



Advisor

March/April 2005
Volume 18, No. 2

Great Lakes Day in Washington

Congressional Breakfast: Putting restoration on the menu

It's often been noted that official interest in addressing the needs of the Great Lakes has been growing in recent years. A clear illustration of this trend has been the increasing success of the annual Great Lakes Day in Washington, which drew yet another record attendance this year.

More than 170 members of Congress, key aides, regional leaders, senior officials and stakeholders turned out for the March 2 event, featuring the Great Lakes Congressional Breakfast and Great Lakes Issues Briefing. Co-sponsored by the Great Lakes Commission and the Northeast-Midwest Institute, the annual gathering provides a snapshot of how policymakers are thinking about Great Lakes issues and a preview of upcoming legislation.



Chicago Mayor Richard Daley addressed the role played by local authorities in Great Lakes protection and management during his remarks to the Great Lakes Congressional Breakfast.

This year's gatherings were held against a backdrop of growing momentum toward a comprehensive Great Lakes restoration effort, including broad support in the region for the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration process, a fact Commission Chair Tom Huntley referred to in his opening remarks at the Congressional Breakfast.

"It is abundantly clear that this year Great Lakes Day is not just "one more breakfast," Huntley said. "The Great Lakes governors, mayors and many regional stakeholders are now speaking with a unified voice about the issues vitally important to the Great Lakes region! I hope you all share my sense of excitement, optimism and anticipation."

He went on to introduce the *2005 Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity* (see insert), which sets forth a series of Great Lakes restoration priorities developed in collaboration between the Great Lakes Commission and the Council of Great Lakes Governors. Released each year on Great Lakes Day, the *Great Lakes Program* also details the Commission's recommendations for Great Lakes legislation and appropriations in the current session of Congress.

Other breakfast speakers included Rep. Candice Miller (R-10th Mich.), Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D- 5th Ill.), Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and Toronto Mayor David Miller. Todd Ambs, chair of the Commission's Wisconsin Delegation, provided a gubernatorial perspective on behalf of Gov. Jim Doyle.

In her remarks, Rep. Miller reflected on her memories of growing up in Michigan

continued on page 5

In This Issue

Features

Mike Donahue leaves for private sector

First MiCorps grants awarded

Baltic organization, Commission establish mutual observer status

Special Insert: [The 2005 Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity](#)

News & Views2

Former President/CEO Mike Donahue

Commission Briefs3

Around the Lakes10

Calendar11

The Last Word12

Commission Chair Tom Huntley

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.

Commission News & Views

Guest Editorial: Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D., former president/CEO, Great Lakes Commission

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.

Board of Directors

Thomas E. Huntley (MN), Chair
Samuel W. Speck (OH), Immediate Past Chair
Pat Quinn (IL)
Kyle Hupfer (IN)
Ken DeBeaussaert (MI)
William J. Carr (ON)
Cathleen Curran Myers (PA)
Michel Lafleur (QC)
Todd Ambts (WI)
NY - Appointment pending

Interim Executive Director

Tom Crane

Advisor Editor

Kirk Haverkamp

Program Managers

Communications and Internet Technology
– Christine Manninen
Data and Information Management – Roger Gauthier
Environmental Quality – Matt Doss
Regional Coordination – Jon MacDonagh-Dumler
Resource Management – Tom Crane
Transportation and Sustainable Development
– Dave Knight; associate program manager,
Victoria Pebbles

Project Managers

Stuart Eddy, Katherine Glassner-Shwayder,
Ric Lawson, Gary Overmier, Kevin Yam

Program Specialists

Hugh Brennan, Jon Dettling, Richard Garcia,
Shannon Glutting, Kirk Haverkamp, John Hummer, Elizabeth Johnson, Laura Kaminski,
Becky Lameka, Michael Schneider, Anne Sturm, Marcia Woodburn, Hao Zhuang

Director of Research, Emeritus

Albert G. Ballert, Ph.D.

Administrative Staff

Pat Gable, Ron Hasselbring, Marilyn Ratliff,
Rita Straith

Research Associates/Fellows

Ted Lawrence, Devra Polack

Cover illustration: Children on Lake Michigan beach near Sleeping Bear Dunes. Robert De Jonge, courtesy Michigan Economic Development Corp.

Anniversary observations...and a personal note

Most people, I suspect, approach their 50th birthday with some trepidation, regarding the half century milestone with more solemnity than celebration. Not so for the Great Lakes Commission! Founded in 1955, the Commission has much to celebrate this year, and every reason to believe that a history of accomplishment will be followed by an even brighter future.

Governance in the binational Great Lakes basin has a rich and varied history, and the Great Lakes Commission has figured prominently in its evolution. As in any area of social inquiry, a look to the past is often the most effective means of charting a path for the future.

The Great Lakes Basin Compact is an extraordinary piece of legislation whose relevance has grown over the decades. It envisioned an agency that would be a cohesive force for the region: an organizer, an analyst, a facilitator and an advocate. It vested the Great Lakes Commission with a unique dual function, as a body that would represent the collective interests of its membership while at the same time advising its member jurisdictions on measures to achieve a clean environment and prosperous economy. In essence, the Compact codified the need for an organization that would “push the envelope” and challenge the region’s leadership to “think outside the dotted (geo-political) line” and embrace an ecosystem approach. Advancing that challenge is the Commission’s legacy to the past, and its entrée to the future.

Speaking of the future in a more personal context, this anniversary year also signals a new era in my own professional growth and development. After two decades at the Great Lakes Commission – each year a delightful mix of challenge, opportunity and adventure – I have accepted a new

opportunity in the private sector. The decision was not an easy one. I literally grew up with the Great Lakes Commission (we were born just a few months apart) and, at the ripe old age of 29, I assumed a directorship that would eventually encompass almost 40 percent of the organization’s history. Recent years have been particularly gratifying, with the Commis-

sion growing and maturing to become what Frank Kelley, former Michigan attorney general and the longest-serving Commissioner, once described as “the most effective organization of its kind in the world.”

I never forgot, however, the observation of a former professor whose own career was marked by years of distinction in public service: “You can be comfortable or you can be successful, but you can’t be both.” Ultimately, I welcomed an unexpected opportunity to step out of my “comfort zone” and into a new professional dimension.

You can now find me at URS Corporation, a global consulting firm that provides clients with planning, engineering, design and architectural services in all aspects of environmental protection, resource management, transportation and sustainable use. I’ll continue to work in the Great Lakes region, and also focus on restoration, protection and sustainable use initiatives across the nation and internationally. I’ll remain a vocal advocate for the work of the Great Lakes Commission and the larger Great Lakes community, and look forward to continued partnership with so many valued friends and colleagues. Thank you for the privilege to serve!

“...a look to the past is often the most effective means of charting a path to the future.”



Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

Mike Donahue concludes two decades of service

During nearly two decades as the Great Lakes Commission's chief executive, Dr. Michael J. Donahue had seemingly become a permanent part of the Great Lakes landscape.

Many were surprised then, when Donahue left the Commission at the end of February to join the global consulting firm URS Corporation.

"I can think of no other individual who has had such a profound influence on Great Lakes governance over the past two decades," said Commission Chair Tom Huntley. "As a visionary for the Great Lakes region, Mike has consistently demonstrated a talent for turning ideas into action, and plans into reality. His presence will be missed but his legacy will be a lasting one."

Tom Crane, manager of the Commission's Resource Management Program, has been appointed interim director by the Commission's Board of Directors.

Donahue presided over a period in which the Commission grew from a small "policy shop" with a professional staff of seven to its current form as a leading regional institution with more than 30 employees playing a central role in policy development, advocacy and resource management. He is credited with greatly expanding the Commission's research, policy analysis and technical capabilities; securing associate membership for the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Québec in recognition of the lakes' binational character; and shaping a strong and influential regional voice on federal legislative, appropriations and policy initiatives.

"It has been a great privilege to serve this organization for the last two decades and contribute to its growth, development and maturation," Donahue said. "The Commission's role is truly unique: to recognize the complementary nature of environmental and economic goals, and to work toward measurable improvements in the quality of our environment, the health of our economy, and the quality of life of our citizens."

Interim Director Tom Crane is a 19-year veteran of the Commission. Among many other contributions, Crane has led the Commission's decision support initiatives for water resources

management, and has designed and implemented programs addressing point and nonpoint source pollution.

The Commission's Board of Directors has begun a process of carefully evaluating the organization's needs in preparation for the search for a new executive director.



Scenes from the Donahue years: Welcoming attendees to the Great Lakes Day in Washington issues briefing; getting up close and personal with a sea lamprey during the 2001 Great Lakes Odyssey Congressional Tour; receiving a \$25,000 endowment for Friends of the Great Lakes from Thomas Dammrich, president of the National Marine Manufacturers Association.



Donahue joined the Commission staff in 1982, but left two years later to become U.S. director of the Chicago-based Center for the Great Lakes. He returned to the Commission in 1987 to take the post of executive director, and became president/CEO in 2001. In his new position with URS Corporation, he is a vice president specializing in water resources and environmental issues. He can be contacted at michael_donahue@urscorp.com.

Great Lakes Collaboration moves forward

IAGLR Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research

May 23-27, 2005, Ann Arbor, Mich.

2005 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Review and IJC Biennial Meeting

June 9-11, 2005
Kingston, Ontario

2005 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission

Sept. 27-29, 2005
Ann Arbor, Mich.

mark your calendar

The Great Lakes Commission has expressed its strong support for the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, a wide-ranging, cooperative effort to design and implement a strategy for the restoration, protection and sustainable use of the Great Lakes. The Collaboration is the result of a May 2004 Presidential Executive Order.

Since a signing ceremony in December, eight teams have begun developing the overall Great Lakes protection and restoration strategy. Each strategy team corresponds to one of the governors' priorities for restoration and protection. These include habitat/species, indicators and information, persistent bioaccumulative toxics reduction, invasive species, sustainable development, coastal health, nonpoint source pollution, and Areas of Concern restoration/sediments.

A draft plan will be released for public comment in summer 2005. The strategy will yield a blueprint for restoration-related programs and funding needs and, in so doing, strengthen intergovernmental relationships to ensure strong cooperation and collaboration. The final strategy is scheduled for release in December.

The Commission is providing significant communications support for the Collaboration, through the hosting of web sites, email lists and discussion forums involving hundreds of

stakeholders. Commission staff are assigned to all eight strategy teams. Most notably, Roger Gauthier, manager of the Commission's Data and Information Management Program, has assumed the role of co-chair of the Information/Indicators Strategy Team, replacing former President/CEO Mike Donahue (see pages 2-3).

Several of the Commission's recent technical and policy reports offer relevant background for the tasks at hand. These include proceedings from the recent series of restoration priorities workshops held throughout the region and the Commission's *2005 Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity*.

The most recent event in the process was the Executive Committee and Strategy Teams Meeting, April 28-29 in Traverse City, Mich. Eleven Commission staff participated in the event, which focused on coordinating the elements of the draft strategy in preparation for its release this summer.

The next major event in the Collaboration process will be the release of the draft strategy at the Great Lakes Regional Coordination Summit I, July 7-8 in Duluth, Minn.

For more information, see www.glc.org/restoration Contact: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org

Stakeholders share their views on Great Lakes restoration

The results of a series of stakeholder workshops gathering public input on how to restore and protect the Great Lakes are now available from the Great Lakes Commission.

The report, *A Blueprint for the Future: Toward a Great Lakes Restoration Strategy*, summarizes the opinions and suggestions of more than 700 stakeholders who participated in a series of eight workshops hosted throughout the Great Lakes states. Held from September 2003 to August 2004, the workshops invited participants to react to a series of restoration priorities developed by the Council of Great Lakes Governors and offer their thoughts on putting them into action.

"As a region, we have a renewed drive to put ideas into action. Leadership and public participation are a powerful combination and these workshops could not have come at a more important time," said Dave Naftzger, executive director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors. "Over the next several months, the region's governors will continue to partner with other leaders and the public to develop a broad-based strategy to protect and restore the Great Lakes."

The workshops surveyed stakeholders on the major issues that they believe need to be addressed through a basinwide restoration initiative and how new or current programs might be coordinated to achieve this. The results are

continued on page 8

Great Lakes Day in Washington (cont'd from page 1)

at a time when people routinely dumped garbage and other wastes into the Great Lakes, and few regarded it as a problem.

“In a state of almost 10 million people, you would be hard-pressed to find anyone who doesn’t love our lakes,” she said. “But sometimes, we have a funny way of showing it.”

Rep. Emanuel called for the establishment of a significant source of dedicated federal funds for Great Lakes restoration. He expressed support for the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration process, but urged that efforts to address Great Lakes issues not be put on hold until its final report is released in December.



Great Lakes Commission Chair Tom Huntley, center, confers with Rep. James Oberstar (D-8th Minn.), right, and James Zorn, a policy analyst with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

“The Great Lakes aren’t getting better, so we can’t just wait,” he said. “Instead we should use this opportunity to build support for restoration in the region and here in D.C.”

He suggested that one way to build that support might be to tie a Great Lakes restoration initiative to similar measures for other large ecosystems in a national package, a Great Waters Restoration bill. Such an approach, he said, could help build support in Congress while ensuring that the needs of every region are met.

Mayor Daley and Mayor Miller both spoke to the essential role played by local authorities in Great Lakes management and protection.

“The mayor’s on the front line,” Daley said. “When the beach is closed, they’re not calling

the federal government, they’re not calling Congress. They’re calling the mayor!”

He noted that Great Lakes cities are responsible for ensuring safe beaches, providing safe drinking water, controlling wastewater discharges, repairing shorelines and regulating lake-front development.

Following the Congressional Breakfast, the Great Lakes Issues Briefing featured discussions of developing Great Lakes initiatives by legislative and policy specialists closely involved with them, including senior officials and congressional staff. Speakers included Benjamin Grumbles, U.S. EPA assistant administrator for water; Gary Gulezian, director of the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office; and Michael Goffin, Great Lakes Program Coordinator of Environment Canada, Ontario Region.

On a related note, the Northeast-Midwest Institute held its annual Great Lakes Environmental Summit the day prior to Great Lakes Day, on March 1. It was the first time the two events were held in conjunction. The Great Lakes Commission sponsors the annual Issues Briefing, and the two organizations co-sponsor the Congressional Breakfast.

For more photos and the full text of the remarks by

Rep. Miller, Rep. Emanuel, Mayor Daley and Mayor Miller, see www.glc.org/greatlakesday/slideshow05.html.

For more information, contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org



Toronto Mayor David Miller is interviewed by a news crew for a Toronto television station following the Great Lakes Congressional Breakfast.



Tom Crane, interim executive director of the Great Lakes Commission, welcomes Rep. Candice Miller (R-10th Mich.) to the Congressional Breakfast. At left is Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, manager of the Commission’s Regional Coordination Program.

Commission Briefs

Lake Erie region to be focus of 2005 Congressional Tour

Once again this summer, the Great Lakes Commission will join with other regional agencies in providing congressional staff with a hands-



Congressional staff get a look at some of the aquatic organisms brought up from the depths of Lake Erie as part of a demonstration of sampling techniques aboard the USGS Research Vessel Kaho during the 2003 Congressional Tour.

on look at Great Lakes issues: the Great Lakes Odyssey III Congressional Tour.

The biennial event, first held in 2001, provides invited congressional staff with an opportunity to gain personal knowledge

of some of the key issues they'll be working on for their senator or representative. For the first time this year, select parliamentary staff from Canada have been invited as well.

This year's tour, Aug. 16-18, will focus on the western Lake Erie region. Participants will take a demonstration cruise aboard a Lake Erie research vessel, tour the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, and participate in a lamprey control demonstration. They'll also attend issues briefings and visit The Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory on Gibraltar Island at Put-In-Bay, the University of Toledo's Lake Erie

Science Center and Cleveland's Great Lakes Science Center.

An opening reception honoring binational cooperation, hosted by the Canadian Consulate General, will be held Aug. 16 at the Maumee Bay Conference Center.

Members of Congress are enthusiastic about the opportunity the Odyssey III tour offers their staffs.

"The Great Lakes are a natural treasure, and the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation needs to continue to work together to protect and restore the lakes," said Sen. Mike DeWine (R-Ohio). "This tour will provide a good opportunity to see, first-hand, the threats as well as existing programs to protect and restore the ecosystem."

Rep. John Dingell (D-15th Mich.) concurred.

"Once dubbed the "Dead Sea" by fisherman, Lake Erie has come a long way," he said. "This tour will give staff the opportunity to view successes, but also to see first-hand that so much work is yet to be done."

Hosts for the the Odyssey III Congressional Tour are the Great Lakes Commission, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) and the USGS Great Lakes Science Center.

Previous Great Lakes Odyssey events visited the Straits of Mackinac/St. Marys River area (2001) and the Buffalo, N.Y./Niagara Falls area (2003).

For more information, contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org

Garcia returns to assist with inland sensitivity atlas project



Garcia

The Great Lakes Commission is pleased to welcome back Richard Garcia after a two-and-a-half year hiatus. Garcia is a Geographic Information System (GIS) specialist working in the Data and Information Management program, collecting and mapping economically and environmentally sensitive data for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 Inland Sensitivity Atlas project.

Garcia holds a bachelor's degree in Urban and Environmental Geography from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Prior to his time at the Commission, he was working on a joint GIS project with UIC and the City of Chicago Department of Zoning.

Contact: rgarcia@glc.org

First MiCorps grants awarded to boost volunteer monitoring

Four groups have been selected by the Great Lakes Commission to receive the first grants awarded through the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps), the state's new program supporting volunteer water quality monitoring.



The four organizations will share \$38,000 in grants to be awarded this year through MiCorps, which was created in 2004 by an Executive Order by Gov. Jennifer Granholm. The program supports volunteer water quality monitoring groups, who play a significant role in the state's efforts to protect and manage its water resources.

The Commission, in partnership with the Huron River Watershed Council, has been contracted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to administer the MiCorps program. In addition to managing the grants, the Commission has also developed a web site, newsletter and logo for the program.

The volunteer organizations selected to receive grants this year are the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay and Lake Superior State University's Citizen Volunteer Stream Monitoring program.

The web site, www.micorps.net, provides an information center for volunteer monitoring groups in the state. The site provides resources and training information for volunteer monitors and hosts a directory of monitoring programs.

The MiCorps *Monitor* newsletter is a semi-annual publication focusing on volunteer monitoring issues. The first issue, published in March, is available on the MiCorps website.

The MiCorps program solicits, organizes and trains volunteers around the state to participate in water quality monitoring activities. MiCorps provides training for stream and lake monitor-

ing; disseminates methods for accurate data collection; implements effective quality assurance practices; facilitates data reporting and information sharing online; and provides a forum for communication and support among volunteer monitoring groups in Michigan.

MiCorps grants are a continuation of the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program, which was established by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in 1998 and placed under MiCorps this year.

Contact: Ric Lawson, rlawson@glc.org

Cleanup grants awarded

In addition to its work with the MiCorps program, the Great Lakes Commission has selected 11 organizations to share nearly \$25,000 in Michigan Department of Environmental Quality grants to support volunteer stream and creek cleanups.

Michigan's Volunteer River, Stream, and Creek Cleanup Program (VRSCCP) provides small grants in the range of \$500 to \$5,000. The Great Lakes Commission was contracted to administer the program at the same time it began its work with MiCorps.

Contact: John Hummer, jhummer@glc.org

Wisconsin commits Soo funds

Wisconsin recently became the fourth state to fulfill its financial commitment toward construction of a new lock at the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Under a federal cost share agreement facilitated by the Great Lakes Commission, each of the eight Great Lakes states has been allocated a cost share based on Soo Lock cargo tonnage either shipped through or received by its ports. Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle recently announced a 50-year commitment to provide \$117,000 in state transportation funds annually for the project, which involves building a second Soo Lock large enough for the 1,000-foot super-carriers operating on the lakes.

Contact: Dave Knight, dknight@glc.org

Did you know

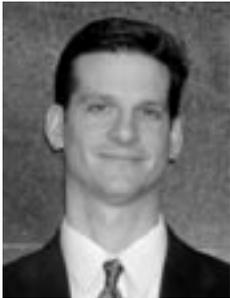
For all its size, Lake Superior has less capacity to support aquatic life than do the other Great Lakes. Lake Superior is ultra-oligotrophic, which means it has less dissolved nutrients available to support aquatic life. As a result, the Lake Superior fishery produces only about 10 percent of what Lake Michigan, a comparatively nutrient-rich lake, produces annually.

Source: Minnesota Sea Grant.

Commission Briefs

Slate of new appointments to Commission

The Great Lakes Commission welcomes the appointment of several new Commissioners, plus an Alternate Commissioner and Associate Commissioner, to represent their member jurisdictions.



Koncelik



Spada



Sykora



McClain

New appointments include: Joseph Koncelik, director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), Ohio state Sen. Robert Spada and Minnesota state Rep. Barb Sykora. In Illinois, Katie McClain, policy adviser to Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn, has been designated an Alternate Commissioner to represent Quinn as needed in his duties as chair of the Illinois Delegation.

Koncelik holds the slot on the Ohio Delegation traditionally reserved for the director of OEPA, a post he was appointed to Jan. 10 by Gov. Bob Taft. Prior to his appointment, he served as OEPA's assistant director, chief of staff and legal counsel.

Spada represents Ohio's 24th Senate District on the outskirts of Cleveland and is assistant majority floor leader. He was appointed to the Commission on Jan. 27 by Sen. Bill Harris, president of the Ohio Senate. An accountant by

profession, he is founder and president of American Tax Corp./Spada and Associates in Parma, Ohio.

Sykora represents Minnesota's District 33B, just west of Minneapolis. First elected in 1994, she is a former chair and deputy chair of the Minnesota Republican Party, serving in those positions between 1987-93.

McClain is a graduate of the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy, where she earned a master's degree in public policy with a concentration in environmental policy.

Just before going to press, word was received of two Indiana appointments. Kyle Hupfer, director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), has been named chair of that state's delegation. He succeeds John Goss, formerly vice chair of the Commission. Ron McAhron, IDNR deputy director, has been appointed to the Indiana Delegation as well.

Word has also been received of the appointment of David O'Toole, acting director of the Urban and Rural Infrastructure Policy Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, as an Associate Commissioner.

On a related note, Erin Crotty, chair of the New York Delegation, has left the Commission following her resignation as head of the state's Department of Environmental Conservation to pursue other interests. The appointment of a successor is pending.

Contact: Tom Crane, tcrane@glc.org

Stakeholders share restoration views (cont'd from page 4)

being shared with Great Lakes leadership and the entire community of stakeholders in the interest of promoting consensus and unity of purpose in restoration and protection initiatives.

Each workshop was carried out through a partnership among the Great Lakes Commission, the host state's Sea Grant College Program, the Council of Great Lakes Governors, relevant state agencies and other partners, with funding by the National Sea Grant College Program.

The conclusion of the workshop series is

well-timed to provide input for the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration strategic planning process, which is using the Council of Great Lakes Governors' priorities as a starting point.

The report is available online at www.glc.org/restwksbp; print copies may be ordered from the Great Lakes Commission for a nominal fee. Additional restoration-related projects of the Great Lakes Commission are available at www.glc.org/restoration.

Contact: Jon Dettling, dettling@glc.org

Helsinki Commission, GLC agree to mutual observer status

The Great Lakes Commission has a new partner on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.

The Helsinki Commission, also known as the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), has accepted an invitation from the Great Lakes Commission to establish mutual observer status. The action formalizes and strengthens relationships between the two agencies, which face many of the same challenges in carrying out similar missions.

Despite their difference in salinity, the Great Lakes and Baltic Sea are much alike, with similar climates, aquatic habitats and indigenous species. They also face similar problems, invasive species in particular – in many cases, the invaders are organisms that originated in each others' waters. Both are also vast watersheds under the jurisdiction of multiple governmental entities.

The Great Lakes Commission has been engaged in cooperative ventures with the Baltic Sea region since 1999, coordinating U.S. EPA's Baltic Fellowship Program. The program provides for scientists and policymakers from Baltic nations to study and collaborate with Great Lakes institutions on issues of shared interest.

Established in 1972, the Helsinki Commission's membership consists of the nine Baltic nations

of Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Russia and Sweden, along with the European Union. See www.helcom.fi

For more information, contact: Jon Mac-Donagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org

Great Lakes science bowl winners



You might be working with these kids some day. The Linworth Alternative Program (pictured) from Worthington, Ohio, are the 2005 winners of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB) Great Lakes competition. The Linworth group successfully defended their 2004 title, outlasting 15 other teams in the daylong tournament. Several Great Lakes Commission staff served as volunteers at the competition, held Feb. 12 on the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor, Mich. The NOSB is a national quiz-bowl competition challenging the next generation of freshwater/marine scientists, policymakers, teachers, explorers and researchers.

Lake St. Clair management plan released

A comprehensive management plan for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River, developed with the assistance of the Great Lakes Commission, has been released by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Developed over three years in consultation with a wide array of U.S., Canadian and tribal/First Nation agencies, organizations and stakeholders, the plan sets forth a series of recommendations for addressing Lake St. Clair's many problems. These include industrial pollution, sewage overflows, storm water runoff and agricultural discharges, aquatic invasive species and beach closings due to high bacterial counts.

The plan makes more than 80 specific recommendations, covering a broad range of concerns.

While the plan discusses the St. Clair River, its recommendations apply only to the U.S. side of the lake. Canadian authorities are developing recommendations for their side. A separate plan is being developed for the St. Clair River, based upon its status as an international Area of Concern under the U.S./Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

The Lake St. Clair-St. Clair River comprehensive management plan is available online at www.lre.usace.army.mil/projectsandstudies/planningstudies It will also be available on the Commission's web site at www.glc.org/stclair, along with links to other Lake St. Clair projects listed above.

Contact: Matt Doss, mdoss@glc.org

The Point-Counterpoint feature will return.

International Field Year concentrates on Lake Erie's problems

**Great Lakes Commission
Restoration Initiatives**
www.glc.org/restoration

**Great Lakes Regional
Collaboration**
www.epa.gov/greatlakes/collaboration

**Great Lakes Day in
Washington: Speeches
and slide show**
www.glc.org/greatlakesday/slideshow05.html

**Great Lakes Program to
Ensure Environmental and
Economic Prosperity**
www.glc.org/restore

**Michigan Clean Water
Corps (MiCorps)**
www.micorps.net

**Michigan Volunteer
River, Stream, and
Creek Cleanup Program
(VRSCCP)**
www.glc.org/streamclean

**Great Lakes Restoration
Planning Workshops**
www.glc.org/restwksph

**The Helsinki Commission
(HELCOM)**
www.helcom.fi

**International Field Years
on Lake Erie**
www.glerl.noaa.gov/ifyle

Great Lakes Links & Publications

One of the largest, most comprehensive field research programs ever conducted on Lake Erie is getting under way this spring.

The 2005 International Field Year on Lake Erie is a multidisciplinary, binational effort to better understand the major threats facing the lake and their effects on the Lake Erie ecosystem. At least 10 research vessels will be involved, including full-time commitments by NOAA's *R/V Laurentian* and *R/V Cyclops* from May to mid-October.

The two-year project will have three main goals: 1) examine the causes and consequences of the recurring low-oxygen "dead zones" in the lake's central basin, 2) study the harmful algae blooms that appear in the shallow western basin, and 3) evaluate how these events, along with invasive species and the physics of the lake, influence the dynamics of the food web and fish production. The ultimate goal will be to develop forecasts of low-oxygen events (hypoxia), harmful algae blooms and fish production that can aid decisionmaking processes.

"Since Lake Erie is the most heavily impacted of the Great Lakes, it posed the most critical subject for the lake-wide scope of the study," said Dr. Stephen Brandt, director of NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL). "Much of what we learn in this study can be applied to solve problems elsewhere in the Great Lakes as well."

Along with invasive species, the algae blooms and hypoxia are considered among the most serious problems facing Lake Erie, with the poten-

tial to disrupt normal food web and ecosystem processes, and jeopardize the lake's ecosystem assets, including recreational and commercial fishing, safe drinking water and clean, bacteria-free beaches.



A crew member prepares sequential sediment trap for deployment during a 1999 research cruise. Photo, NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory

Depending on the availability of ship time and other resources, project sponsors hope to be able to continue the research into 2006 and 2007.

The project is jointly sponsored by GLERL, the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program, and the Ohio and New York Sea Grant college programs. Additional major funding is provided by the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office. Collaborators include numerous state, provincial and federal agencies, both U.S. and Canadian.

For more information, see the program web site at www.glerl.noaa.gov/ifyle

Mayors working toward unified voice

U.S. and Canadian mayors of coastal communities in the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River basin are making progress toward a unified presence in regional policy issues. In July 2003, the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors and the Great Lakes Cities Initiative met in Chicago where they agreed, in principle, to merge the two organizations.

The merger should be finalized at the next meeting of the International Association of Great

Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors in Québec City, May 25-27. This will result in a new binational Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River mayors organization that will likely have offices in Chicago on the U.S. side, and Toronto and Québec City in Canada. The merged organization will address a wide range of regional issues affecting environmental quality, public health and sustainable economic development.

Contact: Dave Knight, dknight@glc.org

New Mackinaw icebreaker hits the waves

With a mighty splash, the new *Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw*, the long-awaited replacement for the most celebrated icebreaker on the Great Lakes, was launched April 2 in Marinette, Wis.

The new vessel, a 240-foot icebreaker/buoy tender, will replace a larger vessel of the same name that has been in service since 1944. It is scheduled to join the Coast Guard fleet in late 2005, after its outfitting is complete.

Like its predecessor, the new *Mackinaw* will be the Coast Guard's largest and most powerful icebreaker on the Great Lakes. Other missions will include search and rescue, law enforcement, homeland security and buoy tending, among others.

Its popular predecessor has been one of the most visible vessels on the lakes, a regular presence at the annual Chicago/Port Huron to Mackinac Island sailboat races and other events, in addition to its icebreaking duties. Age and maintenance costs gradually limited its usefulness, and a replacement was authorized. In tribute to the original, the name *Mackinaw* was retained for the new cutter.

The new *Mackinaw* is designed to be capable of breaking through 32 inches of surface ice at a

speed of three knots and tackling piles of ice up to 10 feet thick. The \$90 million vessel also has a 20-ton crane for retrieving aides to navigation, an oil spill recovery system and will carry a crew of 46. It will be based in Cheboygan, Mich.



A support vessel is dwarfed by the splash created by the new CGC Mackinaw as it slides into the Menominee River at the Marinette Marine Corp. shipyard where it was built. U.S. Coast Guard photo by PA2 David Mosely.

Great Lakes Calendar

IAGLR 48th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research

May 23-27, 2005, Ann Arbor, Mich.
Contact: Tom Johengen, 734-764-2426, 05chairs@iaglr.org

2005 International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors' Conference

May 25-27, 2005, Québec City, Québec
Contact: 800-523-3066, Maires2005@qvc.qc.ca

EECO 2005 Environment & Energy Conference

May 25-27, 2005, Toronto, Ontario
Contact: The GLOBE Foundation of Canada, 604-775-7300, info@eeco2005.com

Sea Grant Week 2005

June 3-8, 2005, Camden-Rockport, Maine
Contact: Maine Sea Grant, 207-581-1435, umseagrant@maine.edu

Great Lakes Fishery Commission's 50th Annual Meeting

June 7-8, 2005, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
Contact: 734-662-3209, info@glfc.org

Great Lakes Environmental Journalism Training Institute

June 7-11, 2005, East Lansing, Mich. and Wawa, Ontario
Contact: Jim Detjen, 517-353-9479, detjen@msu.edu

2005 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Review and IJC Biennial Meeting

June 9-11, 2005, Kingston, Ontario
Contact: Jennifer Day, 519-257-6733, dayj@windsor.ijc.org

Soo Locks 150 Year Celebration

June 24-September 2, 2005, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.
Contact: Sault Ste. Marie Convention & Visitors Bureau, 800-MI-SAULT (800-647-2858). info@saultstmarie.com

Lake Superior Day

July 17, 2005, basinwide
Contact: Barb Nicol, 807-343-8811, bnicol@lakeheadu.ca

Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission and 50th Anniversary Celebration

September 27-29, 2005, Ann Arbor, Mich.
Contact: Tom Crane, 734-971-9135, tcrane@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 Kirk Haverkamp at 734-971-9135 or kirkh@glc.org

Save trees and money!

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

Collaborating on a rare opportunity



Tom Huntley

Policymaking can be a slow process. By contrast, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration is proceeding at a brisk pace. Following the formal kickoff last December, the eight teams charged with developing the draft restoration and protection strategy got down to work and will deliver their results in July, at the first Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Summit in Duluth. Following a period of public comment and revision, the final strategy

will be released in December at the second summit in Chicago.

A year may not seem like much time to develop a comprehensive restoration and protection strategy for the world's greatest freshwater resource. Fortunately, we're not starting from scratch. The Great Lakes Commission and our many partners in this region have been working for years on developing the elements of such a strategy. What the Regional Collaboration process has done is to focus those efforts and drive them toward a conclusion.

Just as important, the Regional Collaboration has brought together a broad range of interests and invested them in the process. That means that come December, we will not only have a plan in place, we'll have the foundation to press for its implementation. Opportunities like this don't come along very often – let's make the most of it!

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank Mike Donahue for the effective leadership he has provided this organization and the Great Lakes community at large over the past two decades. He has been a tireless advocate and consensus-builder on behalf of the Great Lakes, and our region is the better for his service. We wish him all the best in his new endeavors.

Hon. Thomas E. Huntley, Ph.D. chair, Great Lakes Commission

Where in the Great Lakes?



Can you identify this Great Lakes scene? (Hint: The photo wasn't taken from an airplane) If you think you know, e-mail your answer, along with your name, address and phone number to kirkh@glc.org or mail it to the *Advisor* at the address on the mailing panel below. All correct responses received by **June 6, 2005**, will be entered into a drawing. The winner will receive his/her choice of a Great Lakes Commission satchel or a \$10 credit toward the purchase of any Commission publication.

Last issue's winner was Roger Eberhardt, of the Michigan DEQ Office of the Great Lakes. He identified this photo of



the wreck of the Francisco Morazan, which ran aground off Lake Michigan's S. Manitou Island in 1960. Thanks to everyone who entered! Photo: Judith Kubitz, Michigan Travel Bureau.

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

Advisor

Eisenhower Corporate Park
2805 S. Industrial Hwy., Suite 100
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6791

Address Service Requested

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 112
ANN ARBOR, MI

Time to update your subscription?

If you have moved, changed jobs or no longer wish to receive the *Advisor*, please contact Marilyn Ratliff at 734-971-9135 or mratliff@glc.org