



# GLC Overview

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# What is the Great Lakes Commission?

- A public agency established by the Great Lakes Basin Compact in 1955
- In 1968, Congress passed an act authorizing its consent to the Compact and the interstate compact agency.
- Ontario and Québec officially joined as associate members in 1999
- Allows its Member states and provinces speak with a unified voice and to reach consensus on and advocate for the region's priorities



# Who is the Great Lakes Commission?



- **Commissioners:**  
3-5 from each of the 10 states and provinces
- **Board of Directors:**  
1 from each state / province delegation
- **Chair: Mary Mertz,**  
Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- **Professional Staff**

# Great Lakes Legislators appointed to the Commission

- Rep. Athena Hollins (MN)
- Rep. Paul Torkelson (MN)
- Sen. Ann Rest (MN)
- Sen. Karin Housley (MN)
- Rep. Jamie Callender (OH)
- Sen. Theresa Gavarone (OH)
- Rep. Patrick Harkins (PA)



# 2025 Federal Priorities

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- New Soo Lock & PIDP
- Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Harmful Algal Blooms

Lake Michigan  
Sleeping Bear Dunes  
National Lakeshore,  
Empire, Michigan

Great Lakes  
Commission  
des Grands Lacs

**2025 Federal  
Priorities**

**Value of the Great Lakes**

Drinking water for <b>47.6 million</b> people in the U.S. and Canada	<b>95%</b> of America's fresh surface water	<b>\$81 billion</b> recreational economy from fishing, hunting, boating and wildlife-watching
Maritime system contributing <b>\$60.9 billion</b> to the U.S. and Canadian economies	Agricultural economy valued at more than <b>\$24 billion</b> in the U.S.	Every <b>\$1</b> spent on Great Lakes restoration generates more than <b>\$2</b> in economic activity

Fully fund the  
**Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**

Fund the **Great Lakes Commission**  
to fulfill its unique role in the region

Provide the cleanest and  
**safest drinking water** in the world

Unlock the economic potential of the  
**Great Lakes Navigation System**

Eliminate **harmful algal blooms**

Defend against **invasive species**

Build a **resilient Great Lakes basin**

Illinois Indiana Michigan Minnesota New York  
Ohio Pennsylvania Wisconsin Ontario Québec

# Binational Commissions of the Great Lakes Region



Boundary Waters Treaty  
(1909)

Great Lakes Water  
Quality Agreement  
(1972; 2012)

[ijc.org](http://ijc.org)



Convention on Great  
Lakes Fisheries (1954)

Joint Strategic Plan for  
Management of Great  
Lakes Fisheries (1981)

[glfc.org](http://glfc.org)



Great Lakes Basin  
Compact (1955)

[glc.org](http://glc.org)

Recommendations to Governments;  
Deliver Basin Focused Products/Services;  
Actions Support Regional Environmental Health and Economic Prosperity



**Thank you!**

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