



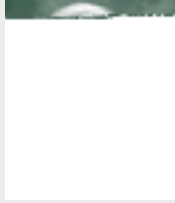
Great Lakes
Commission
des Grands Lacs

A Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system that offers a prosperous economy,
a healthy environment and a high quality of life!
protection and conservation

Confidence

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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Frank Kudma (Chair), Kudma & Associates Ltd.

Joel Brunsvold, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources
Ned Dikmen, Great Lakes Boating Magazine

Anthony Ianello, Illinois Intl. Port District
Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn

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Dan Injerd, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources
Donald Vonnahme, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources

John Francis O'Mara, Gov. appointee

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Gerald Mikol, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Donald Zelazny, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

C\]c

Samuel Speck (Chair), Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources

Hon. Robert Gardner, State Senator
Christopher Jones, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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James Weakley, Lake Carriers' Assoc.
Jeffrey Busch, Ohio Lake Erie Commission

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John Goss (Chair), Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources

Lori Kaplan, Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Peter McCarthy, Indiana's Intl. Port/Burns Harbor at Portage (*retired*)
Gerry Nannenga, Gov. appointee
Ray Sierra, Intl. Longshoremen's Assoc.

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Stephen Lucas, Natural Resources Commission

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Ken DeBeussaert (Chair), Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality

Hon. Patricia Birkholz, State Senator
Lieutenant Governor John D. Cherry, Jr.
Hon. Mike Cox, Attorney General

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Michael Leffler, Asst. Attorney General

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Hon. Thomas Huntley (Chair), State Representative

Hon. Cal Larson, State Senator
Hon. Peter Nelson, State Representative
Ed Oliver, Oliver Financial
Hon. Ann Rest, State Senator

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Henry Hanka, National Scenic Byways Resource Center
Hon. Sheila Kiscaden, State Senator

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Erin Crotty (Chair), New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Tom McAuslan, Port of Oswego Authority

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The Administration Program provide

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Grants and contracts

expenses (\$26,777) were placed in a reserve fund for contingencies and future use

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The Resource Management Program contributes to the sustainable use and conservation of the region's natural resources through multiple projects and regional services. Working with scores of project partners throughout the public and private sectors, program efforts are directed at identifying regional priorities, developing policy, conducting and coordinating research, and sharing information on a broad range of resource management and protection initiatives. Program manager: Tom Crane, trane@glc.org

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- Directed nearly \$1.9 million in conservation grants to local authorities under the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
- Published educational brochure on the economic and environmental costs of erosion and sedimentation
- Surveyed conservation practices among regional water suppliers as part of a "tool kit" for water conservation
- Advised the U.S. Coast Guard on the development of ballast water discharge standards for invasive species control
- Completed in-depth report on Great Lakes water resource management, with findings and recommendations for implementing the 2001 Great Lakes Charter Annex
- Inventoried and analyzed information on Great Lakes bihydrologic resources and identified unmet data needs
- Led efforts to refine a model rapid response plan for Great Lakes aquatic invasions
- Assisted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the development of sediment transport models for Great Lakes tributaries in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan

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The Environmental Quality Program supports efforts to restore beneficial uses in Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs) and other degraded areas; strengthen environmental monitoring programs; improve management of coastal wetlands; and protect high-quality areas. Program staff employ cutting-edge information technologies to advance project goals, and leverage and coordinate the resources and expertise of public agencies and other stakeholders to achieve a healthy and

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Transportation and Sustainable Development Program

The Transportation and Sustainable Development Program focuses on economic activity in the Great Lakes region and its relationship to the environment. Primary areas of interest are maritime transportation, recreational boating, and land use and conservation, all pursued under the guiding principles of sustainable development. Program staff have extensive experience in Great Lakes policy development and maritime issues, and wide-ranging contacts with the region's maritime, policy and natural resource communities. Program manager: Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org

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Key Achievements

- Established a Great Lakes ports and harbors specialist position through an agreement with NOAA
- With binational partners, promoted "short sea shipping" as a strategy to relieve congestion on land routes
- Assisted Great Lakes ports and operators in meeting new maritime security requirements
- Compiled a Geographic Information System database for Lake St. Clair and developed decision support tools for coastal habitat conservation and restoration
- Developed a regional framework for evaluating and testing dredged material for upland beneficial uses
- Conducted the first of a series of state brownfields-greenfields policy roundtables
- Assisted in the development and implementation of basinwide ecosystem indicators for the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC)
- Provided co-secretariat support for the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors
- Facilitated the operations of the Great Lakes Dredging Team

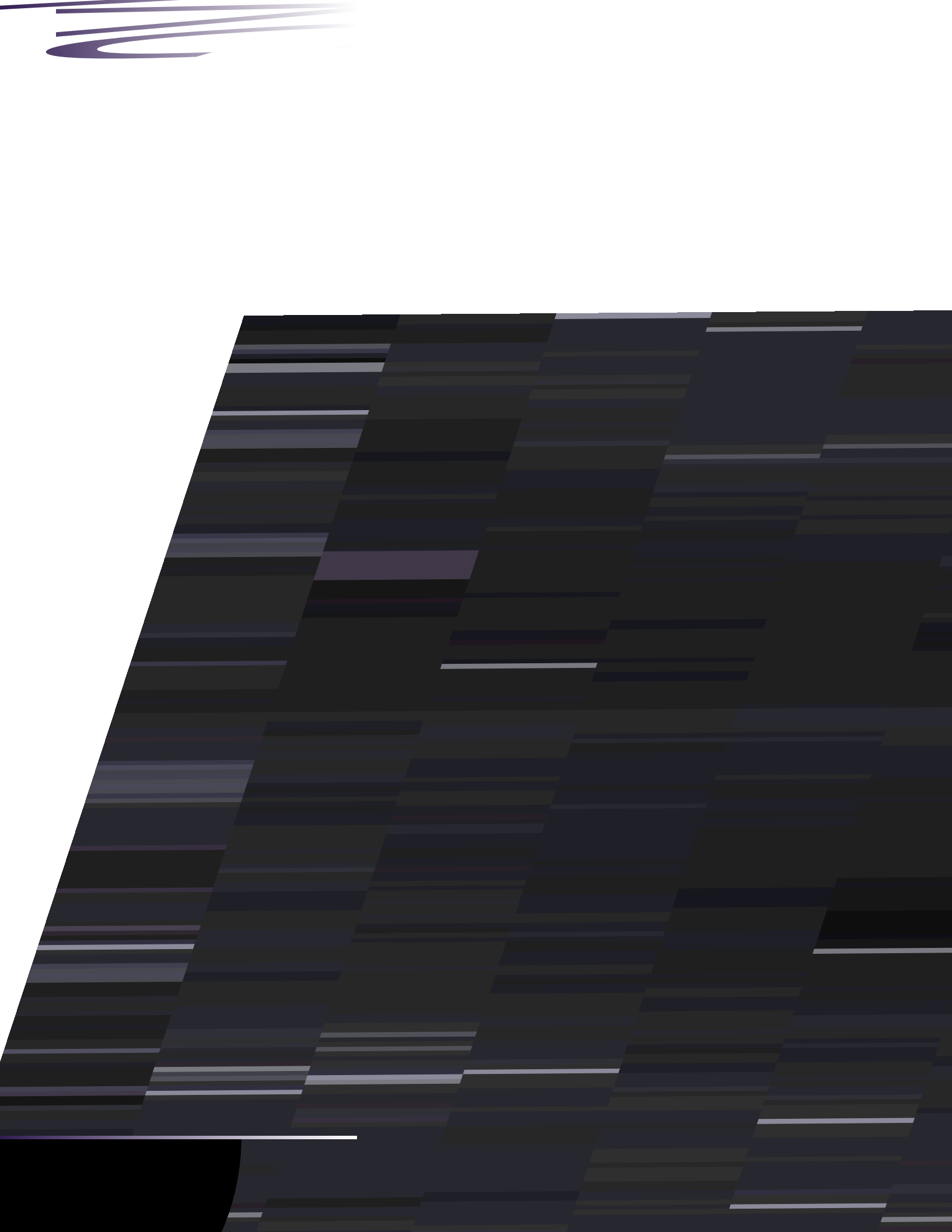
Regional Coordination Program

The Regional Coordination Program carries out the Commission's mandate for regional advocacy, as embodied in the Great Lakes Basin Compact, our enabling legislation. This includes building consensus among members, forming coalitions with regional, national and international partners, and presenting recommendations to regional and national leadership. Program staff have extensive experience in shaping legislation and bringing resource management issues to the attention of elected officials and other decisionmakers. Program manager: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org

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Key Achievements

- Developed and advanced blueprint for ecosystem restoration and protection (*The Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity*)
- Presented congressional testimony advancing member priorities
- Initiated a series of regional workshops in partnership with Sea Grant programs and the Council of Great Lakes Governors to identify and advance ecosystem restoration priorities
- Co-hosted annual Great Lakes Day events in Washington for members of Congress, their staff and regional leadership
- Co-hosted Great Lakes Odyssey II, a binational tour acquainting congressional staff with Great Lakes issues
- Formulated draft strategic plan identifying priorities for Great Lakes restoration, protection and management with a focus on roles for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Shared lessons learned from Great Lakes management at international forums in Otsu, Japan, and Burlington, VT.
- Facilitated the participation of visiting fellows from the Baltic Sea region in the World Large Lakes Conference (Chicago) and sediment toxicity training at U.S. EPA laboratories



Building upon a multitude of existing federally authorized programs – as well as new-start initiatives – the Commission has made its plea to “Restore the Greatness!” This has featured a call for federal legislation that ties a comprehensive planning process to large-

scale, multiyear appropriations to address restoration and protection priorities. In 2003, Commission members and staff worked closely with congressional offices to begin shaping such an initiative. Over that time, the Commission also supported the Council of Great Lakes Governors and partnered with a multitude of other agencies and organizations as regional interest in a restoration initiative gained momentum.

The centerpiece of the Commission’s advocacy efforts is its annual Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity.

Translating priorities to action took on many forms in 2003. For example:

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restore



toxic

Contaminated sediments are a persistent source of toxic pollution to the Great Lakes at each of the 31 U.S. and binational Areas of Concern (AOCs). They contribute to numerous beneficial use impairments in the AOCs, including fish consumption advisories, beach closures, and restrictions on dredging.

Toxins are also an obstacle to rehabilitating abandoned or decaying urban and industrial areas known as brownfields, whose redevelopment can enhance tax bases and employment, and relieve development pressures on green spaces. Research also shows that cleaning up contaminated sediments in local water bodies can increase property values by more than 40 percent.

The Great Lakes Commission has taken a leadership role in communicating funding and technical needs for cleaning up and delisting AOCs to state and federal legislators. The Commission also is assisting U.S. EPA in implementing the Great Lakes Legacy Act, which authorizes funding for cleaning up contaminated sediments in Great Lakes AOCs. Forums organized by the Commission inform stakeholders of the Act's provisions and facilitate state and



pollution

Nonpoint sources, including urban and agricultural runoff, and air deposition of toxic chemicals, are the leading contributors of pollutants to the Great Lakes. Hundreds of millions of tons of topsoil erode into Great Lakes waterways each year, often carrying fertilizers, pesticides and other contaminants. This runoff also clogs waterways, smothers aquatic habitats and imposes economic burdens related to dredging, water treatment, flooding and soil loss. Meanwhile, airborne deposition contributes millions of tons of pollutants each year and is the leading source of mercury to the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control is one of the Great Lakes Commission's primary vehicles for addressing nonpoint pollution. Directing nearly \$1.9 million in grants to local conservation programs in 2003, the Basin Program helps reduce soil erosion and sediment loadings to the Great Lakes, their connecting channels and tributaries. Program partners include the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Basin Program's primary outreach vehicle is *Keeping it On the Land*, a quarterly publication produced by the Commission. In addition, the Commission collaborated with the Michigan Sea Grant College Program to produce and distribute 8,000 copies of a full-color brochure and poster on the causes and economic and environmental costs of sedimentation.

A related initiative was the Ohio Watershed Management Training Project. A joint effort of the Commission and the Ohio EPA, the project provided technical assistance, outreach p e e

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Michael J. Donahue

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Resource Management

Tom Crane

Environmental Quality

Matt Doss

Data and Information Manage-

ment

Roger Gauthier

Regional Coordination

Jon MacDonagh-Dumler

Communications and Internet Technology

Christine Manninen

Transportation and Sustainable Development

Steve Thorp

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Stuart Eddy, Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, Dave Knight,

Ric Lawson, Gary Overmier, Victoria Pebbles,

Tom Rayburn, Sarah Whitney

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Laura Blackburn, Karl Geil, Shannon Glutting

Chris Guenther, Kirk Haverkamp, John Hummer,

Elizabeth Johnson, Laura Kaminski, Becky Lameka,

Devra Polack, Jennifer Read, Mike Schneider,

Anne Sturm, Kevin Walters, Kevin Yam, Hao Zhuang

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Albert G. Ballert

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Pat Gable, Ron Hasselbring, Marilyn Ratliff, Rita Straith

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Jon Dettling, Thomas Jabusch

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Suzan Campbell, Lora Freeman, Erin Higbee

Simon van Leeuwen

Row 1 (Front, left to right): Laura Blackburn, Christine Manninen, Becky Lameka, Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, Elizabeth Johnson • **Row 2** Kirk Haverkamp, Rita Straith, Mike Donahue, Tom Rayburn, Devra Polack, Pat Gable, Hao Zhuang • **Row 3** Laura Kaminski, Steve Thorp, Matt Doss, Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, Anne Sturm, Kevin Yam • **Row 4** Shannon Glutting, Kevin Walters, Chris Guenther, Roger Gauthier, Ric Lawson • **Row 5** John Hummer, Mike Schneider, Ron Hasselbring, Tom Crane, Jon Dettling, Thomas Jabusch • **Not pictured:** Al Ballert, Suzan Campbell, Stuart Eddy, Lora Freeman, Karl Geil, Erin Higbee, Dave Knight, Gary Overmier, Victoria Pebbles, Marilyn Ratliff, Jennifer Read, Simon van Leeuwen, Sarah Whitney • **Photo:** Dave Brenner; Michigan Sea Grant

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American Great Lakes Ports Association
Canadian Consulate General
Canadian Shipowners Association
D.J. Case and Associates
Fisher Consulting
J.F. New and Associates, Inc.
The GLOBE Foundation of Canada
Great Lakes Fishery Commission
Great Lakes Protection Fund
Great Lakes Radio Consortium
International Association of Great Lakes and
St. Lawrence Mayors
International Joint Commission
The Johnson Foundation
The Joyce Foundation
Lake Carriers' Association
LakeNet (Global Environment Facility, The World Bank,
International Lake Environment Committee)
Limno-Tech, Inc.
Macomb, St. Clair and Oakland counties, Michigan
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund

National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Park Service
Coastal Services Center (NOAA)
Michigan Sea Grant College Program
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Ocean Service, Center for Operational
Oceanographic Products and Services (NOAA)
National Sea Grant College Program
Ohio EPA - Division of Surface Water
St. Lawrence Seaway Development Association
St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources
Conservation Service
U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office
U.S. EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
U.S. EPA Office of International Activities
U.S. EPA Region 5
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
University of Michigan
Westrec Marinas

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It's always a great time to become a Friend of the Great Lakes! Your tax-deductible contribution to the Great Lakes Endowment will help the Great Lakes Commission "Restore the Greatness!" The Commission will match your gift dollar-for-dollar, and direct the entire amount to programs that result in a cleaner environment, a prosperous economy and a better quality of life. Visit www.friendsofthegreatlakes.org now to view a list of donors to date and to make your own contribution online! It only takes a minute and you'll receive a complimentary certificate and decal (for auto or boat) to acknowledge your gift.

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www.friendsofthegreatlakes.org

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Great Lakes
Commission
des Grands Lacs

Eisenhower Corporate Park
2805 South Industrial Hwy., Suite #100
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6791
Phone: (734) 971-9135
Fax: (734) 971-9150

www.glc.org



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