

1999 ANNUAL REPORT





French translation

The Great Lakes Commission is a binational agency that promotes 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. Its members include the eight Great Lakes states with associate member status



Robertson



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Member since 1993

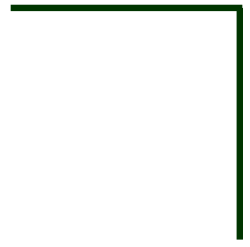
Member since 1995



Member since 1978

COMMISSIONERS

French translation



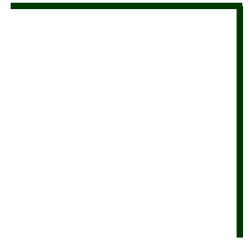
The goal of the Administration Program is to enhance the Commission's leadership role in regional coordination, policy development and advocacy through efficient, cost-effective and responsive

ADMINISTRATION

French translation



Getting what you pay for, and then some



French translation

Welcome, Ontario and Québec!

A time for fellowship



On to 2000 ...

Binational focus. Building on the new Associate Member program will be a priority and opportunities for state/provincial partnership will be aggressively pursued.

Budget and finance. Diversifying and enhancing the Commission's funding base will continue with an eye toward new revenue sources, enhanced foundation support and larger-scale, multi-year projects. Investment strategies will be evaluated and revised, if needed, to expand reserves and provide the flexibility to address member priorities.

Thinking strategically. A new five-year Strategic Plan will be released in mid-2000, providing a blueprint for the organization's policy research, coordination and advocacy services.

Creative staffing. Additional emphasis will be placed on fellowships, interagency agreements and other means to expose scientists and policymakers to the Commission's multijurisdictional ecosystem approach to regional issues.

"New York values the Commission's efforts to coordinate state policy positions on issues of regional concern, promote information Commission fills a vital role in fostering communication among all levels of government, researchers, policymakers and resource

ADMINISTRATION

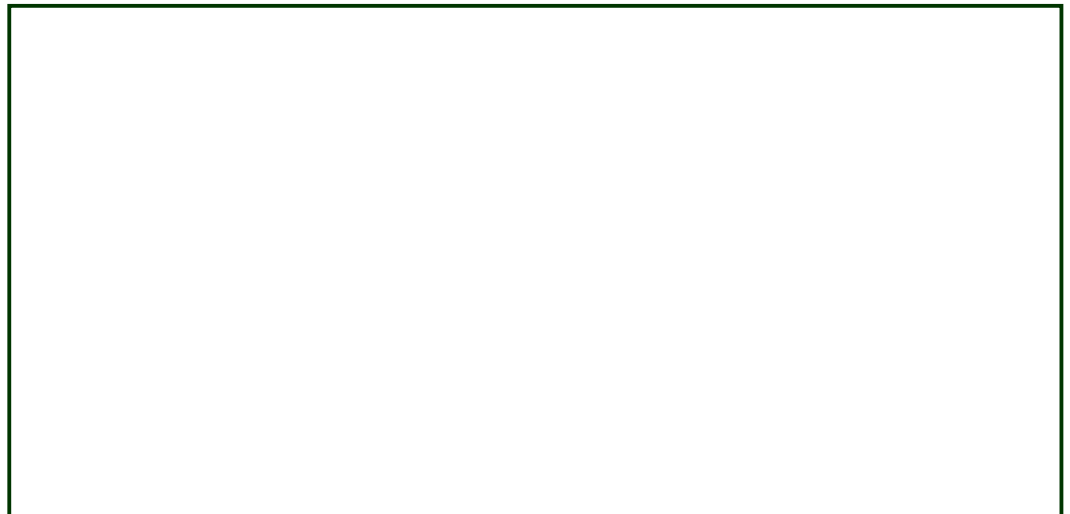
Looking back and forward

A comprehensive review of the Commission's five-year strategic plan—including five goals, 24 objectives and 95 actions—was initiated in 1999. Progress was assessed, the breadth and scope of Commission functions reviewed, and new challenges identified. An updated plan, also with a five-year timeline, will be released in mid-2000 following an inclusive review/revision process open to the entire Great Lakes-St. Lawrence community.

Carol A. Ratza Memorial Scholarship awarded

www.glc.org/announce/99/scholar00.html

Karyla Trester, a master's student in Environmental Communications at the University of Illinois at Springfield, is the winner of the 1999 Carol A. Ratza Memorial Scholarship. In memory of Carol Ratza, longtime manager of the Commission's Communications Program, the scholarship supports students with an interest in electronic communications technology and its applications in the Great Lakes region.



support to Michigan's 14 AOCs and have raised the program's profile. As an

outgrowth of this effort, the Commission is preparing status reports on each

AOC to be incorporated into the LaMPs, scheduled for release in 2000.

Additional support for the Lake Michigan LaMP will come from the Lake Michigan Better Monitoring Project, which is assessing monitoring efforts

in 14 major tributaries to Lake Michigan, including the lake's 10 AOCs. This

Convened the third annual Great Lakes science vessel coordination workshop.

Completed a major report titled

Coordinated the production of a television documentary, "Aquatic Invaders," which aired on CNBC.

Conducted a symposium, Ballast Water Management and Aquatic Nuisance Species: Setting a Research Agenda for the Great Lakes.

Completed three sub-area contingency plans and 11 sub-area maps under the Area Contingency Planning project.

Produced and distributed project-specific newsletters, including the _____ and _____.

Updated and customized the regional water use database and prepared a major report on Great Lakes consumptive use.

Conducted a RAP Summit and legislative briefing for Michigan's SPAC.

Convened more than 230 stakeholders for a conference assessing the state of Lake St. Clair.

Established the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND

project is providing a comprehensive assessment of monitoring activities and data collection efforts in the Lake Michigan basin by working with the U.S. EPA Lake Michigan Team, states, and representatives from public advisory councils and other local groups. The project is analyzing gaps, inconsistencies and unmet needs and is evaluating the adequacy of existing monitoring efforts to support critical ecosystem indicators for LaMPs and related initiatives.

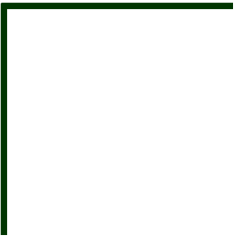
In a related project, the Commission has convened the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council in collaboration with numerous state, federal and local partners. Funded by U.S. EPA, the council provides a forum for coordinating monitoring efforts, sharing information, and identifying gaps and data needs. The council also will contribute to a monitoring plan for Lake Michigan. The council follows the lead of the National Water Quality Monitoring Council and numerous state-level councils. However, it is the first such entity to be based on watershed, rather than geo-political, boundaries.

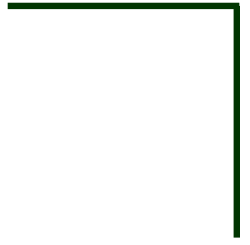
"Coordinating and enhancing monitoring activities is a priority for the Lake Michigan LaMP. I am pleased to be working in partnership with the Great Lakes Commission and other stakeholders to address this vital need."

—Judy Beck, U.S. EPA Lake Michigan Team Manager

**Managing our waters wisely: Addressing
diversion, consumptive use and export issues**

**Putting GIS and mapping expertise to work:
Spill prevention and response**





TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

On to 2000 ...

Great Lakes Dredging Team. Development of a video and new fact sheets will be part of public outreach activities.

New Soo Lock. A Project Cooperation Agreement between the Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers aimed at securing the nonfederal share of the construction cost of the new Soo Lock will be prepared and coordinated with member states.

Beneficial use. A new publication on the beneficial use of dredged material will be released, and state input into the development of federal guidance for beneficial use will be coordinated.

Book publication. With several chapter contributions from staff, publication by Harbor House Publishers, Inc. of

is planned for the coming year.

Economic impact. Commission staff will assess the economic impact of aquatic nuisance species control measures on maritime and other sectors of the regional economy.

BRIDGES. Recommendations on how to promote sustainable development by linking brownfields redevelopment and greenfields protection will be distributed to public and private sector decisionmakers in fall 2000.

Mayors' Conference. Staff will assist in planning and conducting the 14th Annual International Great Lakes St. Lawrence Mayors' Conference in Gary, Ind.

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and activities, a page for local interests to become more involved in local dredging issues, and several case studies. Improvements also included new/improved pages with links and information on public outreach, soil erosion and sedimentation, and contaminated sediments. *Dredging and the Great Lakes*, a booklet prepared by Commission staff, was added to the site. The booklet, released in October, provides an overview of dredging activity on the Great Lakes and highlights issues such as the beneficial use of dredged material, the role of sedimentation and the dredging connection with commercial navigation. A new look for the web site will be unveiled in early 2000.

Symposium recognizes seaway's 40th anniversary

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence maritime community achieved a milestone in 1999: the 40th anniversary of the St. Lawrence Seaway. A Seaway Symposium was held in conjunction with the Commission's semiannual meeting in Montreal, Québec, to help commemorate the anniversary. The Great Lakes Commission was an advocate even before the seaway was built. In fact, planning for the binational seaway and its economic development potential was a major reason why the states established the Commission in 1955. In 1964, the Commission organized an "Institute on the St. Lawrence Seaway" to review the seaway's first five years. Through lobbying activity, the Commission also played an important role in retiring the U.S. seaway construction debt and virtually eliminating U.S. seaway tolls. More recently, the Commission has advocated the elimination of Canadian seaway tolls and the creation of a single, binational seaway operating entity as a means to trim administrative costs.

New GIS tools, protecting our Great Lakes

.net

The goal of the Communications and Information Management Program is to promote informed public policy by developing communications and information management technology and programs for use and application by members and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence interests. Program initiatives are directed at ensuring broad accessibility to timely, accurate and objective data and information; providing a state-of-the-art electronic decision support system; publicizing and promoting Commission policies and products; and informing and educating the general public.

GLIN gets bigger ... and better

International

Water



COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

A redesigned GLIN will include new and updated sections, as well as increased navigability. The Commission also will begin development of a new educational center, TEACH Great Lakes.

Cercopagis pengoi

www.glc.org

New web site on Great Lakes beaches

The next inventory (based on 1997 and 1998 data) will be released in fall 2000. Users will be able to interactively browse maps through the Great Lakes GIS mapping initiative.

Budget and finance.
Diversifying and enhancing the Commission's funding base will continue with an eye toward new revenue sources, enhanced foundation support and larger-scale, multi-year projects. Investment strategies will be evaluated and revised, if needed, to expand reserves and provide the flexibility to address member priorities.

A new five-year Strategic Plan will be released in mid-2000, providing a blueprint for the organization's policy research, coordination and advocacy services.

Additional emphasis will be placed on fellowships, interagency agreements and other means to expose scientists and policymakers to the Commission's multijurisdictional ecosystem approach to regional issues.



“In fostering communication among all levels of government, researchers, policymakers and resource managers.”

—John P. Cahill, New York
Delegation Chair

The goal of the Regional
Coordination Program is to
strengthen the collective Great

REGIONAL COORDINATION

Strength in numbers ... and in unity

Advocating the region's interests

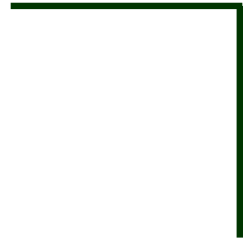
A 34-point policy statement, "Legislative and Appropriations Priorities for the 106th Congress-First Session," formed the basis of the Commission's advocacy strategy in 1999. Unanimously endorsed by the membership, the statement detailed legislative and funding priorities for federally supported research and management institutions, resource management and environmental protection programs, and maritime transportation and other infrastructure matters. It also provided the basis for literally hundreds of issue-specific letters to Congress, presentations of testimony, and meetings with congressional members and staff. Among many others, the statement called for enhanced support for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the International Joint Commission (IJC). Also included was a call to support the Commission's Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, federally funded aquatic nuisance species programs, the Clean Air Act Great Waters Program, a new large lock at the Soo and multiple provisions of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (WRDA).

Regional officials bring their message to Washington

The 1999 edition of Great Lakes Day in Washington brought a "standing room only" crowd to the Great Lakes Congressional Breakfast and Issues Briefing on Capitol Hill. The breakfast, featuring keynote remarks by Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, and Rep. Lynn Rivers, D-Mich., attracted members and staff from 30 congressional offices and brought out U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes leaders, including 15 agency and laboratory directors. Commission officers Irene Brooks (chair) and Nathaniel E. Robinson (vice chair) presented a series of Commission priorities that were discussed in detail at the subsequent Issues Briefing. Emphasis was placed on U.S. and Canadian obligations for Great Lakes cleanup, the "John Glenn" provisions of WRDA, aquatic nuisance species prevention and control, nonpoint source pollution control, and spill prevention and response.

REGIONAL COORDINATION

Keeping our water here and clear



On to 2000 ...

Regional advocacy. The Commission will maintain a strong presence in Washington, D.C., through Great Lakes Day events and advocacy based on its Legislative and Appropriations Priorities for the 106th Congress-Second Session. Strengthened relationships with state Washington offices and like-minded advocacy groups

communications with congressional offices.

Binational focus. The Commission's presence in Canada will be expanded to better serve its new Associate Members (Ontario and Québec) and identify opportunities for state/provincial partnership.

Promoting the watershed approach. Building on the success of the Declaration of Partnership among 10 multijurisdictional river basin

REGIONAL COORDINATION

Promoting good policy and stopping bad policy in its tracks

the Commission successfully opposed a provision in W effectively closed the Great Lakes Regional Office of the Engineers' Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. Since the Commission successfully organized regional opposition to abandon one-third of its water level gauging stations of Commission joined with other regional interests to lobby for maintenance and then helped secure a \$390,000 for their upgrade.

Getting the word out

As a principal advocate of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region, the Great Lakes Commission realizes that sound and objective policy research must be complemented by an aggressive effort to publicize and promote its research results and associated policy positions. In 1999, Commission staff sponsored, spoke at or otherwise participated in more than 175 events that advanced organization goals, a 25 percent increase over the previous year. The Commission's electronic presence grew, as well. Great Lakes Information Network "hits" each month approached the 700,000 mark and hits on the Commission's redesigned web site grew to almost 200,000 per month, both remarkable increases over last year. Also, Commission staff contributed to the activities of more than two dozen other organizations with common interests through membership on the IJC's Science Advisory Board, the Inter-American Water Resources Network and the ICWP, among many others.

THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS

State of New York

State of Ohio

State of Wisconsin

Sunoco, Inc.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District
and Great Lakes and Ohio River Division

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural
Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

U.S. Department of Commerce, National
Telecommunications and Information
Administration

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.
EPA), Great Lakes National Program Office
(GLNPO)

*We are pleased to
acknowledge the agencies,
organizations and
foundations that financially
support the efforts of the
Great Lakes Commission
and the individuals who
offer their advice and
assistance as Observers.*

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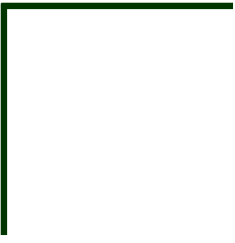
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