



Advisor

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Would boost ballast research, target high-risk vectors

National Aquatic Invasive Species Act introduced

The National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA) of 2002, now before Congress, offers much-needed federal authority and funding to aggressively advance prevention and control of aquatic invasive species on a national scale. The legislation, which would reauthorize the National Invasive Species Act (NISA) of 1996, has the potential to yield major benefits for the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence region.

The Great Lakes Commission and the [Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species](#) have been vocal advocates for NISA reauthorization and have called for new provisions to address gaps and unmet needs in the existing legislation. Among the many recommendations is the urgent need to enhance the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal dispersal barrier and to accelerate and expand research into ballast water treatment, both of which would help prevent the introduction of new invasive species into Great Lakes waters.

Once established, aquatic invasive populations can cause severe, irreversible ecological and economic damage. To address introductions resulting from ballast water discharges, a leading vector, NAISA strengthens requirements for the shipping industry to implement ballast water exchange practices. These practices, presently limited to the Great Lakes, would be required nationwide under NAISA. The legislation calls for nationwide regulatory standards for ballast water discharge as well.

NAISA also requires a process for identifying those vectors that pose the highest risk of introduction, nationally and regionally. This would pave the way for the development of tools to minimize introductions from known commercial and recreational vectors, such as aquaculture, aquarium releases and horticultural practices. The legislation also outlines a screening process for planned importations of live aquatic organisms.

The legislation authorizes funding for a variety of purposes in the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence region. Among the most important is \$30 million for state management plans across the nation, coupled with \$3 million for regional panels and their coordination, orchestrated by the national ANS Task Force. Since invasive species wreak havoc regardless of political boundaries, these regional panels, as demonstrated by the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, help fill an urgent need for interjurisdictional approaches to manage these problems at regional, national and binational scales. Other Great Lakes Panel priorities addressed in NAISA include more prominent information, education and outreach programs, and a provision for a rapid response program.

NAISA also calls for \$12.75 million in appropriations for the Chicago River and Sani-

We're moving!

The Great Lakes Commission is moving to new offices! Effective Oct. 21, we'll have a new address and phone number. For details, see story on page 4.

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Commission News & Views

From the desk of the president/CEO...

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.

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Cover photo: Lake Michigan beach at Elberta, Mich. Michigan Travel Bureau

To study or not to study; that is the question

When I took “Planning 101” in college, I was taught that sound decisions are a function of sound process. Define the issue, assemble the team, analyze the data, solicit input, present outcomes and build consensus. Pretty straightforward stuff.

There’s another model out there, however, and I must have missed class that day. It’s a “risk assessment” model of sorts. It goes like this: define the issue and, if there’s a chance the outcome may not be favorable, prevent the study from taking place at all.

These two models are mutually exclusive and lead to an interesting dichotomy.

On one hand, the entire Great Lakes community likes to repeat the “more data, more research” mantra in the interest of

scientifically sound decision support. On the other hand, there’s resistance to even undertake some studies. Two cases come immediately to mind.

- The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement is 15 years old in “people years” but 50 years old in “science and management” years. Yet there’s resistance in some quarters to reviewing it. Some fear it could be weakened, others fear the opposite. I fear it will just become irrelevant. Consider the *Eleventh Biennial Report on Great Lakes Water Quality*, just released by the International Joint Commission, which lists invasive species, habitat degradation, land use and water quantity among the leading Great Lakes issues. Unfortunately, none of these are substantively addressed in the current agreement. Isn’t it time for a review?

- The congressionally mandated Great Lakes Navigation Study proposes a thorough review of system transportation needs and alternative futures – something that has never been done before. Its purpose is to assess the economic and environ-

mental implications of a range of options for modifying the system (i.e., dredging and infrastructure), including a “do-nothing” alternative. There’s concern in some quarters, however, that the most extensive scenario (35’ dredged system depth from Montreal to Duluth) is a *fait accompli* if the study is funded.

Frankly, I have *some* empathy for those who raise such concerns. Our federal agencies do not have a uniformly stellar track record when it comes to large-scale plans and investigations. Nor do they deserve all the criticism they have received. But isn’t it in our best interest to improve the process rather than abrogate it?

“Indeed, the only way to put bad ideas to rest, and good ideas to use, is to let the truth come out.”

For the record, the Great Lakes Commission has no vested interest in a specific outcome for either study. We’re concerned about the environmental implications of some navigation system options and we’re concerned about “backsliding” on Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement commitments. But we fully support such studies and welcome any others that objectively inform the decisionmaking process. Indeed, the only way to put bad ideas to rest, and good ideas to use, is to let the truth come out.

The real issue is not so much facts and figures as it is trust. Can such studies be undertaken in an open, inclusive, objective and methodologically sound manner? Let’s focus our energies on ensuring that they are, rather than on preventing such studies from taking place at all.



Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

Ohio Gov. Taft to keynote 2002 Annual Meeting

Ohio Gov. Bob Taft will lead a distinguished lineup of speakers at the [2002 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission](#) Oct. 15 in Cleveland.

Taft, who chairs the Council of Great Lakes Governors, will address the meeting theme of “Building Partnerships for Restoration.” He’ll speak to the challenges facing the Great Lakes and the governors’ efforts toward a region-wide, consensus-based effort to address those challenges.

“Our shared mission to restore and protect the Great Lakes has never been more critical,” Taft said. “It’s going to take a unified vision, and the work of many parties, to identify and address our problems and take full advantage of oppor-

tunities to fulfill this mission.”

Taft’s address will precede a special session later that day examining the various aspects of developing a Great Lakes Restoration Plan and updating its progress. Other featured speakers include Ohio Congressman Steve LaTourette.

The meeting will also feature the election of a new chair and vice chair, an annual event per Commission bylaws. (See [special insert](#), this issue.) Other highlights include an examination of the status and adequacy of U.S. and Canadian federal Great Lakes programs, including reports by the U.S. General Accounting Office and the Auditor General of Canada. See <https://www.glc.org/meeting>.

Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

Congress urged to fund Great Lakes Navigation Study

The Great Lakes Commission has urged Congress to appropriate \$2 million to continue funding a study of possible futures for the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Seaway system and associated economic and environmental considerations. As a major part of the commercial navigation deep draft system, the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Seaway needs a thorough review of its existing infrastructure and possible improvements to assure sound policy and funding decisions in the future.

“Over time, shipping patterns change, technology presents new opportunities and infrastructure such as locks and dredged channels need to be revisited,” said Nat Robinson, chairman of the Great Lakes Commission. “The Great Lakes states and the nation will benefit from the information gained from this study.”

The restrictions imposed by the current infrastructure, including channel depth and width of shipping locks, limit the system’s viability as an option for shipping cargo. Most of today’s oceangoing vessels, including nearly all of the container ships that have revolutionized international trade, are too large for Great Lakes–St. Lawrence locks and connecting channels. Other parts of the system, such as the 70-year-old locks

on the Welland Canal, are aging and becoming difficult to maintain.

A reconnaissance-level study, led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers–Detroit District, was completed in June 2002. That produced a recommendation to proceed with a full feasibility study, projected to take five years.

In May, the Commission unanimously adopted a resolution calling for Canadian federal and provincial participation in the feasibility study. The Great Lakes–St. Lawrence system is a binational transportation system, vital to both the regional and national economies. Canadian involvement, including the contribution of funds, would ensure a comprehensive assessment of this waterway, which moves 180–200 million tons a year.

The International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors has also unanimously urged continuation of the navigation study, emphasizing that the study must assess the environmental consequences of all potential navigation improvements.

Contact: Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org



*Ship arriving in the Duluth, Minn. channel.
Photo: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*

Commission Briefs

New address, offices for Great Lakes Commission

Update your address cards. The Great Lakes Commission is getting a new home.

The Commission will move into new offices Oct. 21-22, 2002, in the Eisenhower Corporate Park in Ann Arbor, Mich. The move will double the Commission's current space and consolidate all of its operations under one roof. Commission staff are presently dispersed among two buildings near downtown Ann Arbor.

"The Commission has grown substantially in recent years as we've added staff to address our increasing state and regional priorities," said Chairman Nat Robinson. "This move will greatly improve our operating efficiency by

bringing everyone together in one place and providing room to grow as we continue to take on a new projects and responsibilities."

The Commission's new address and telephone numbers will be:

Great Lakes Commission

Eisenhower Corporate Park

2805 South Industrial Highway, Suite 100

Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6791

Phone: 734-971-9135

Fax: 734-971-9150

Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org

Great Lakes Day: Congressional Breakfast and Issues Briefing

March 20, 2003
Washington, D.C.

Great Lakes Commission 2003 Semiannual Meeting

April 16-18, 2003
Indianapolis, Ind.

10th World Lakes Conference and IAGLR Annual Conference

June 22-26, 2003
Chicago, Ill.

mark your calendar

Water resources management study to be released

The interim findings and recommendations of the Commission's Water Resources Management Decision Support System (WRMDSS) project will be presented Oct. 15 at the organization's 2002 Annual Meeting in Cleveland.

This two-year project is laying the groundwork for a system, called for in Annex 2001 of the Great Lakes Charter, that provides the scientific and technical basis for decisions on water withdrawal proposals. The Commission and its partners are compiling and synthesizing information

on the status of Great Lakes water resources, current water uses and ecological impacts of individual and cumulative water withdrawals.

The report identifies data needs for decision support, characterizes existing information, and recommends ways to address unmet needs.

Reports generated by this Great Lakes Protection Fund-supported project are available at www.glc.org/waterquantity/wrmdss and will soon be on CD-ROM as well.

Contact: Tom Crane, tcrane@glc.org.

Regional approach to ocean policy urged

With a new national ocean policy in the works, the Great Lakes Commission is urging federal authorities not to overlook the nation's freshwater resources, including the Great Lakes.

Testifying at a regional hearing of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (USCOP) Sept. 24 in Chicago, Great Lakes Commission board member Dr. Frank Kudrna, Ph.D., told the panel that any national ocean policy must fully address the nation's freshwater resources and, specifically, the Great Lakes.

While endorsing the concept of a national ocean policy, Kudrna expressed concern over the disparity between marine and freshwater

resources that often exists in federal policy. He noted that the Great Lakes are formally recognized as the nation's "fourth seacoast" in federal law and, as such, are entitled to equal standing with the nation's saltwater coasts.

Established under the Oceans Act of 2000, the USCOP is conducting an 18-month study of U.S. ocean and coastal programs and activities, leading to recommendations for a comprehensive national ocean policy.

The complete text of Dr. Kudrna's testimony is available online at: www.glc.org/announce/02/09oceanpolicy.pdf. Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.



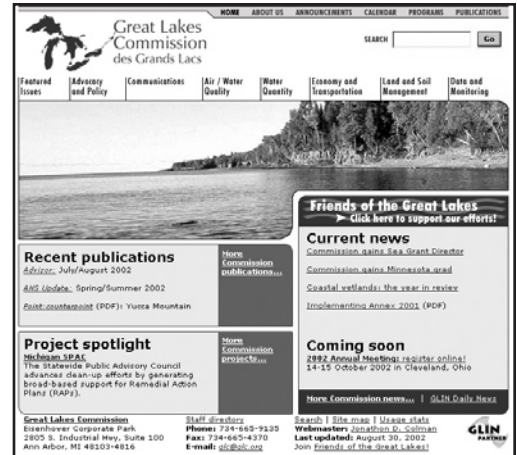
Dr. Frank Kudrna

www.glc.org to get a new look

The Great Lakes Commission web site is getting a new look this fall! As the Commission expands its work into new projects and program areas, its web site is also changing to help people discover and use all of its offerings on the Web. The new web site – to be unveiled October 15, 2002, at www.glc.org – will feature many improvements in navigation, ease of use, loading time and integration with the [Great Lakes Information Network \(GLIN\)](#) and [Friends of the Great Lakes](#). Users will be able to access all of their favorite Commission web pages and products, from the online edition of the *Advisor* to the new Great Lakes Water Use Database, in no more than two clicks (and usu-

ally just one) from any page on the web site. An online publications catalog offering fast, simple and secure ordering from the Commission's diverse store of documents will be added shortly after the debut of the new web design. Other new developments will include database-driven news, expanded economy and tourism information, and much more!

Contact: Jon Colman, jcolman@glc.org.



New GLC homepage, to be unveiled Oct. 15

Stormwater experts to assist with local erosion control

A four-year program to reduce construction-related sediment loading and restore stream channel integrity has begun in the western Lake Erie basin, thanks to a \$200,000 grant from the Great Lakes Commission.

Construction in the Cleveland and Toledo metropolitan areas has resulted in large increases in stormwater runoff and sedimentation. This threatens to obliterate many of the successes the region has achieved in controlling erosion and nonpoint source pollution through agricultural best management practices.

The new program will provide grants for soil and water conservation districts to employ

stormwater specialists for the purpose of training local officials on state guidelines for stormwater detention and stream protection, and assisting developers with sediment reduction plans at construction sites. Managed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil and Water Conservation, the program also includes demonstrations of techniques for restoring stream channel integrity.

The program is partially funded by the Great Lakes Commission through a grant from the congressionally authorized [Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control](#).

Contact: Gary Overmier, garyo@glc.org.

NAISA (continued from page 1)

tary Canal dispersal barrier project, mentioned above. This includes appropriations to complete the existing barrier and construct a second, more permanent barrier, as well as for a monitoring program.

Sen. Carl Levin (MI) and Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (MD) are the lead sponsors of the legislation, while, Rep. Vernon Ehlers (MI) has introduced separate legislation on research, the National Aquatic Invasive Species Research Act. Co-sponsors of the NAISA legislation include 13

members of the Congressional Great Lakes Task Force.

As of this writing, the House and Senate versions of the legislation are under consideration by their respective committees. It remains to be seen if they will be sent to the floor for a vote before the end of this session. For a copy of the legislation or the Great Lakes Panel recommendations, contact Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, shwayder@glc.org.

GLIN Daily News: What readers have to say!

A recent survey of [Great Lakes Information Network](#) (GLIN) Daily News subscribers generated a huge response, with nearly one-quarter of subscribers returning e-mail questionnaires.

Of the more than 1,100 Daily News subscribers, 230

completed the survey, an impressive response rate. Readers were queried about their use of the Daily News services, including the story archive and press room; preference for story topics (*e.g.*, environmental issues vs. economy/business news); general impressions regarding number of articles featured each day; and the length and usefulness of the story summaries.

Typical comments included:

“Not a week goes by that we don’t recommend the GLIN Daily News service to other individuals or forward the email by request. Thanks for a

wonderful service.”

“I subscribe to several news clipping services – Dow Jones, Bacon’s, Chicago Tribune, New York Times – and the GLIN service is one of the very best.”

“Keep up the good work; GLIN Daily News is an extremely useful resource for me.”

Readers ranked their interest in environmental stories highest, followed by economy/business, tourism/recreation and maritime/transportation. More than 50 percent of users said they read the full text of the news articles on GLIN 2-3 times a week and search the archive 2-3 times/month. A slightly lower, but growing, percentage of readers regularly visit the press room, which is the newest product in GLIN’s suite of Daily News services.

Daily News was added to GLIN in 1999 and is now the most popular “Point of Entry” section on the GLIN web site.

To subscribe to GLIN Daily News and receive the free daily digest of Great Lakes headlines via e-mail, visit www.great-lakes.net/news. Contact: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org.



Great Lakes Endowment receives NMMA support

The [Great Lakes Endowment](#) has received a substantial boost with a gift of \$25,000 from the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA). By helping capitalize the fund, the gift will help support the communications, policy research and advocacy efforts of the Great Lakes Commission. Interest earned will be directed toward special projects determined by the membership and will augment state dues, and grants and contracts.

“We are very interested in the Commission’s work on behalf of the Great Lakes and particularly its support of recreational boating,” said Thomas Dammrich, NMMA president, noting in particular the Commission’s ongoing work to assess the economic impact of recreational boating. “Closer cooperation between our organizations will surely bring positive results for the Great Lakes and recreational boating.”

Chairman Nat Robinson expressed the Commission’s gratitude for the gift.

“President Dammrich and the entire association have demonstrated they are truly ‘Friends of the Great Lakes’ through this generous gift,” Robinson said. “Support such as this will help all who live, work or play in this region achieve a cleaner environment, a stronger economy and a higher quality of life.”

The Great Lakes Endowment was launched late last year by the Commission, and capitalized with a \$500,000 allocation by the membership, as well as generous gifts by board members, staff and other friends. The Commission matches all gifts into the fund on a dollar-for-dollar basis. For more information, visit the the web site at <http://friendsofthegreatlakes.org>.

Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

Commission developing plan for Isle Royale National Park

The Great Lakes Commission, in conjunction with the National Park Service, has begun work on a water resources management plan (WRMP) for Isle Royale National Park in northern Lake Superior.

The National Park Service is in the process of developing WRMPs for nearly all the parks in the national park system. Isle Royale is of particular interest because it is one of the most isolated and pristine parks in the entire system, and is often used as a benchmark for studies of human impacts.

The project will document the status of the park's water resources, including inland lakes and the surrounding waters of Lake Superior, and assess how they have changed over time. Among the water resource issues to be considered in drafting the plan are the impacts of the park's hotel, water treatment facility and oil storage sites; possible aquatic nuisance species pathways into the park's inland lakes and streams; air deposition of toxins from remote emissions sources; recreational boating at the park's harbor; and the effects of hiking and camping in the park's wilderness regions.

Commission staff have begun work on a draft WRMP that will include a description of the park's hydrological and geological environment; an outline of objectives for addressing water-related resource issues; a summary of air, land, water and ecological resources; and an overview of state and federal programs, legislation and regulations that apply to the park's water resources. The plan is scheduled to be completed by September 2003.

Funding for the project is provided by the National Park Service through its Water Resources Division.

Contact: Mike Schneider, michaels@glc.org.



Looking east from Mott Island, in Isle Royale National Park.

Leading hydrologist, other specialists join staff

The Great Lakes Commission welcomes three new members to its professional staff.

Roger Gauthier, a longtime hydrologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Detroit District, is manager of the Commission's newly established Data and Information Management Program. One of the region's most respected experts on Great Lakes levels and flows, Gauthier is joining the Commission through a multi-year interagency personnel agreement with the Corps. He will oversee the Commission's data collection, analysis and management activities.

Anne Sturm is a geographic information system (GIS) specialist in the Commission's Environmental Quality Program. Sturm is

working on the Commission's Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair monitoring inventories and with the Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium to develop a long-term monitoring program for Great Lakes coastal wetlands. She previously was employed with the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries as a GIS analyst.

Christian Guenther oversees computer systems support for all Commission staff. He also assists with maintenance and development of the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN). He most recently worked as a production and information technology manager at Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. in Sacramento, Calif.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are more than 400 islands in the Isle Royale archipelago in Lake Superior. Formed from the parallel ridges of ancient lava flows that were tilted, then glaciated, the archipelago is 45 miles long and nine miles wide at its widest point. Isle Royale National Park encompasses more than 450 square miles, including submerged lands extending four and a half miles offshore. Source: U.S. National Park Service.

Developing tools for Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence study

Commission members tapped for new posts



Brent Manning, a member of the Commission's Illinois Delegation and director of the state's Department of Natural Resources, has been elected president of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Manning was elected Sept. 21 at the association's fall meeting in Big Sky, Mont.



Maurice Boisvert, chair of the Commission's Québec Delegation, has been named president of Québec's Office de la protection du consommateur, (Office of Consumer Protection). Boisvert formerly served as the province's official liaison in Chicago. He is also Québec's first representative on the Great Lakes Commission Board of Directors.

The Great Lakes Commission is helping to develop a comprehensive information management strategy for the International Lake Ontario–St. Lawrence River Study. The study, a five-year effort by the International Joint Commission (IJC), is investigating whether the criteria used to regulate outflows from Lake Ontario could be modified to better meet the diverse needs of the users of the Lake Ontario–St. Lawrence system and address environmental impacts.

The information management strategy seeks to manage the study's large volume of data, facilitate the exchange of information among participants, and provide broad public access to the information generated during the study.

The strategy has three main components. A robust search engine will be developed for the project's web pages to help users obtain information on specific aspects of the Lake Ontario–St. Lawrence system. Networked computer servers will act as regional data “warehouses” located

in Ontario, Quebec and at Great Lakes Commission offices in Ann Arbor, Mich. The servers will provide geographic information system (GIS) mapping capabilities for the distributed network. Finally, an integrated document management system will be developed to provide web access to text, graphics and tabular information.

Work over the next six months will involve developing “metadata,” or intensive descriptions of data holdings, establishing links among the regional data “warehouses,” populating geospatial and temporal datasets, and developing the search and web mapping capabilities.

The study involves a binational team of experts from government, native communities, academia and communities around the system. Roger Gauthier, manager of the Commission's new Data and Information Management Program, has been a member of the study's technical support team since it began in 2000.

Contact: Roger Gauthier, gauthier@glc.org.

Great Lakes Legacy Act gathers momentum

The Great Lakes Legacy Act, now making its way through Congress, has found a vocal advocate in the Great Lakes Commission.

The House recently passed its version of the bill (H.R. 1070), introduced by Michigan's Rep. Vern Ehlers, while a companion bill (S.2544), has been introduced in the Senate by Michigan Sen. Carl Levin. Both would authorize \$50 million annually for five years to clean up Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs). This level of funding is a key objective of the Commission's [Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity](#). (PDF)

While both bills authorize funds for AOC cleanup, differences remain that must be addressed. In Sept. 12 correspondence to congressional leadership, Commission Chair-

man Nat Robinson addressed these differences, calling for a reasonable nonfederal cost share arrangement, a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process, and targeting all authorized funds to cleanup actions.

Enactment and full funding of the Great Lakes Legacy Act would represent a major “down payment” on a long-term investment in cleaning up the 31 U.S. and binational Great Lakes AOCs identified via Annex 2 provisions of the U.S.–Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The Commission has been a key player in efforts to restore Great Lakes AOCs, both through its advocacy efforts and assistance in developing Remedial Action Plans for individual AOCs. Contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org.

Private beach or emerging wetland?

The controversy over grooming beaches exposed by low water

Ernie Krygier Jr., president, Save Our Shoreline

Saginaw Bay property owners have groomed and maintained their beautiful sugar-sand beaches for decades without incident. Now, for the first time in history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) are prohibiting them from grooming their beaches so that new proliferating vegetation may grow.

The MDEQ and USACE claim jurisdiction over these newly exposed beaches. But shoreline property extends to the water's edge. This is not only what many deeds say, but the Michigan Supreme Court, as well, in *Hilt v. Weber* (1930).

Any student of history or land-use planning recognizes the link between standing marsh waters and disease. It is inconceivable that, as the Michigan Department of Community Health is urging the elimination of standing water to protect against the deadly West Nile virus, the MDEQ and USACE are threatening

to sue any person who fills in standing water on their Great Lakes beach, which is the shoreline property owner's front yard.

Tourism is important to all communities along the Great Lakes, for it provides the revenues necessary to keep these communities alive. According to USACE, tourism is our nation's largest industry and employer. Attractive beaches are the biggest factor in making the tourism industry successful.

Our analysis shows that property owners with clean and sandy beaches pay about two-thirds more in property taxes than those whose beaches are filled with weeds. If the MDEQ and USACE get their way, all beaches will become marshes filled with weeds, mosquitoes and rodents. Where will the funds come from when property values drop? What will this mean for our schools, roads and bridges, senior citizens and libraries? Disaster! This will affect everyone, not just shoreline property owners.

POINT
POINT



Ernie Krygier Jr. is president of Save Our Shoreline, a nonprofit organization of more than 1,500 shoreline property owners based in Bay City, Mich.
www.saveourshoreline.org

Douglas A. Wilcox, USGS Great Lakes Science Center

Water-level fluctuations in the Great Lakes result from natural climatic variability. Lake Huron water levels have ranged more than six feet during the last century, and studies indicate that, over the past 3,000 years, cycles of high and low waters occurred about every 30-33 years, overlaid on a longer cycle of every 150-160 years. These are **natural** patterns; the current low lake level affecting Saginaw Bay is part of them and is the first to occur since the 1960s.

Great Lakes wetlands developed to adapt to these natural fluctuation patterns and, in fact, depend on them to create diverse habitats. Both high and low lake levels are **required**. High levels periodically eliminate dominant emergent plants. When levels recede and expose the sediment, less competitive species can grow from seed, complete a life cycle, and replenish the seed bank before being replaced again by the

dominant species. This is also a recurring cycle. Meanwhile, a natural restoration has taken place, with a much greater diversity of fish and wildlife habitats provided by the more diverse plant community.

More than four dozen fish species and two dozen waterfowl species use these wetlands for reproduction, rearing and feeding. If humans destroy the new plant communities, they reduce the amount of new habitat created and the productivity of fish and wildlife. They throw away a multi-million dollar wetland restoration provided at no cost by nature. They also reduce the tourism and economic benefits to a whole region that are associated with recreational fishing and hunting, as well as the benefits of nutrient uptake, protection from waves, and reduced turbidity provided by plants. For the Saginaw Bay region as a whole, is it worth it?

counterpoint
counterpoint



Douglas A. Wilcox, Ph.D., P.W.S., is branch chief for coastal and wetland ecology at the U.S. Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor, Mich.

IJC reports slow progress in Great Lakes restoration

Despite numerous programs in Canada and the United States, little progress is being made to restore and maintain the chemical and biological integrity of the Great Lakes, the International Joint Commission (IJC) has reported.

In its Eleventh Biennial Report on Great Lakes Water Quality, the IJC finds that, while some improvements have been made under the U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) between the two countries, substantially greater efforts are required to meet the goals of the Agreement.

“The Agreement is now 30 years old and even though progress has been made, it has been slow,” said Herb Gray, chair of the IJC’s Canadian Section. “We see no evidence based on the nature and pace of current activities that restoration will happen within the next generation’s lifetime.”

The report identifies three major priorities and offers specific recommendations for each: 1) monitoring the lakes and developing reliable

data; 2) cleaning up toxic sediments; and 3) prevention and control of alien invasive species.

The report also identifies other major challenges facing the lakes, including cleaning up Areas of Concern, phosphorus levels in the lakes, dredging, airborne toxic substances, contaminated groundwater, research and development, the Lake Superior Binational Program, nuclear issues and unmonitored chemicals.

Under the GLWQA, the IJC conducts a biennial assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of programs and progress to restore and maintain the health of the Great Lakes and reports its findings and makes recommendations to governments. The IJC’s Science Advisory Board, co-chaired by Mike Donahue, Commission president/CEO, participated in the report’s development.

The full report is available online at www.ijc.org/comm/11br/english/report/index.html.

Contact: Jennifer Day, DayJ@windsor.ijc.org.

Great Lakes Commission
www.glc.org

2002 Great Lakes
Commission Annual Meeting
<https://www.glc.org/meeting>

GLIN Daily News
www.great-lakes.net/news

IJC 11th Biennial Report on
Great Lakes Water Quality
www.ijc.org/comm/11br/english/report/index.html

Isle Royale National Park
www.nps.gov/isro

Save Our Shoreline
www.saveourshoreline.org

USGS Great Lakes Science
Center
www.glsc.usgs.gov

U.S. Commission on
Ocean Policy
www.oceancommission.gov

International Lake Ontario
– St. Lawrence River Study
www.losl.org

USGS Great Lakes Aquatic
Gap Analysis
www.glsc.usgs.gov/GLGAP.htm

Water Resources Manage-
ment Decision Support
System for the Great Lakes
www.glc.org/waterquantity/wrmdss

Great Lakes Panel on
Aquatic Nuisance Species
www.glc.org/ans/anspanel.html

State of the Lakes
Ecosystem Conference
(SOLEC)
www.binational.net/solec2002-e.html

USGS to map richness of aquatic life in the Great Lakes

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and its cooperators are launching a five-year study in the Great Lakes basin to identify and map unprotected areas of substantial richness in aquatic animal species, and to determine how free those habitats are from human disturbance. By locating the places that support a full range of aquatic species, scientists hope to help decisionmakers identify gaps and set priorities for conservation.

“Our goal is to keep common species common,” said Donna Myers, coordinator of the USGS Great Lakes Aquatic Gap Analysis Program (GAP). “The most efficient way to protect animal species is to protect their habitats. But protection can’t be successfully accomplished until we know where these places are located.”

The Nature Conservancy estimates that the Great Lakes region supports more than 30 com-

munities of plants and animals that are found nowhere else on Earth. However, knowledge of this environmentally critical region is incomplete. At the same time, there are many threats to the aquatic biodiversity of the Great Lakes region including invasive species, agricultural development, forestry and urban expansion.

The Great Lakes Aquatic GAP project will provide maps, data, information and scientific studies of basinwide, lakewide, and statewide patterns in aquatic biodiversity. The USGS Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor, Mich., is leading the regional effort to combine data from all the Great Lakes states.

For more information, visit www.glsc.usgs.gov/GLGAP.htm. or www.gap.uidaho.edu.

Source: United States Geological Survey

Hall takes command of Corps' Buffalo District

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Hall is the new commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Buffalo District, assuming the post on Aug. 29.

Hall previously served as engineer officer in the joint operations sector for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Joint Headquarters North-east in Karup, Denmark. He succeeds Lt. Col. Glen DeWillie, who retired from the Corps and is now with the Pennsylvania-based Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

Elsewhere around the Great Lakes, Lori Boughton has been appointed director of Pennsylvania's Office of the Great Lakes. She previously handled watershed issues in north-eastern Pennsylvania for the state's Department

of Environmental Protection (DEP) and is a former supervisor with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Site Remediation Enforcement. She succeeds Kelly Burch, who last December was appointed director of DEP's Northwest Region.

Richard Warner, a University of Illinois ecologist and administrator, has been appointed the director of the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program (IISG), having served as interim director since Phillip Pope stepped down in 2001. Warner brings to Sea Grant a background rich in fisheries and wildlife research, having held a number of administrative and academic positions at the university.



Lt. Col. Jeffrey Hall

The Last Word (continued from page 12)

mission to remain competitive and influential. We witnessed the largest budget growth in Commission history.

Indeed, we have a lot to celebrate! But our work is not yet done! Inspired by our accomplishments and building on our proud tradition, rich heritage and high quality of life, together we will continue to secure a stronger and brighter future. Our best is yet to come! Thank you for

your support and for allowing me this wonderful opportunity to serve!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

NATHANIEL E. ROBINSON

Chairman of the Board
Great Lakes Commission

Great Lakes Calendar

Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council Fall Meeting

October 29, 2002, Chicago, Ill.
Contact: John Hummer, 734-971-9135,
jhummer@glc.org

Great Lakes Recreational Water Quality Association Annual Meeting

October 30, 2002, Chicago, Ill.
Richard Whitman, 219-926-8336 ext. 424,
richard_whitman@usgs.gov

University of Michigan Great Lakes Symposium: Our Challenging Future

Nov. 4-5, 2002, Ann Arbor, Mich.
Contact: Jennifer Read, 734-936-3622, jread@glc.org

National Association of Conservation Districts Great Lakes Committee Meeting

November 13-14, 2002, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
Contact: Jennifer Read, 734-936-3622, jread@glc.org

National Water Crisis: Managing International Waters in Crisis

November 14-15, 2002, Toledo, Ohio
Contact: Frank Merritt, 419-530-2949,
fmerrit@utnet.utoledo.edu

Workshop: Innovations in Assessing, Monitoring and Restoring Great Lakes Areas of Concern

November 22, 2002, Saginaw, Mich.
Contact: Matt Doss, 734-971-9135, mdoss@glc.org

Great Lakes Day: Congressional Breakfast and Issues Briefing

March 20, 2003, Washington, D.C.
Contact: Mike Donahue, 734-971-9135,
mdonahue@glc.org

2003 Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting

April 16-18, 2003, Indianapolis, Ind.
Contact: Mike Donahue, 734-971-9135,
mdonahue@glc.org

Further details and a more extensive calendar are available online via the [Great Lakes Information Network \(www.great-lakes.net\)](http://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.

From the top...

The Last Word



Nathaniel E. Robinson

Celebrating our past, Building a bright future!

No matter what yardstick is used to measure our progress or the impact we continue to have throughout the Great Lakes community, the fact is that the past two years have been about thinking big, exerting bold leadership, acting strategically and achieving unprecedented success!

These past two years have been about vigorously pursuing a shared vision and forging alliances to achieve common goals. These past two years have been about partners working multilaterally to articulate a clear and persuasive message that is not only listened to, but has measurable impact. These past two years have been about striving for and achieving excellence! These past two years have been all about focusing on the Great Lakes as priority #1 and ensuring environmental and economic prosperity for the greatest system of fresh water on the surface of the Earth!

It has been a pleasure and a great honor to serve as chairman of the board and lead this organization to greatness. Here is just a smidgen of what we have done together: We successfully promulgated the *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity*, which led to significant congressional actions laying the groundwork for the development of a Great Lakes Restoration Plan. We advanced our shared vision for the Commission to be known and recognized as the world's premier Great Lakes research, policy development and advocacy organization. We gave our Canadian partners a voice on the Board of Directors. We launched our Great Lakes Endowment. We made organizational enhancements to better position the Com-

Continued on page 11

Where in the Great Lakes?

You could win a prize if you can identify the subject of this Great Lakes-St. Lawrence St. Lawrence photo! E-mail your answer to kirkh@glc.org along with your name, address and phone number (or mail to the *Advisor* at the return address


below left, or call Kirk Haverkamp at 734-971-9135). All correct responses received by Nov. 15 will be entered into a drawing. The winner will receive his/her choice of a Great Lakes Commission t-shirt or beach towel, or a \$10 credit toward the purchase of any Commission publication.



Photo: Steve Thorp



Oops! We had the wrong entry deadline for last issue's "Where in the Great Lakes?" Nonetheless, Walt Pomeroy of Harrisburg, Pa. correctly identified Arch Rock in Michigan's Mackinac Island State Park. Sorry for the error and thank you to all who participated! Photo: Carole Swinehart.

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink. 


Advisor

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