

# The Joint Strategic Plan and its Role in Management of Invasive Fishes



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**Un-successful  
attempts at  
cooperation**



**Failed  
Treaty**



**1880s**

**1890s**

**1900s**

**1910s**

**1920s**

**1930s**

**1940s**

**1950s**



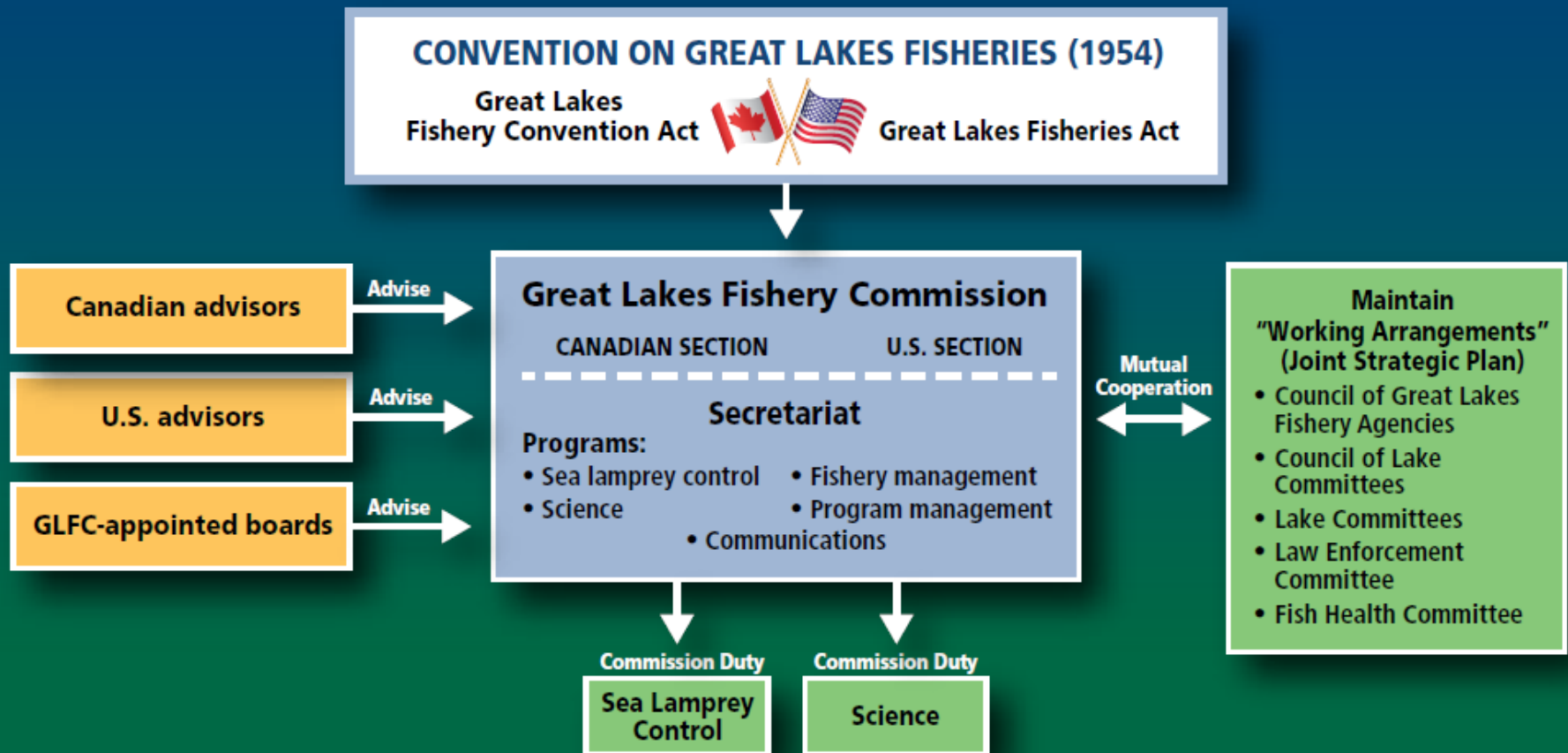
# Great Lakes Fishery Commission

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- **Established 1955 by Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries**
- **U.S. & Canada Parties**
- **3 General Duties**
  - Coordinate Fisheries Research
  - Coordinate Fisheries Management
  - Conduct Sea Lamprey Control



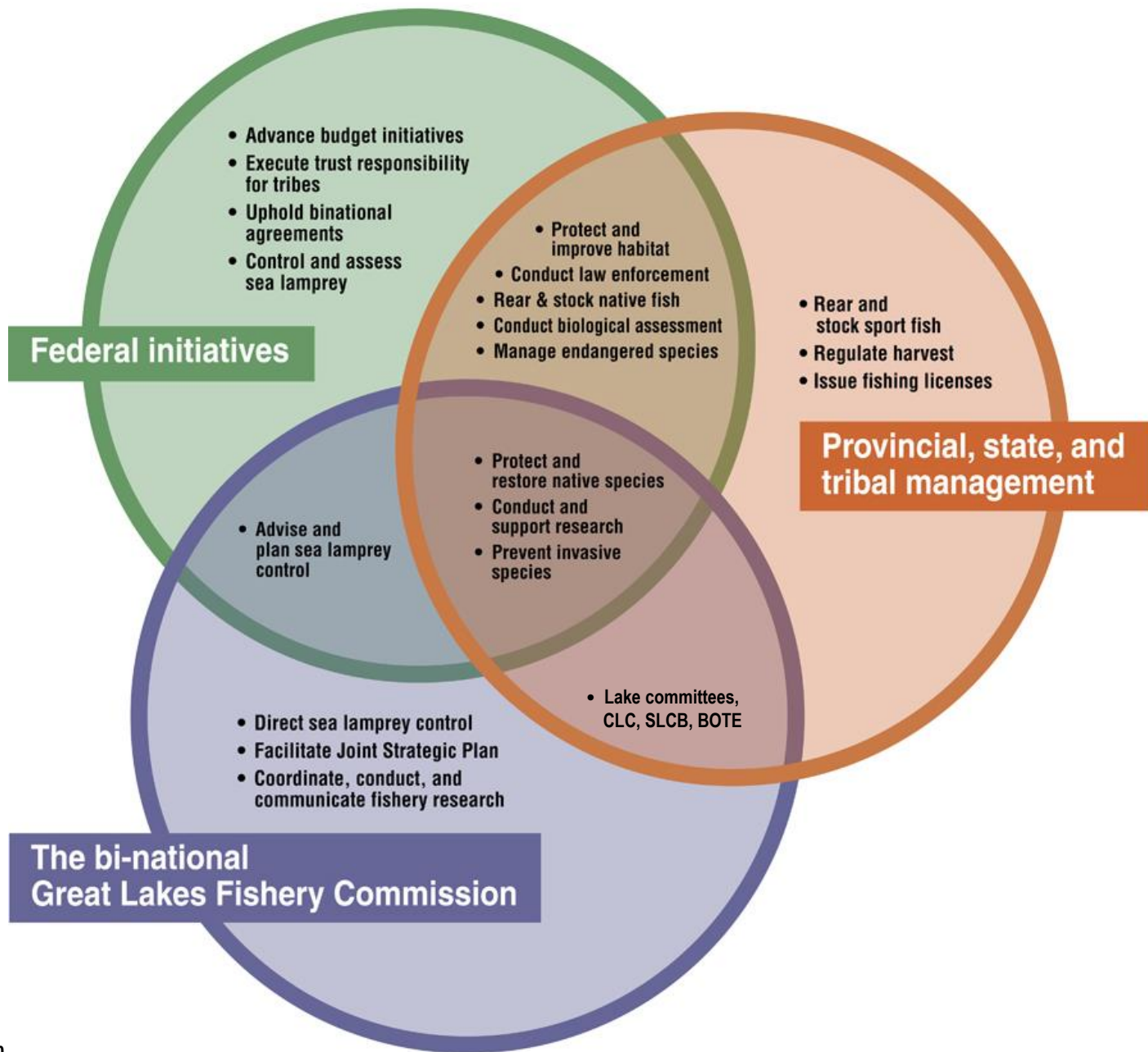
# Great Lakes Fishery Commission Structure



# Features of Great Lakes Fishery Management

- **Sustaining fish stocks**
- **Protecting diversity**
- **Maintaining predator/prey balance**
- **Managing based on best information**
- **Balancing stakeholder interests and needs**





# A JOINT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MANAGEMENT OF GREAT LAKES FISHERIES

- **Plan signed in 1981; revised in 1997**
  - Voluntary, non-binding
- **Many jurisdictions on the lakes**
  - Provincial, state, tribal, federal, binational
  - Need to work together
- **Complex issues**
  - Need to understand the resource
  - Need to translate science into management
  - Need to balance competing interests
- **Participants work together**
  - Under the Joint Strategic Plan
  - Through “lake committee” meetings
- **Great Lakes Fishery Commission facilitates**
- **Highly successful agreement!**



# Strategies for Great Lakes Fishery Management Under the Plan

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- **Consensus**

- *Consensus must be achieved when management will significantly influence the interests of more than one jurisdiction.*

- **Accountability**

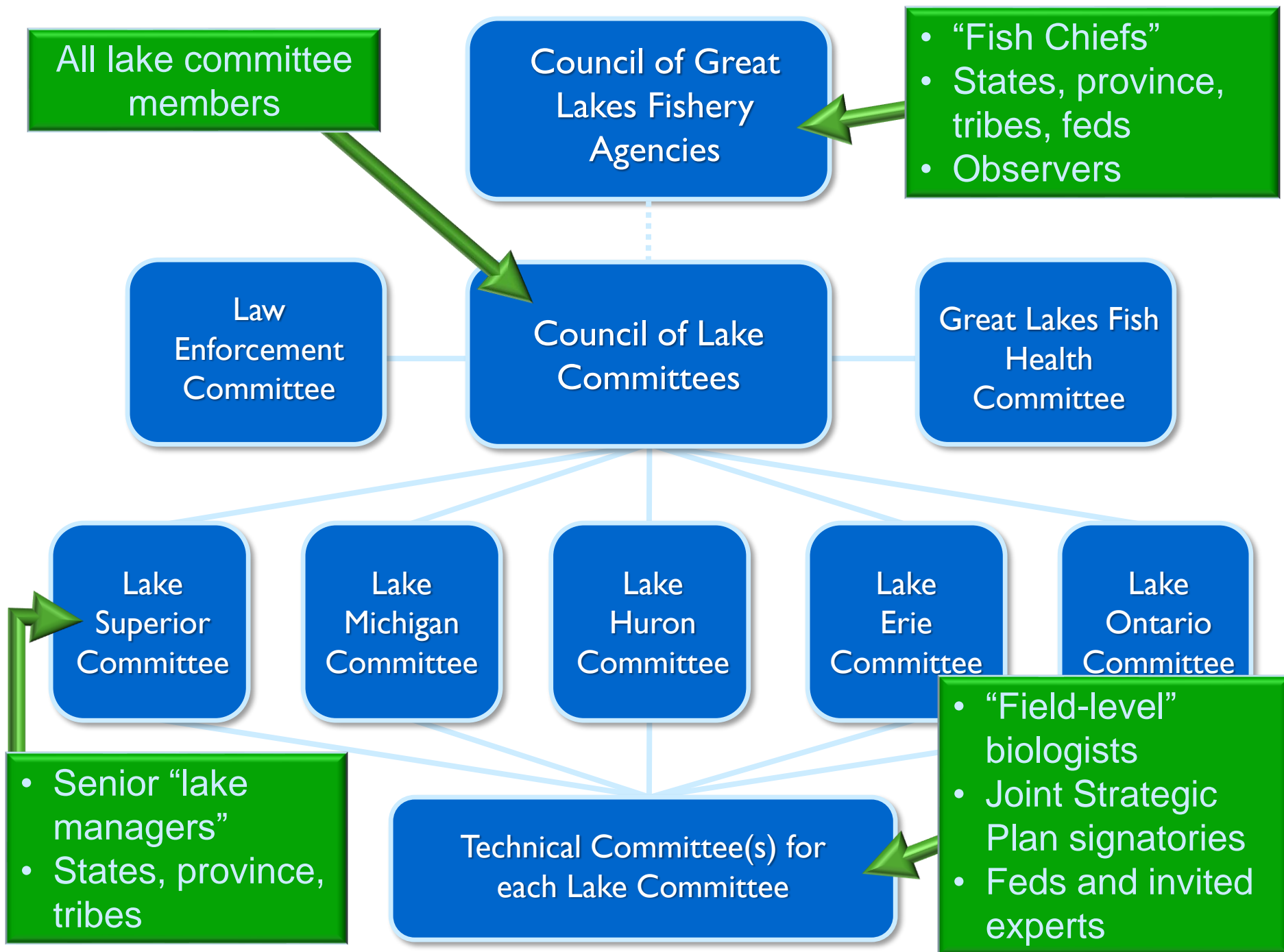
- *Fishery management agencies must be openly accountable for their performance*

- **Information Sharing**

- *Fishery agencies must cooperatively develop means of measuring and predicting the effects of fishery- and environmental-management decisions.*

- **Ecosystem Management**

- *The parties must exercise their full authority and influence... to meet the biological, chemical, and physical needs of desired fish communities.*



# **CGLFA Invasive Fishes Executive Committee**

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- **Established, October 2016**
- **Advisory to the full CGLFA**
- **Current members: GLIFWC, USFWS, ODNR, OMNRF**
- **Purposes**
  - Coordination
  - Information, communication, outreach
  - Prioritization advice

# Ongoing Invasive Fishes Activities

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- **Council of Great Lakes Fishery Agencies**
  - Basin-wide invasive fishes communication protocol (expected completion in spring 2019)
    - Purpose: To coordinate interagency communication of new events or findings related to invasive fishes in the Great Lakes basin
    - Under development through the Invasive Fishes Executive Committee
    - Based on ACRCC and eDNA communication protocols
    - Will consider communications for all fishes the Council considers to be invasive.

# Ongoing Invasive Fishes Activities

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- **Council of Lake Committees (CLC)**
  - Position statement on Asian carps (2013), available on the CLC's web page at [www.glfc.org](http://www.glfc.org)
    - Minimizing the probability of future introductions is more important than attempting to eradicate or control populations that already exist in the Great Lakes
    - Control or eradication should be considered only when and where deemed effective by the agency with jurisdiction
    - Minimizing the probability of entry to the Great Lakes through all possible pathways.
    - Research related to possible control options, surveillance, early detection, and basic biology

# Ongoing Invasive Fishes Activities

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- **Lake Erie Committee**

- Near-final 5-year grass carp strategy
  - Goal: Prevent grass carp from attaining densities capable of adversely affecting vegetated habitats, ecosystem functions, and associated fish communities of Lake Erie.
  - Adaptive, science-based approach
  - Implement effective control
  - Seek to stop additional breeding populations

# Linkage to Other AIS Initiatives

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- **Annex 6**
- **GLRI**
  - Activities to prevent Asian Carp establishment in the GL
  - GLMRIS pathway closures
  - Funding for Lake Erie Committee grass carp actions
  - Research into alternative controls
- **GLSLGP AIS Task Force**
  - Law Enforcement Committee joint meeting seeking to develop harmonized AIS regulations