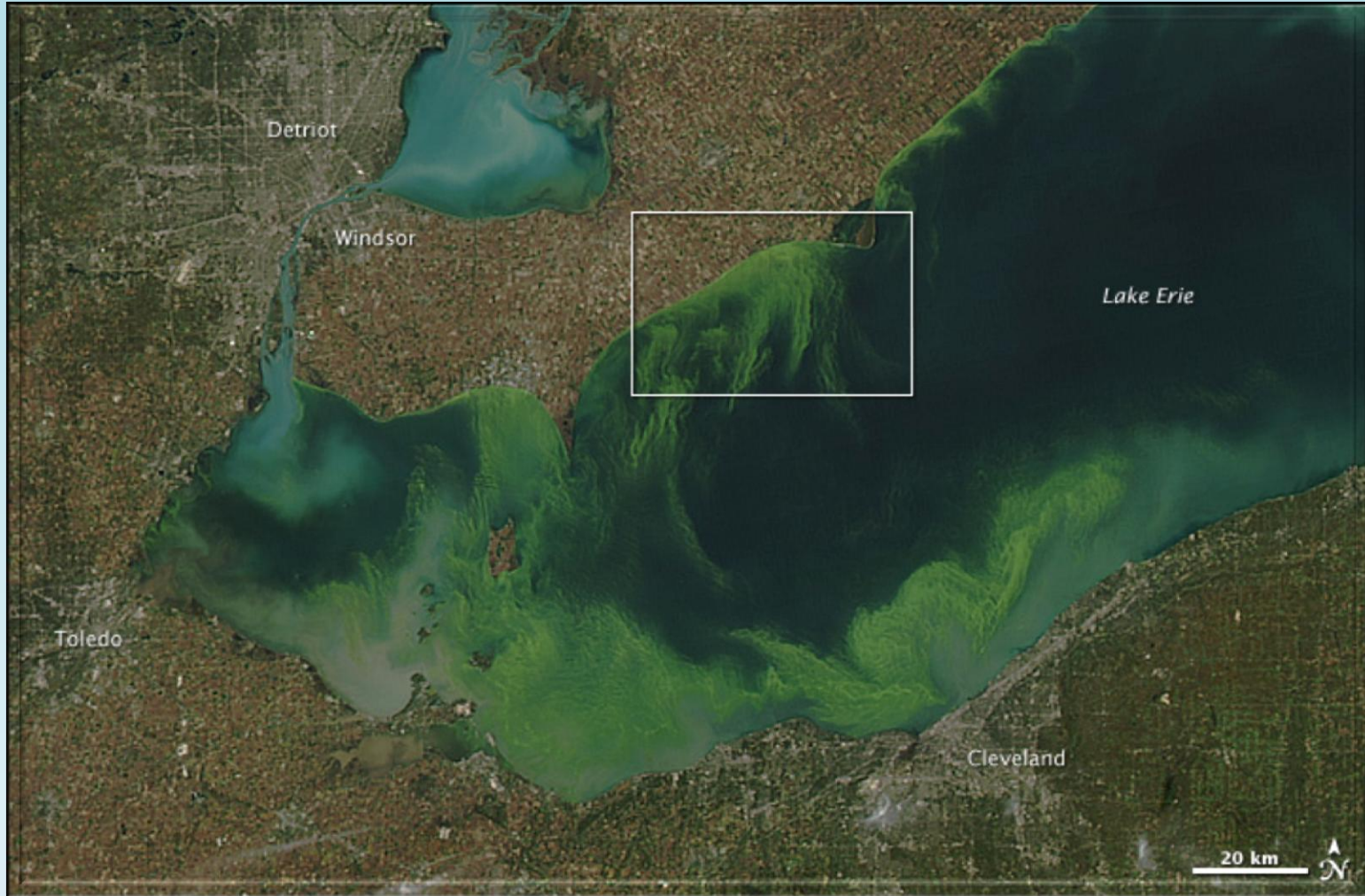


**Priorities for Reducing Phosphorus Loadings and  
Abating Algal Blooms in the  
Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin:  
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES  
FOR IMPROVING  
GREAT LAKES AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS**

Report of the Phosphorus Reduction  
Task Force  
to the Great Lakes Commission  
September 2012

# Lake Erie - 2011







Phosphorus runoff and  
why it's a problem

GLC interest, expertise

2010 Annual Meeting –  
Issue Brief

2011 Annual Meeting  
resolution



# 2011 Resolution on Nutrient Management and Phosphorus Reduction

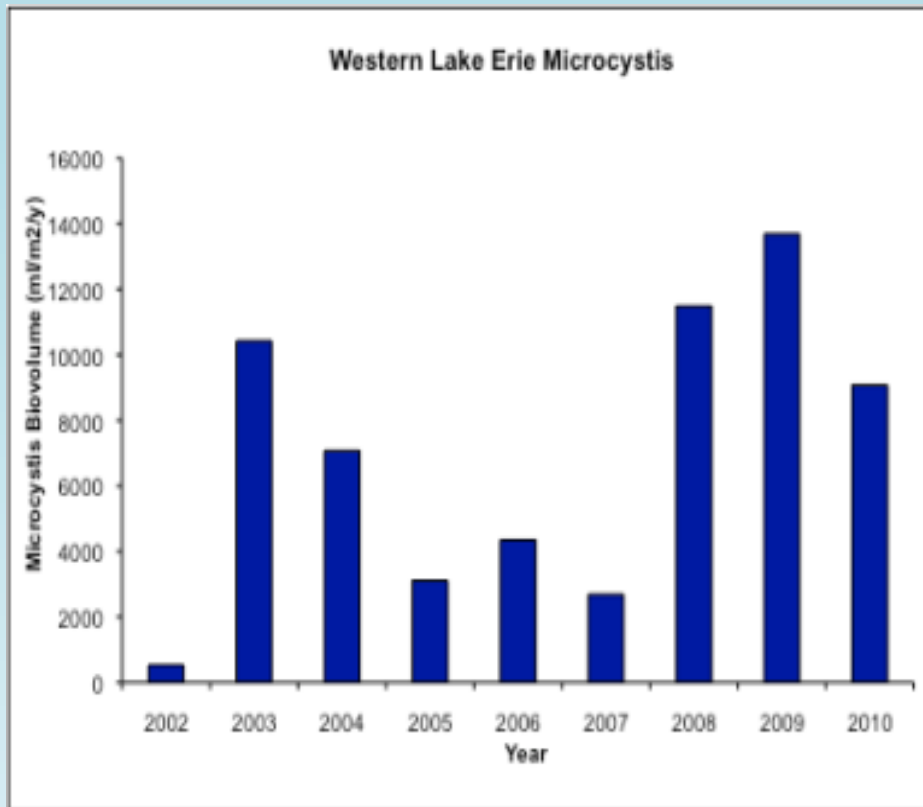
- Form Task Force - all jurisdictions
- Charge – recommendations to reduce phosphorus

# Task Force

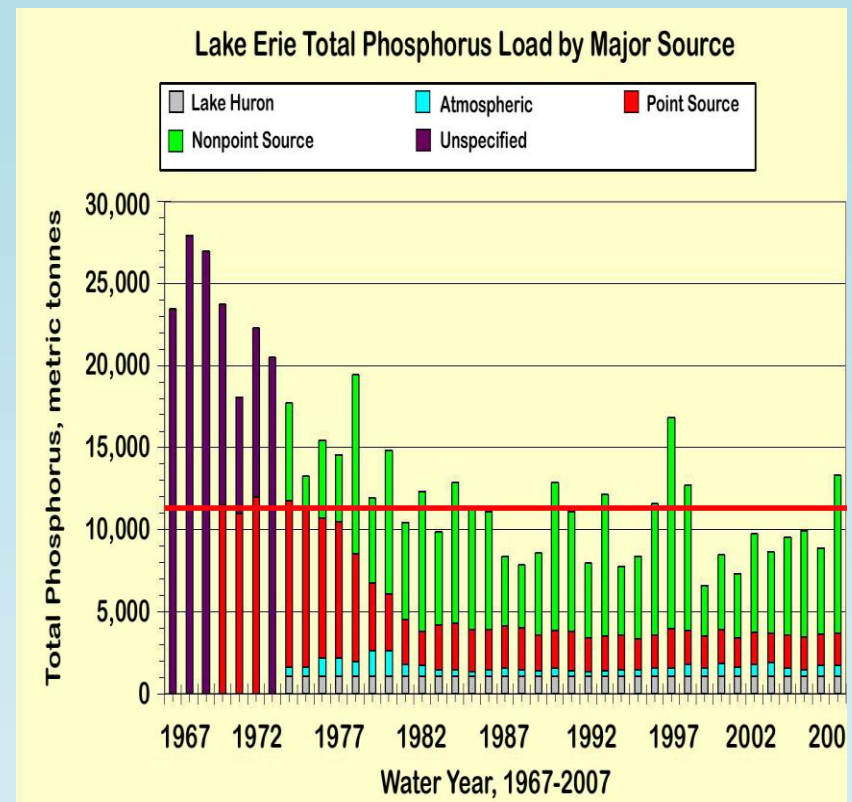
- Leadership and membership
- Working groups:
  - Point sources
  - Non-point
  - Innovation and research



# General Findings



Increases in dissolved phosphorus levels and algal growth



Point source discharges constant

# General Findings

Larger farms



More commercial  
spreading of  
fertilizer



# General Findings



Increase in  
invasive  
mussels



Climate change

Increased  
urbanization



# Themes for Reduction and Control Recommendations

- Government actions
- Implementation
- Research/science
- Innovation of technologies and equipment
- Communication/coordination
- Information/education/outreach



# Key Recommendations

Funding For  
Conservation Programs

Block Grants  
to States



# Key Recommendations



Soil Testing

## Fertilizer Management





# Key Recommendations

## Research



Innovative fertilizer  
application equipment

# Key Recommendations

Policy changes and legislation:

- 2012 Farm Bill
- State authority
- “Stressed” watersheds



Waste water  
treatment plant  
upgrades





