



The Great Lakes

The Great Lakes are an environmental and economic asset for the United States and Canada—and eight states, two provinces and tribal nations in the Great Lakes Basin. The lakes fuel a \$6 trillion regional economy and are fundamental to our identity and quality of life. They hold 90 percent of the U.S. supply of fresh surface water and provide drinking water for more than 48 million people. More than 1.5 million U.S. jobs are directly connected to the Great Lakes; those jobs generate \$62 billion in wages annually.

Who we are

To ensure that we protect and wisely manage this vital resource, the eight Great Lakes states created the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) in 1955 via the Great Lakes Basin Compact. In 1968, Congress passed an Act authorizing its consent to the Compact and the interstate compact agency. The states and provinces are represented on the GLC by delegation members appointed by each jurisdiction. The provinces of Ontario and Québec serve as associate members.

What we do

The GLC provides an integral component to the governance structure of the Great Lakes Basin—the GLC enables party states and provinces to develop consensus around a common agency table and then speak with a unified, powerful voice on behalf of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region and its 48 million residents. The GLC staff also invests in a wide range of project priorities for states and provinces. Projects address priorities in the areas of:

- Water Quality
- Water Management and Infrastructure
- Commercial Navigation
- Economic Development and Waterfront Community Revitalization
- Coastal Conservation and Habitat Restoration
- Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Control
- Information Management and Blue Accounting

Get in touch

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