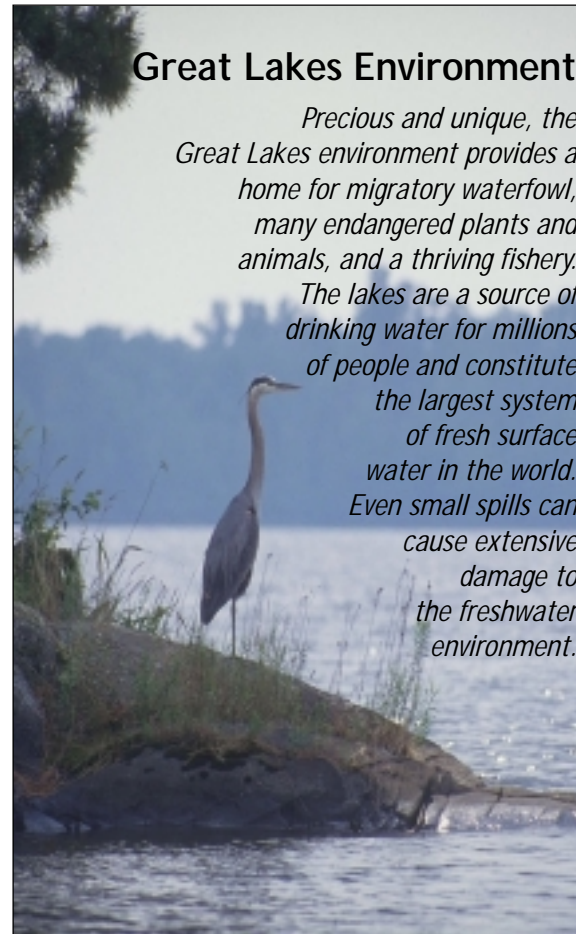


1995 Refining Capacity



Millions of gallons of petroleum products are transported daily in the region via pipelines, tankers and trucks in order to meet consumer and manufacturing demands.

With such large quantities of product moving through the region on a daily basis, spills do occur. Between 1991 and 1995, 98 percent of



Great Lakes Environment

Precious and unique, the Great Lakes environment provides a home for migratory waterfowl, many endangered plants and animals, and a thriving fishery. The lakes are a source of drinking water for millions of people and constitute the largest system of fresh surface water in the world. Even small spills can cause extensive damage to the freshwater environment.

Photo credit: Great Blue Heron, Don Breneman.*

all spills were small in volume, averaging less than 350 gallons each. Yet it is the larger spills of 10,000 gallons or more that are of special concern, due to their greater potential to cause economic loss and environmental damage.

An average of 25 such spills occurred each year between 1991 and 1995, averaging slightly more than 100,000 gallons of product per spill.



Cooperation Yields Results

Enhancing spill protection programs through the sharing of information, experiences, operating practices and technologies is central to the mission of the GLSPI. These cooperative efforts

- promote voluntary industry standards;
- maintain open lines of communication between industry and regulatory groups; and
- foster economic development and environmental protection in the Great Lakes region.

Collaboration between the petroleum industry and government regulators makes good economic and environmental sense. Realizing this, the GLSPI partners provide a forum for public/private sector information exchange and discussion on

- the environmental and economic value of the Great Lakes region;
- the need for safe production, transport and storage of petroleum products;
- ways to enhance and streamline oil-related programs and regulations; and
- the critically important role of spill prevention, planning and response.