

Executive Director's Report

**2014 Annual Meeting
September 30, Buffalo, NY**

Workplan Updates – Tab 6

Workplan Program Areas

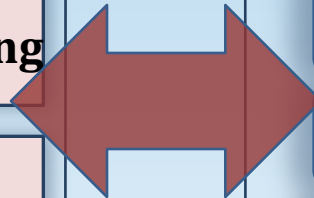
Strategic Plan Core Services

Communications

Info Integration/Reporting

**Facilitation/
Consensus Building**

**Policy Coordination/
Advocacy**



Clean Energy and Climate

**Water-Dependent Economy
and Infrastructure**

Invasive Species

Water Resource Management

**Water Quality and
Ecosystem Health**

Habitat and Coastal Management

+

NOAA-Great Lakes Commission Partnership to Restore Habitat

- Funded by NOAA through Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- 2013- 2016
- \$16,094,753 awarded to date
- Up to \$30 million anticipated



St. Marys River AOC

Little Rapids Restoration Project

Award Date: September 2013

Total: \$5,929,200

Key Partners:

- Chippewa County Road Commission
- Eastern Upper Peninsula Planning and Regional Development Commission
- Lake Superior State University
- Michigan DEQ



Little Rapids Restoration Engineering and Design Project Site Map

Muskegon Lake AOC

1. Muskegon Lake Mill Debris Removal
2. Muskegon River Restoration at Veterans Park

Award Date: Aug/Sept 2014

Total: \$5,454,500

Key Partners:

- West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission
- Michigan DEQ



Buffalo River AOC

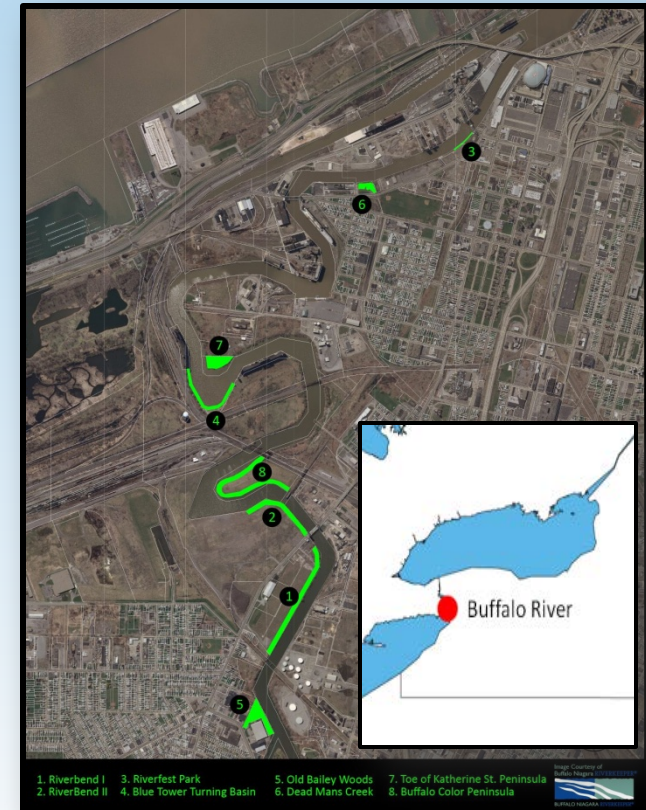
7 Design and Restoration Projects

Award Date: June/Sept 2014

Total: \$4,681,053

Key Partners:

- Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
- New York DEC



Invasive Species - Progress

Chicago Area Waterways

- GLC Resolution
- Mediators – Advisory Committee
- Letter from Congress
- Letter to Congress
- Framework Plan for Negotiation





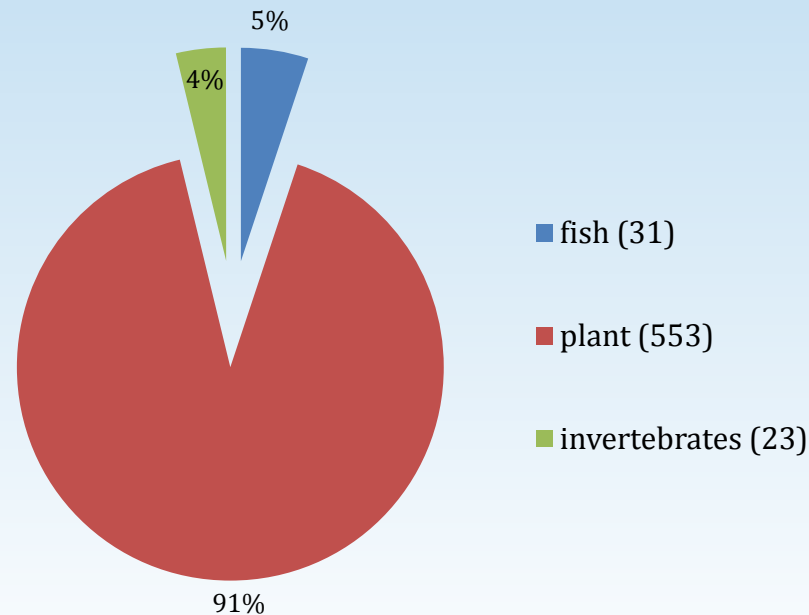
Protecting the Great Lakes from the Internet Trade of Aquatic Invasive Species

- **Organisms in trade**
 - Live organisms that are imported, bought and sold for use in aquariums, nurseries, water gardens, classrooms, aquaculture, etc.
- Internet commerce – poorly understood
 - limited management efforts

Preliminary Findings At-a-Glance

Number of species found	57 (of 166)
Plants	40
Fishes	11
Invertebrates	6
Number of sale pages	607

Distribution of sale pages by taxa (N = 607)



Preliminary Observations and Next Steps

- Getting hits on species that are a threat to the region
- Internet trade is a problem
 - Popular water garden and aquarium plants
- Not clear yet whether sales in region or shipped to region
 - Some websites based in UK, Australia
 - Next step in analysis
- Good early warning tool
- Will be working with federal, state and provincial partners to take action
- Education and “management”

Invasive Species

- Ballast water treatment – Great Ships Initiative
- Ballast water task force
- Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (S. 2094)

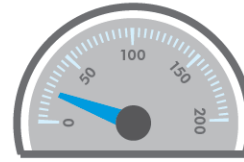
Great Lakes **Blue Accounting**: informing decisions to realize regional water values



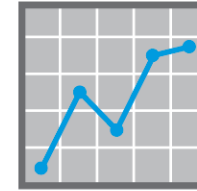
Report to the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers

Future tools

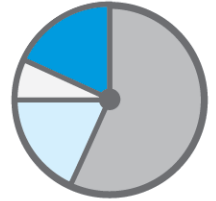
Selected Water System Indicators



Infrastructure
status



Source water
quality



Health
alarms

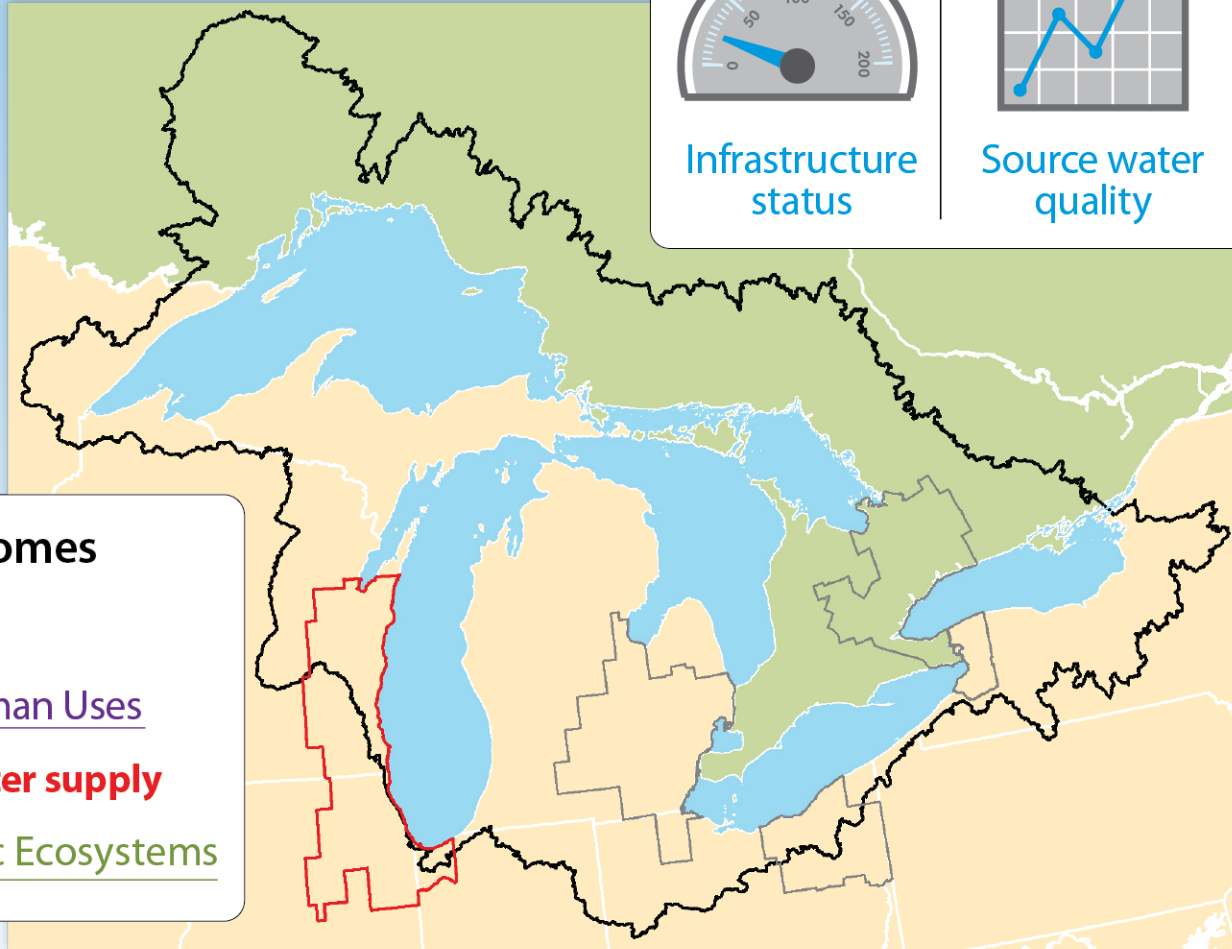
Desired Outcomes

Quality of Life

Sustainable Human Uses

■ **Domestic water supply**

Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems



Implementing Blue Accounting

- Adopt a common set of Desired Outcomes from water
- Build a set of logical strategies for measuring performance
- Optimize regional information infrastructures
- Demonstrate effectiveness through pilots



Lake Erie Toxic Algal Blooms

A satellite image of Lake Erie showing a large, bright green algal bloom in the western part of the lake, contrasting with the darker water in the eastern part.

October 9, 2011

Photo: NOAA Satellite Image