Executive Director’s Report

September 9, 2013
Annual Meeting
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Federal Policy Agenda - 2013

**Strengthening the Great Lakes as an Environmental and Economic Asset: Regional Priorities for Restoration and Protection**

*March 2013*

*The Great Lakes Commission*

*Great Lakes Commission*

**Sustaining Environmental Restoration and Economic Revitalization in the Great Lakes Region**

*Great Lakes Commission Federal Priorities for 2013*

*March 2013*

*Great Lakes Commission*

**Investing in Our Future**

The Great Lakes are an invaluable environmental and economic resource for the eight states that share the Great Lakes. Their clean waters benefit the millions of people who live in the region by providing abundant recreational opportunities, clean drinking water, and abundant natural resources. The Great Lakes also provide an important economic benefit to the region, with an estimated $7 billion economic impact per year. To ensure the continued health and vitality of the Great Lakes, it is crucial that we invest in their preservation and restoration.

**Sustaining Our Progress**

Our region has made significant progress in recent years in addressing the threats facing the Great Lakes, and we must continue to build on this momentum. To achieve this goal, we must ensure that the investments we have made in the past continue to pay off, and we must also look to the future to ensure that we are prepared to address the challenges that lie ahead.

**Strengthening the Federal-State Partnership for the Great Lakes**

The Great Lakes region is united in its commitment to protecting and restoring the Great Lakes. This partnership is critical to ensuring that we can achieve our shared goals and continue to make progress in addressing the challenges facing the Great Lakes.
Federal Policy Agenda - 2013

- Fund Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)
- Pass comprehensive Great Lakes legislation
- Address low water levels by funding dredging
- Fund waste and drinking water infrastructure
- Pass Farm Bill
- Stop Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species
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House Co-Sponsors – HR 2773

Illinois
- Mike Quigley
Indiana
- Peter Visclosky
Minnesota
- Betty McCollum
- Richard Nolan
Wisconsin
- Gwen Moore
- Tom Petri
- Mark Pocan
Michigan
- Dan Benishek
- John Conyers
- John Dingell
- Sander Levin
- Candice Miller
- Gary Peters
New York
- Brian Higgins
- Dan Maffei
- Louise Slaughter
Ohio
- David Joyce (bill sponsor)
- Marcia Fudge
- Bill Johnson
- Marcy Kaptur
Senate Co-Sponsors – S. 1232

**Illinois**
- Mark Kirk  
  (sponsor)
- Richard Durbin

**Minnesota**
- Amy Klobuchar
- Al Franken

**Wisconsin**
- Tammy Baldwin

**Michigan**
- Carl Levin  
  (sponsor)
- Debbie Stabenow

**New York**
- Charles Schumer

**Ohio**
- Sherrod Brown
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Navigation Issues in Water Resources Development Act

• Great Lakes navigation as a single “System”

• Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Reform

• Recreational harbors
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Asian Carp and AIS

- Lacey Act reform
- Internet Sales
- Ballast water collaboration
- Chicago and Asian Carp
Asian Carp and AIS

- Financing
- Flooding and flow modeling
- What next after GLMRIS?
- What is “Effective” and “Optimal”?
  - Physical
  - Ecological
  - Effective
  - Permanent
  - Other uses and service
  - Time to Implement
- “Interim” solutions
Brandon Lock & Dam
Fox P Trade:
Applying Water Quality Trading in the Lower Fox River
Fox P Trade: Applying Water Quality Trading in the Lower Fox River

www.glc.org/foxptrade
Great Lakes Rivermouths

- Primer for Managers
- All but three AOCs are rivermouths (or encompass rivermouths)
- Distinct type of ecosystem
- Created by mixing of river and lake
Rivermouth Ecosystem Services

- Varied
- Valued differently at different times
Great Lakes Ports and Regional Growth

Integrating Environmental Health and Economic Prosperity

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