



# Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus Quarterly Web Meeting

March 6, 2020 | 9 am CST/10 am EST



Great Lakes-St. Lawrence  
Legislative Caucus



MIDWEST

# Webinar Technology

- This event is being recorded. The recording will be available later today at [www.greatlakeslegislators.org](http://www.greatlakeslegislators.org).
- The agenda and slide deck are available now in the “handouts” pane and will be on the website later today.
- All lines will be in listen-only mode during the presentations.
- To ask a question:
  - Raise your hand (you must enter the audio PIN to use this option)
  - Type into the “questions” pane
  - Email your question to [gllc@csg.org](mailto:gllc@csg.org)

# Agenda

## Welcome and Introductions

*Lisa Janairo, GLLC Director, CSG Midwest*

## Featured Topic:

- **Overview of the GLLC Nutrient Management Task Force's Action Plan**

*Senator André Jacque (Wisconsin), Chair, GLLC Task Force on Nutrient Management*

- **Nutrient Reduction Efforts under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement**

*Danielle Green and Dr. Elizabeth Hinchey Malloy, U.S. EPA Region 5/Great Lakes National Program Office*

- **Questions and Comments**

# Agenda

## **GLLC Business Session**

- **Great Lakes Commission: Reconnecting with the Interstate Compact and 2020 Federal Priorities**

*Darren Nichols, Executive Director, Great Lakes Commission*

- **GLLC Events and Activities in 2020**

*Lisa Janairo*

## **Adjourn**

# Task Force on Nutrient Management

- Purpose of the action plan is to identify steps GLLC members can take in collaboration to reduce nutrient pollution in water bodies of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region.
- Task force members will be working on model policy in the coming months, with an emphasis on replicating successful state and provincial programs



# Action Plan

- Enact evidence-based, stakeholder-informed policies that have a high potential to produce measurable improvements in water quality.
- Explore innovative programs that are intended to reduce nutrient pollution
- Consider a variety of innovative approaches for equitable, sustainable financing measures to reduce nutrient pollution
- Promote accountability for policies and programs and education about best management practices.
- Promote the role of state and provincial legislators in the oversight of progress on nutrient reduction programs.
- Examine drainage codes and update as necessary to reflect current and credible future conditions regarding storm water and flooding.



# Featured Speakers



**Danielle Green**

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Great Lakes National Program Office  
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**Dr. Elizabeth Hinchey Malloy**

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Great Lakes National Program Office  
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# Nutrient reduction efforts under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

**Danielle Green and Elizabeth Hinchey Malloy  
US EPA Great Lakes National Program Office**

**Great Lakes Legislative Caucus Quarterly Web  
Meeting  
March 6, 2020**



# GLRI Nutrient Reduction Updates

- GLRI Overview
- Focus Area 3 - Nonpoint Source Nutrient Reduction
- Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
- Lake Erie
- HABs

# GLRI is a true partnership!

- EPA + 15 other federal agencies
- Our key partners are states, tribes, and local governments, as well as NGOs, academia and industry



# 5 Year Action Plans

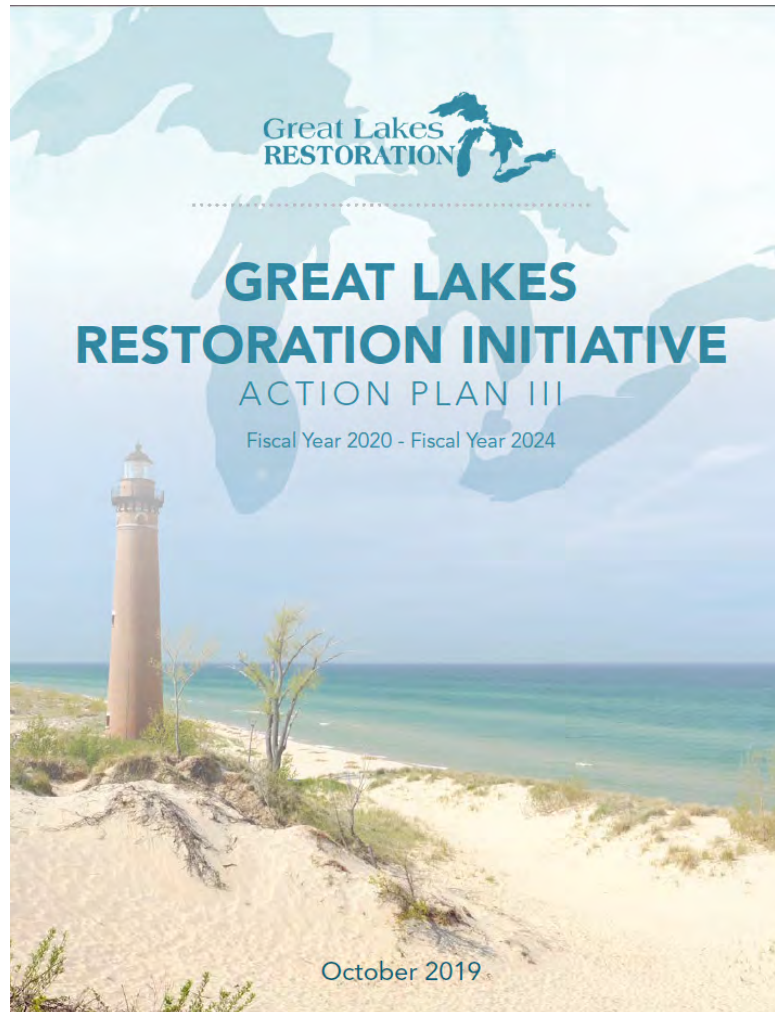
FY2010 – FY2014

## Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan



February 21, 2010

White House Council on Environmental Quality  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
U.S. Department of State  
U.S. Department of the Army  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Action Plan I:  
FY2010-2014

Action Plan II:  
FY2015-2019

Action Plan III:  
FY2020-2024

# GLRI has 5 Focus Areas

- 1) **Toxic Substances and Areas of Concern**
- 2) **Invasive Species**
- 3) **Nonpoint Source Pollution Impacts on Nearshore Health**
- 4) **Habitats and Species**
- 5) **Foundations for Future Restoration Actions**



# Focus Area 3: Nonpoint Source Pollution

## Impacts on Nearshore Health

### Objectives:

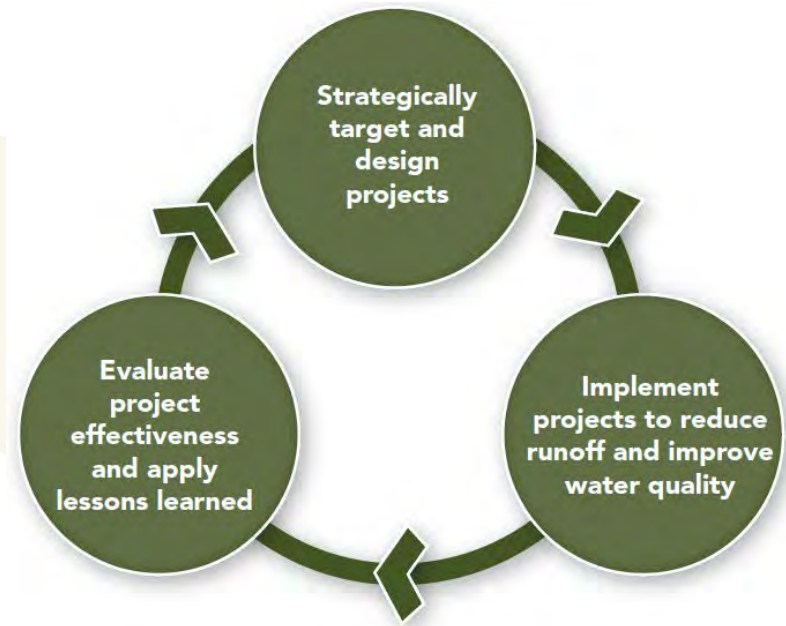
- 3.1. Reduce nutrient loads from agricultural watersheds.
- 3.2. Reduce untreated stormwater runoff.
- (NE W) 3.3. Improve effectiveness of nonpoint source control and refine management efforts.



*On farms or in urban areas, the goal is the same: Slow it down, soak it up, filter pollutants*

# What's new in FA3 under Action Plan III?

- Ambitious targets for phosphorus and stormwater reduction
- Outcome based metrics:
  - adoption of nutrient management
  - streambank restoration to prevent erosion
- Evaluating effectiveness of nonpoint source control efforts



*Nonpoint source projects and programs are continually improved through adaptive management.*



## FOCUS AREA 3

# NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION IMPACTS ON NEARSHORE HEALTH

### Objective

3.1. Reduce nutrient loads from agricultural watersheds.

### Commitments

- Implement systems of conservation practices on farms and in streams to reduce and treat nutrient runoff.
- Increase adoption of enhanced nutrient management practices to reduce risk of nutrient losses from farmland.

### Measures of Progress with Annual Targets

	Baseline/Universe	FY 2020 Target	FY 2021 Target	FY 2022 Target	FY 2023 Target	FY 2024 Target
• 3.1.1. Estimated pounds of phosphorus reductions from conservation practice implementation throughout Great Lake watersheds.	Baseline: 1,113,603 Universe: N/A	1,600,000	1,900,000	2,200,000	2,500,000	2,800,000
• 3.1.2. Acres receiving technical or financial assistance on nutrient management in priority watersheds. <i>(NEW)</i>	Baseline: 1,955,867 Universe: 10,000,000	2,200,000	2,370,000	2,515,000	2,685,000	2,817,500

*"Baseline" for Measure 3.1.1 identifies results through FY 2018. Baseline for Measure 3.1.2 identifies results through FY 2017. "Targets" are cumulative. "Universes," when applicable, represent the total number possible.*

## FOCUS AREA 3

# NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION IMPACTS ON NEARSHORE HEALTH

### Objective

3.2. Reduce untreated stormwater runoff.

### Commitments

- Accelerate implementation of green infrastructure practices to infiltrate stormwater runoff.
- Implement watershed management projects in urban and rural communities to reduce runoff and erosion.

### Measures of Progress with Annual Targets

	Baseline/ Universe	FY 2020 Target	FY 2021 Target	FY 2022 Target	FY 2023 Target	FY 2024 Target
• 3.2.1. Estimated gallons (in millions) of untreated stormwater runoff captured or treated.	Baseline: 252 Universe: N/A	350	400	450	500	550
• 3.2.2. Miles of Great Lakes shoreline and riparian corridors restored or protected.	Baseline: 26 Universe: N/A	33	40	47	54	61

*Measure 3.2.2 is applicable for restoration or protection from nonpoint source runoff, a subset of a similarly worded measure from the Habitat Focus Area under Action Plan II. "Baselines" identify results through FY 2018. "Targets" are cumulative. "Universes" are not applicable.*



FOCUS AREA 3

# NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION IMPACTS ON NEARSHORE HEALTH

**Objective**

3.3. Improve effectiveness of nonpoint source control and refine management efforts.

**Commitments**


- Assess achievement of Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement’s Annex 4 nutrient targets.
- Evaluate effectiveness of nonpoint source projects.
- Develop new or improved approaches for reducing or preventing harmful algal blooms.

**Measures of Progress with Annual Targets**

Measures of Progress with Annual Targets	Baseline/ Universe	FY 2020 Target	FY 2021 Target	FY 2022 Target	FY 2023 Target	FY 2024 Target
• 3.3.1. Nutrient monitoring and assessment activities conducted.	Baseline: 30 Universe: N/A	30	30	30	30	30
• 3.3.2. Nutrient or stormwater runoff reduction practices or tools developed or evaluated.	Baseline: 10 Universe: N/A	10	10	10	10	10

*“Baseline” and “Targets” for Measure 3.3.1 identify the regularly expected monitoring and assessment activities conducted annually. “Baseline” and “Targets” for Measure 3.3.2 identify the regularly expected practices or tools developed or evaluated annually. “Targets” are not cumulative. “Universes” are not applicable.*



 Harmful and nuisance algal blooms adjacent to priority watersheds

- \$35 M spent annually on HABs prevention & research
  - About half (\$17.5 M) in Lake Erie

Lower Fox River Watershed

Saginaw River Watershed

Maumee River Watershed



# Reducing Nutrient Runoff – Accomplishments to Date under GLRI



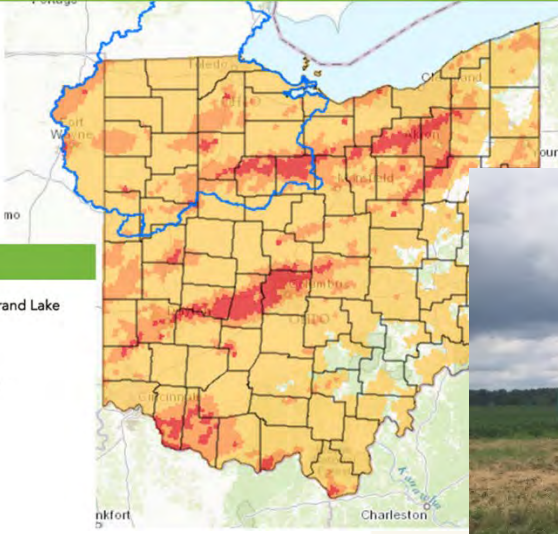
More than one million pounds of phosphorus runoff reduced from farmlands.



More than 700,000 cropland acres under conservation in agricultural priority watersheds.

- BMP effectiveness studies (EOF, CEAP, Soil Health)
- Enhanced monitoring & modeling, forecasting tools

Ohio Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast (beta) [www.agri.ohio.gov](http://www.agri.ohio.gov)





# Edge-of-Field Effectiveness Monitoring



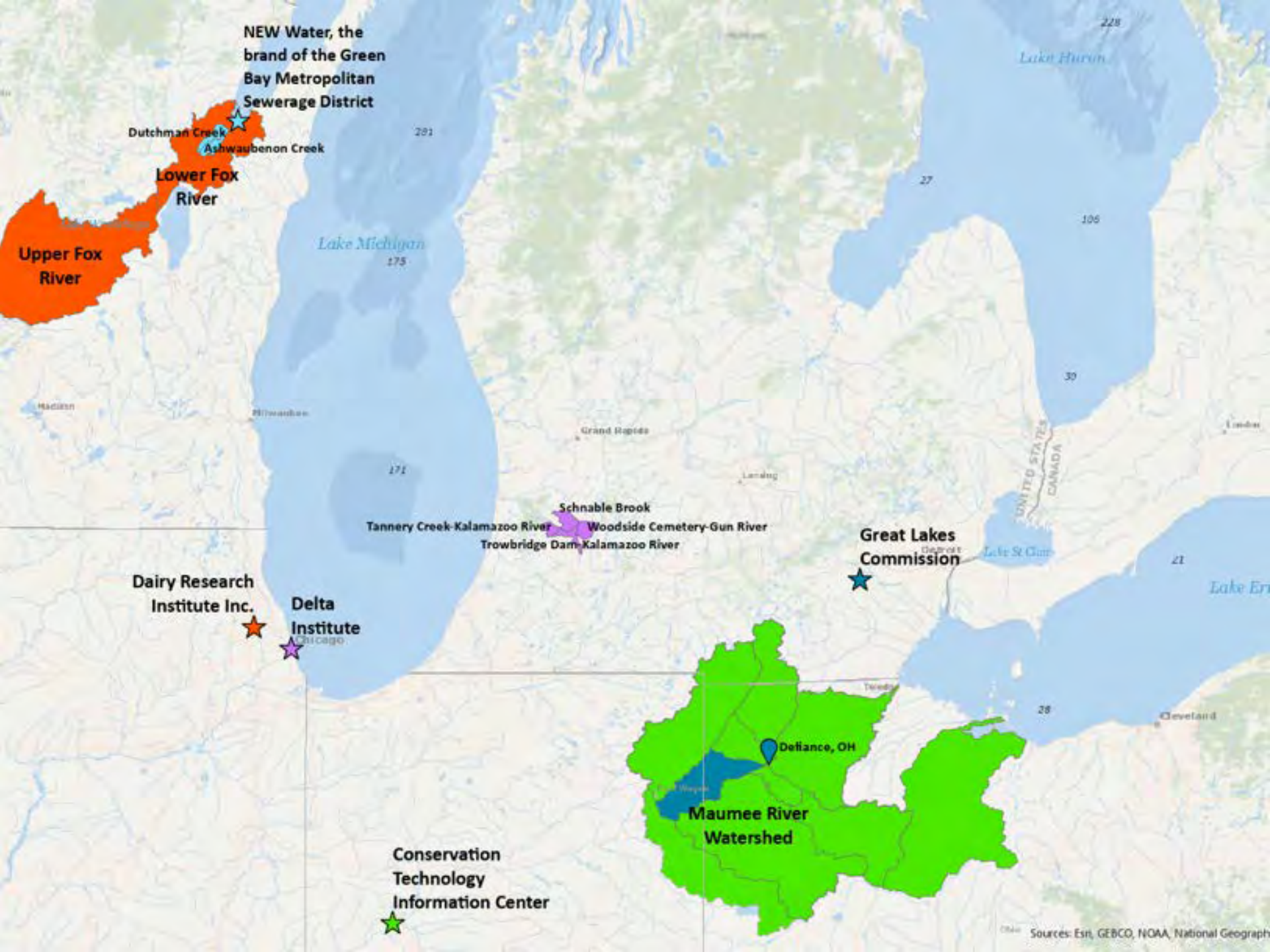


# Recent GLRI Funding Opportunities

- EPA (2019/2020)
  - Water Quality Trading & other Market-based Approaches for Nutrient Reduction
  - Manure Management to Reduce Nutrient Runoff from Farms
  - Accelerating Adoption of Nutrient Management through Farmer-led Outreach and Education
- GLC Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program (2019):
  - P reduction as the priority (in addition to sediment)
  - Long term, sustainable P reductions via structural practices or behavior change
  - Creative approaches

# Market-Based Nutrient Reduction Projects

- \$1.8M in GLRI grants to 5 organizations
- First time EPA has requested competitive applications for water-quality trading projects under GLRI
- Grants include:
  - Delta Institute (Chicago, IL)
  - Conservation Technology Information Center (West Lafayette, IN)
  - NEW Water (Green Bay, WI)
  - Great Lakes Commission (Ann Arbor, MI)
  - Dairy Research Institute (Rosemont, IL)



**NEW Water, the  
brand of the Green  
Bay Metropolitan  
Sewerage District**

Dutchman Creek  
Ashwasubenon Creek

**Lower Fox  
River**

**Upper Fox  
River**

Lake Michigan  
175

Lake Huron  
228

Hadison

207  
Tosawban

Grand Rapids

Lansing

UNITED STATES  
CANADA

London

Schnable Brook  
Tannery Creek-Kalamazoo River  
Woodside Cemetery-Gun River  
Trowbridge Dam-Kalamazoo River

**Great Lakes  
Commission**

Lake St Clair  
21

Lake Erie

**Dairy Research  
Institute Inc.**

**Delta  
Institute**  
Chicago



Troy

28

Cleveland

Defiance, OH

**Maumee River  
Watershed**

**Conservation  
Technology  
Information Center**



# Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Nutrients Annex





# GLWQA Annex 4 Nutrient Commitments

*In cooperation and consultation with stakeholders, First Nations, Métis and Tribes*



- Review, revise and/or develop concentration and loadings objectives for offshore and nearshore waters of Great Lakes **starting with Lake Erie**
- Establish allocations by country
- Establish load reduction targets for priority watersheds that have significant or localized impact
- Develop and implement phosphorus reduction plans for each country
- Monitor and report progress, and adaptive management

# Lake Ecosystem Objectives

**THIS**



**NOT**





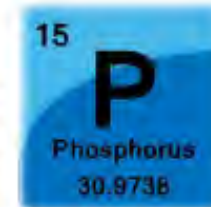
# Binational Phosphorus Load Reduction Targets

## HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

Maumee R & other  
Nearshore  
Priority Tributaries



Spring  
TP &  
DRP

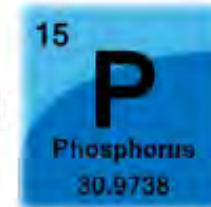


## HYPOXIA

Western & Central  
Basin



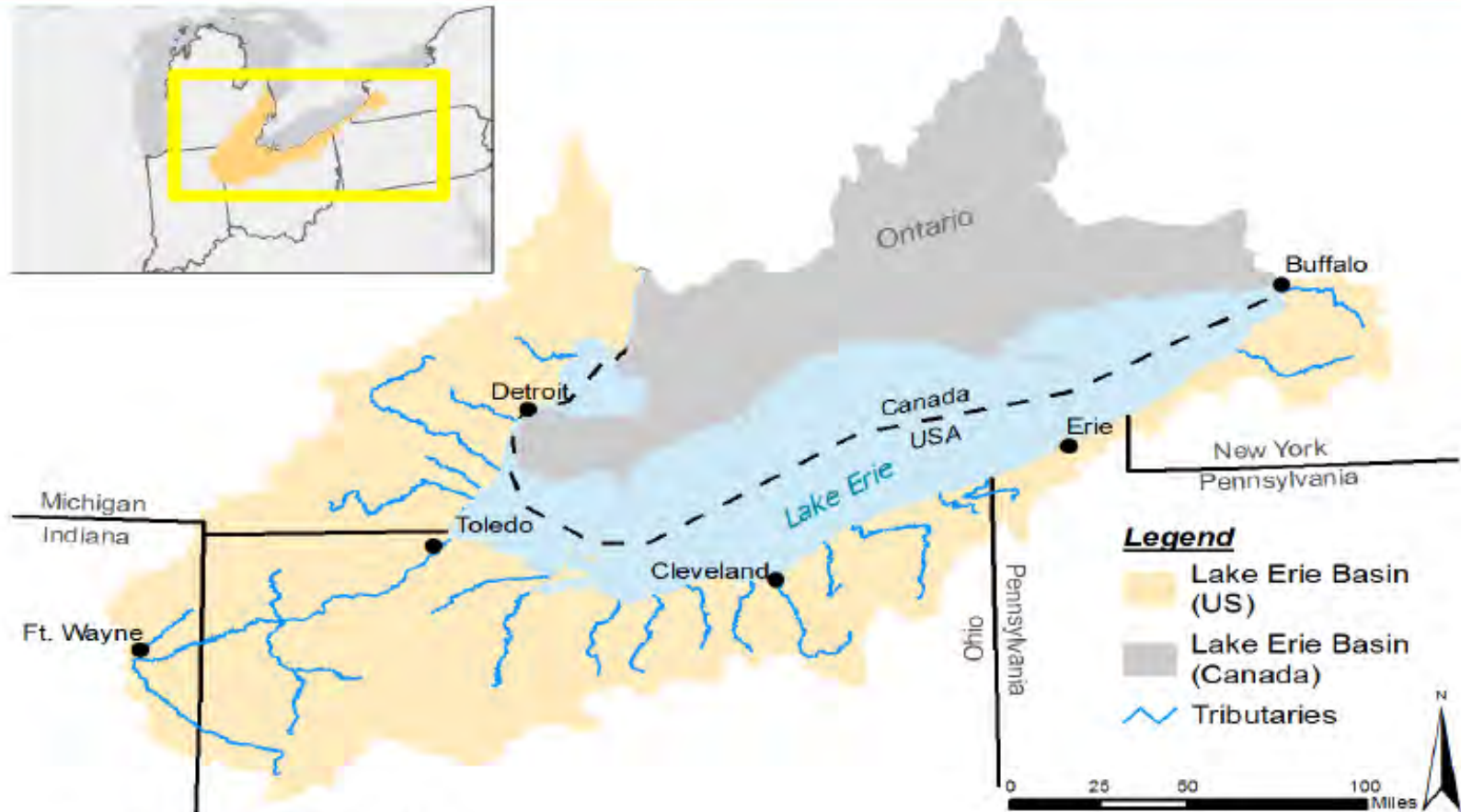
Annual  
TP



# Domestic action plans

- Canadian, U.S. plans (6 total)
- All released Feb/Mar. 2018
- Identifies priority actions and partners to implement
- Performance measures
- Adaptive management
- Will be revised every 5 years starting in 2023

# U.S. Domestic Action Plans



- 5 DAPs in Total
  - 4 State-level
    - Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania (central basin)
  - 1 Basinwide
    - includes New York/eastern basin and federal actions

# A Collaborative Effort

## U.S. ACTION PLAN FOR LAKE ERIE



*Image credit: Michigan Sea Grant*

2018-2023

Commitments and strategy for phosphorus reduction

This document outlines federal and state efforts to achieve the binational phosphorus load reduction targets adopted in 2016 under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

- IN Department of Environmental Management
- MI Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy,
- MI Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- NY State Department of Environmental Conservation
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- OH Department of Agriculture
- OH Environmental Protection Agency
- OH Lake Erie Commission
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Department of Agriculture
- US Geological Survey
- US Environmental Protection Agency



# U.S. Programs

Great Lakes Water Authority Surpasses State Goal Of Reducing Phosphorus Levels By 40 Percent By 2025



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Tri-State Effort for Phosphorus Reduction

Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership

Blanchard River

DEMONSTRATION FARMS NETWORK

Save Maumee Riparian Buffer Initiative



Making the ditches streams again

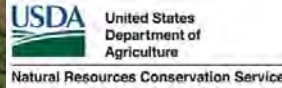
Great Lakes RESTORATION



USDA Launches \$41 Million Initiative to Improve Water Quality for Western Lake Erie Basin



Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)



LAKE ERIE ALGAE

H2Ohio





# Canada-Ontario Lake Erie Action Plan

- Plan for meeting targets
- 128 actions
- Led by 2 federal, 3 provincial agencies
- 13 other partners, including conservation authorities, municipalities, agriculture associations and groups, non-government organizations

## Canada-Ontario Lake Erie Action Plan

Partnering on Achieving Phosphorus  
Loading Reductions to Lake Erie from  
Canadian Sources

February 2018



Canada

Ontario



# Canada-Ontario Programs



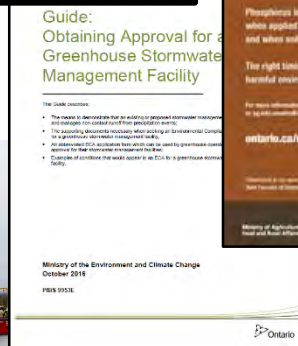
**Infrastructure  
Canada**



**Investing  
in Canada**

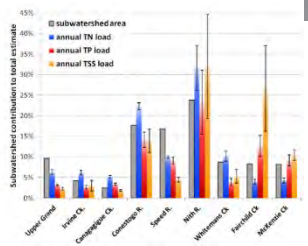


#fedinvest

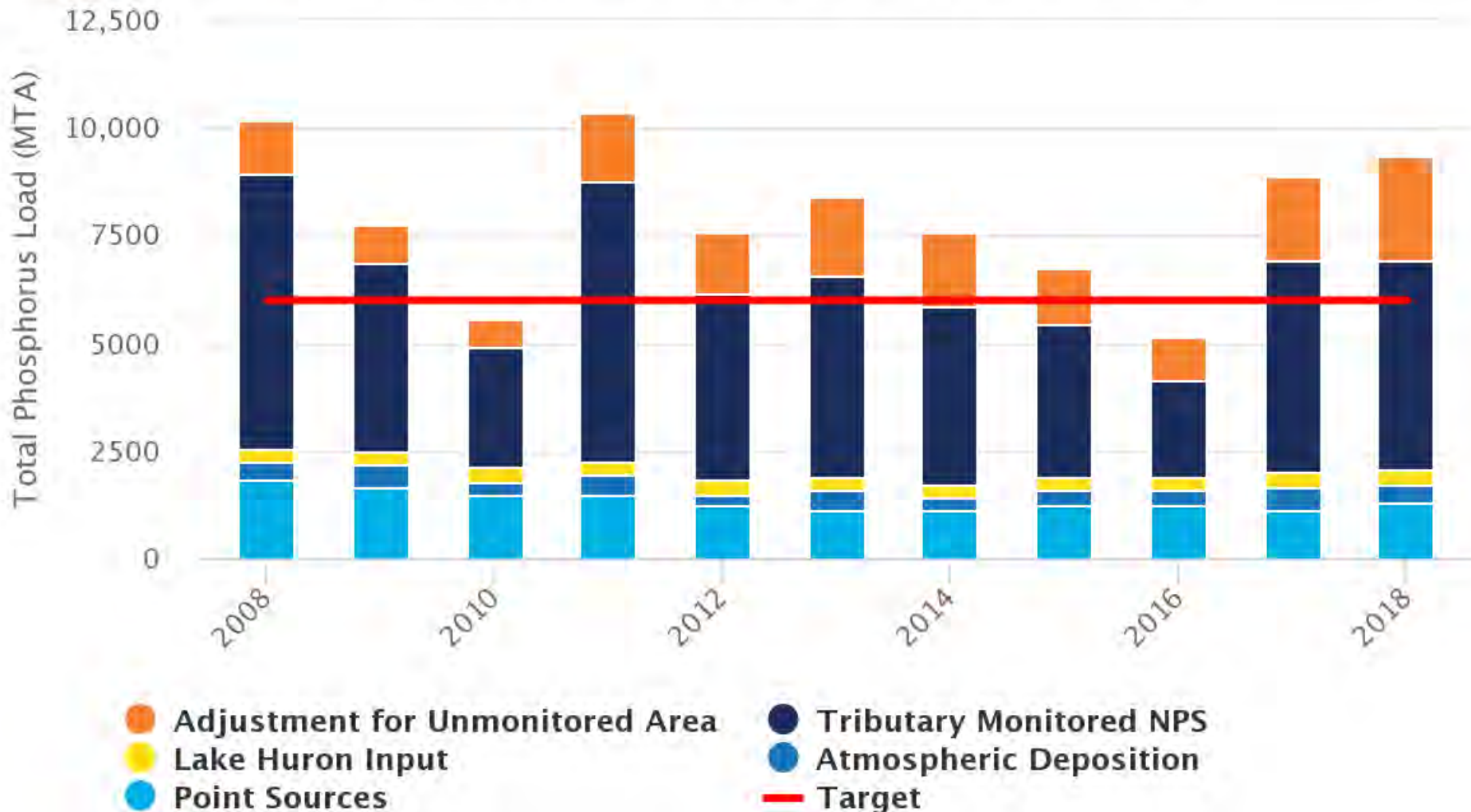


## Lake Erie Agriculture Demonstrating Sustainability (LEADS)

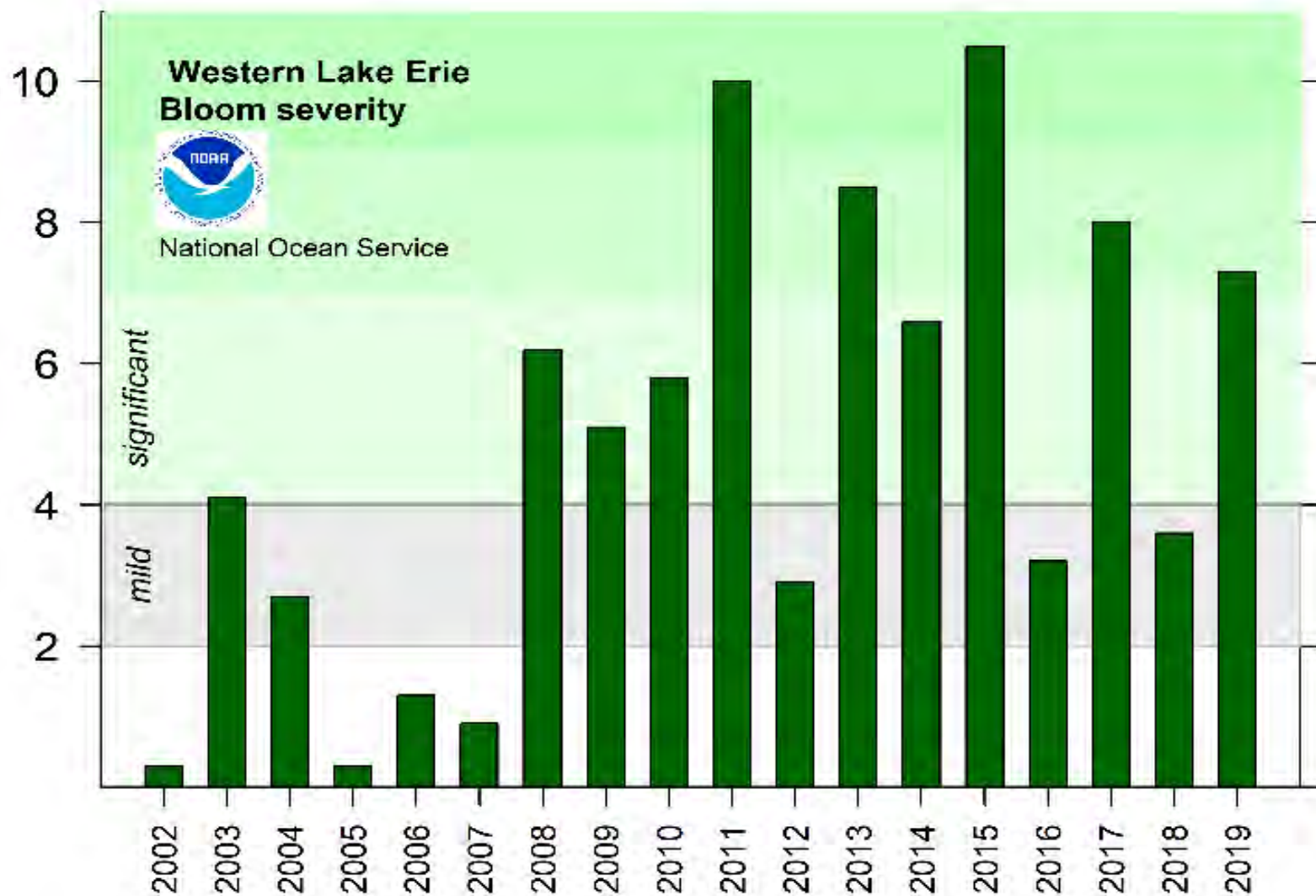
Is your farm business located within the **Lake Erie or Lake St Clair watersheds**? Check to see if you are eligible for enhanced cost-share funding opportunities in this priority, target area



# Provisional Total Phosphorus Loading to the Western and Central Lake Erie Basins



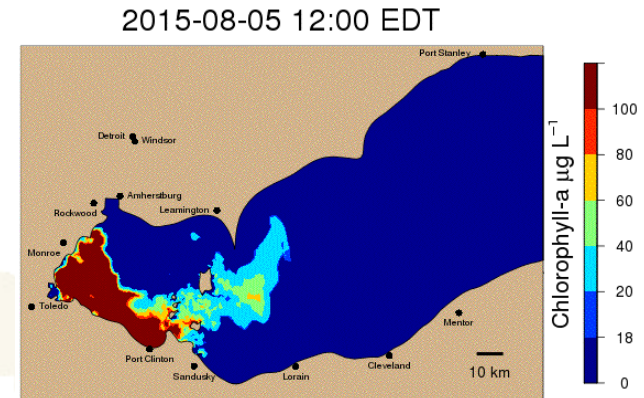
# HAB Severity 2002-2019





# Science Priorities for Nutrients

- Continue & enhance monitoring of nutrients and HABs in western Lake Erie, Saginaw Bay, and Green Bay
- Continue/complete EOF BMP effectiveness studies
- Test new BMPs to treat agricultural runoff
  - P optimal wetlands
  - P filtering & drainage practices
  - Systems of practices
- Assess achievement of Annex 4 targets
- Develop new or improved approaches for reducing or preventing HABs



# For more information:

Full suite of Domestic Action Plans available  
at

<https://binational.net/2018/03/07/daplanphosr edinlakeerie/>

Track progress at GLC Blue Accounting's Erie  
Stat

<https://www.blueaccounting.org/issue/eriestat>

# TRACKING PROGRESS TOWARD A HEALTHIER LAKE ERIE

Approximately 11 million citizens rely on Lake Erie for drinking water. Clean, safe water is essential to Lake Erie's vital role in supporting tourism, commercial and recreational fishing, agriculture, and manufacturing.

Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the U.S. and Canada, with the Lake Erie states and province, have agreed to work together to **reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the western and central basins of Lake Erie by 40 percent (from 2008 levels). ErieStat tracks progress toward this goal.** The governments of Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario have further agreed to achieve the reductions for the western basin by the year 2025.

## 7.3

Severity of the [2019 Lake Erie algal bloom](#). Anything over 4 on the index is considered a "significant" bloom.

[SHARE](#)

## 9,358

Metric tons of [total phosphorus](#) reaching Lake Erie in the 2018. The target is 6,000 metric tons per year.

[SHARE](#)

## 3.2 Million

[Acres of land used for agriculture](#) in the Lake Erie basin were influenced by 4R Certified Retailers in 2019.

[SHARE](#)



# Questions?

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# Questions and Comments

# Business Session

- Great Lakes Commission:  
Reconnecting with the  
Interstate Compact and  
2020 Federal Priorities

*Darren Nichols*  
*Executive Director*  
*Great Lakes Commission*





# Great Lakes Commission:

## Reconnecting with the Interstate Compact and 2020 Federal Priorities

Great Lakes Commission

*Director's update to CSG-Midwest and  
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus*

March 6, 2020

# AGENDA

- Briefly recap Great Lakes Days: Highlights from the Hill
  - Overview of 2020 Federal Priorities
- Overview of the Commission's unanimously adopted Framework for Action toward A Resilient Great Lakes Basin
- Invitation to participate in an ongoing vision to reconnect the Compact, the Commission and state leaders
- Blue Accounting – Beta test upgrades tailored to state policy makers

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# Great Lakes Day 2020: Highlights from the Hill

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**Great Lakes Commission**  
des Grands Lacs

## Great Lakes 2020

**A Vision for a Healthy and Resilient Great Lakes Basin**  
Great Lakes Commission 2020 Federal Priorities

**Protecting an Economic Asset and Ecological Wonder**

The Great Lakes are the economic, ecological and cultural backbone of our eight-state, two-province region. With nearly one-third of U.S. and Canadian economic activity centered around the Great Lakes and 95 percent of our nation's fresh surface water, the Great Lakes are a natural treasure and a vital economic asset. Restoring, protecting and wisely managing them is an enduring, bipartisan priority for our nation and for the people of the Great Lakes region and their elected leaders.

**A Leadership Agenda for the Great Lakes**

The Great Lakes Commission convenes the states and provinces—Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Québec and Wisconsin—to speak collectively for a healthy, vibrant Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin. Established by the Great Lakes Basin Compact of 1955 and authorized by Congress in 1968, the Commission promotes, plans for, and invests in the use, development and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin.

**Following interstate and federal agreements under the Great Lakes Basin Compact, the Great Lakes Commission urges Congress and the administration to:**

- **Fund and reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative** to help communities clean up degraded areas and create new economic opportunities along their waterfronts.
- **Safeguard drinking water and modernize clean water infrastructure** to protect public health, support business and industry, and help revitalize communities.
- **Strengthen the Great Lakes navigation system** to support the national economy, create jobs, and reduce traffic congestion.
- **Protect against invasive species** like invasive carp, zebra mussels and sea lamprey.
- **Promote agricultural conservation** to protect water quality, reduce nutrient pollution, and prevent harmful algal blooms.
- **Build resilience** to protect the people, places, economy, and environment of the Great Lakes Basin.
- **Invest in a collaborative, data-driven approach** such as Blue Accounting to set Basinwide goals and track progress.

**Looking Ahead:  
Challenges for the  
New Decade**

- Harmful Algal Blooms
- Safe Drinking Water
- Resilient Great Lakes Basin
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Infrastructure

**These priorities outline specific investments that will strengthen our nation, create jobs, protect public health and revitalize communities.**

## Accelerate the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Fully fund and reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to maintain progress in cleaning up and restoring North America's greatest freshwater resource.



- Fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative at \$320 million to continue environmental cleanup efforts, reduce nutrient pollution that causes harmful algal blooms, and safeguard the Great Lakes from invasive carp and other damaging aquatic invasive species.
- Reauthorize the GLRI through FY 2026 and increase the authorized funding level to the first year's appropriation of \$475 million to provide U.S. EPA, the Great Lakes states, and other parties the flexibility to address remaining restoration needs.

## Safeguard Drinking Water and Modernize Clean Water Infrastructure

Invest in water infrastructure to safeguard drinking water, rebuild failing wastewater systems, support business and industry, and help revitalize communities.



- Enhance funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs.
- Support the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program and reforms to increase private sector investment in water infrastructure and new clean water technologies.
- Fund provisions from America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 that support states and local communities in repairing, maintaining and upgrading wastewater, drinking water and stormwater infrastructure.
- Expediently implement U.S. EPA's PFAS Action Plan; establish a federal drinking water standard for PFAS; and support efforts to improve monitoring, detection, and coordination between state and federal agencies to clean up PFAS pollution and other emerging contaminants from former military bases and other sources.

## Strengthen Commercial Navigation

Strengthen the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River navigation system by maintaining and upgrading locks, ports and related infrastructure and ensuring the dredging and icebreaking capacity needed to keep waterways open to commerce.



- Provide funding to ensure continued, efficient construction of a new Soo Lock, as well as critically needed maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing Poe and MacArthur locks.
- Fully appropriate funds from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund—including dedicated funding for the Great Lakes Navigation System—to support dredging and maintenance of Great Lakes harbors, channels and navigation infrastructure. In addition, disperse previously collected but unspent trust funds to address the more than half billion-dollar backlog in dredging and maintenance of navigation infrastructure in the Great Lakes maritime transportation system, including maintaining harbors and channels at their fully authorized dimensions, as appropriate to maintain commerce.
- Reform the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to require that all revenues collected are appropriated annually for their intended purpose—maintaining our nation's commercial navigation system.
- Provide funding for construction of a new heavy icebreaker for the Great Lakes and maintenance of existing icebreaking vessels to ensure the U.S. Coast Guard can remove ice jams, minimize flood hazards, and maintain federal navigation channels in the Great Lakes Navigation System.
- Provide U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) with the resources needed to facilitate cross-border movement of cargo and passengers, including a growing cruise tourism economy in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence navigation system. Congress should direct CBP to establish flexible specifications for cargo and cruise facilities to fit the Great Lakes market, and to provide reasonable time to demonstrate market potential for specific activities.

**PHOTOS:** Cover: Ploures Rocks National Lakeshore on Lake Superior in Munising, Michigan. ©Shutterstock. **This page, top to bottom:** Indiana Dunes National Park on Lake Michigan in Porter, Indiana. ©Bilsky/Tom Gill, girl drinking water. ©Shutterstock; the bulk carrier Alpena in the Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. ©Doug Herdman. **Next page, top to bottom:** Silver carp (a variety of Asian carp) in the Fox River in Illinois. ©U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Ryan Hagenry, aerial view of harmful algal blooms in western Lake Erie on September 26, 2017. ©NASA Earth Observatory; Joshua Stevens, using Landsat data from the U.S. Geological Survey; Saugatit Point Park on Lake Huron in Rogers City, Michigan. ©Bilsky/Edik Pressco.

## Protect Against Invasive Species

Invest in solutions to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species.



- Authorize the Chief of Report for the Brandon Road Project to prevent the movement of invasive carp and other aquatic invasive species (AIS) from the Mississippi River Basin into the Great Lakes Basin in accordance with Illinois Public Water laws. The nonfederal cost share for construction should reflect Congress' acknowledgement that this project is a national priority.
- Fund the preconstruction engineering and design of the Brandon Road Project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should work with the state of Illinois as the sole non-federal sponsor for the project and the other supporting states and provinces to prepare for its most practical and effective implementation.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should complete the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study to prevent AIS transfer between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes watersheds.
- Provide funding to fully implement successful AIS programs, including the federal AIS task force, regional AIS panels and state AIS management plans established under the National Invasive Species Act, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's sea lamprey control program, and the Asian Carp Action Plan.
- U.S. EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard should implement the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) in close consultation with Great Lakes states, the Great Lakes Commission and the Canadian government to establish effective ballast water regulations that are binationally compatible and reflect the unique needs of the Great Lakes Basin.
- U.S. EPA should consult with the Great Lakes states, the Great Lakes Commission, and the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species to develop and implement the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive Species Program authorized in VIDA, and Congress should fund the program.

## Promote Conservation Actions

Strengthen agricultural conservation programs to protect water quality, reduce nutrient pollution, enhance wildlife habitat and bolster the farm economy.



- Provide full funding for Farm Bill agricultural conservation programs, including the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, which targets the Great Lakes as a "critical conservation area."
- Implement reforms from the 2018 Farm Bill to strategically target conservation programs that protect the Great Lakes from harmful algal blooms and safeguard drinking water.
- Support soil health initiatives and other farmer-led efforts to improve farmland and withstand fluctuating weather patterns.

## Build a Resilient Great Lakes Basin Environment and Economy

Support state, federal, and local actions to ensure the people, places, economy, and environment of the Great Lakes Basin are resilient for future generations.



- Fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study to develop a collaborative, risk-based decision framework that identifies opportunities to improve coastal resilience over a range of future conditions across the Great Lakes Basin.
- Support the Great Lakes Commission in its role under the Great Lakes Basin Compact to convene U.S. and Canadian stakeholders to develop a framework and action plan for economic and ecological resilience in the Great Lakes Basin.

## Invest in a Collaborative, Data-Driven Approach to Basinwide Decision-Making

Provide leadership and share information to guide Great Lakes investments and ensure regional accountability.

- Federal agencies should manage and share data and information to guide investments and measure progress toward common goals for the Great Lakes. Congress and the administration should support the Blue Accounting initiative, managed by the Great Lakes Commission, in tracking investments and assessing progress toward desired outcomes for environmental, economic and social priorities for the binational Great Lakes Basin.
- The federal government should continue strengthening dialogue and decision-making across agencies and coordination with state and local Great Lakes initiatives. This includes continued support for the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force to coordinate federal agency actions; a Great Lakes Science Forum; the creation of an Integrated Great Lakes Science Plan; a Great Lakes Advisory Board to provide recommendations from nonfederal stakeholders; an Action Plan to strategically target restoration efforts and measure progress; and annual reports to Congress to ensure accountability.

# A Framework for a Resilient Great Lakes Basin



## The Great Lakes Commission: Convening Leaders and Facilitating Basinwide Solutions A FRAMEWORK for a RESILIENT GREAT LAKES BASIN

The binational Great Lakes Basin contains 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater. The Basin also supports an estimated \$6 trillion economy—in many ways serving as the engine of innovation for North America. These world-class assets face challenges from a wide range of changes in the global economy, innovations in technology and transportation, changing populations and communities, aging infrastructure, and variability in weather, precipitation and lake levels.

The Great Lakes Commission urges the United States to pursue policies and investments that ensure the Great Lakes Basin will be protected, productive, durable, and resilient for generations to come.

The Commission also continues to advance collaborative Basinwide work in:

- Looking forward to the next generation of federal, state and local investment in Great Lakes restoration and revitalization
- Investing in a modern, efficient and connected maritime transportation system
- Building a concerted binational effort to manage and eradicate aquatic invasive species
- Supporting consensus-based, binationally compatible ballast water policy
- Cultivating a shared understanding of resilience in the Great Lakes Basin
- Developing an action plan designed to build and support a resilient Great Lakes future for:

Resilient communities

Resilient waters and shorelines

Resilient agriculture and food production

Resilient infrastructure

Resilient and sustainable economies

Resilient transportation systems

Resilient ecosystems

As we explore ways to invest in a resilient Great Lakes Basin, we invite and encourage the Great Lakes Congressional Task Force, Congress and the administration to join the Commission, the Great Lakes states and provinces and the Great Lakes Basin community **as we all work together to ensure a healthy future for the environment, economy, people and communities** of the Great Lakes Basin.

To support the Commission's work in the area of resilience, the Commission has appointed a standing committee on climate resilience. In 2020 the Commission also intends to appoint or reestablish several other standing committees—each focused on one of a wide range of topics and each designed to meet the unique needs and interests of the Great Lakes Basin and its states, provinces and communities.

**About the Great Lakes Commission** The Great Lakes Commission convenes the states and provinces—Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Quebec and Wisconsin—and other key voices to develop best practices and evidence-based policy, and to speak collectively for a healthy, vibrant Great Lakes Basin. Established by the Great Lakes Basin Compact of 1955 and authorized by Congress in 1966, the Commission promotes the use, development and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin.



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# AGENDA

- Briefly recap Great Lakes Days: Highlights from the Hill
  - Overview of 2020 Federal Priorities
- Overview of the Commission's unanimously adopted Framework for Action toward A Resilient Great Lakes Basin
- Invitation to participate in an ongoing vision to reconnect the Compact, the Commission and state leaders
- Blue Accounting – Beta test upgrades tailored to state policy makers

# Framework for Action: A Resilient Great Lakes Basin

## A Framework for Action

The Great Lakes Commission Special Committee on Climate Resilience recommends the following draft framework for action in 2020. The framework sets forth initial action items and suggested timelines for completion. This framework is not intended to be comprehensive; rather, it is to capitalize on momentum of the Special Committee and guide the initial next steps for the Commission as it works to address climate resilience throughout the Great Lakes Basin.

### **Recommendation 1:**

Establish a Standing Committee on Climate Resilience, comprised of Commissioners from each jurisdiction and authorized to convene additional representatives from the jurisdictions as needed. Timeframe: immediate and continuing

### **Recommendation 2:**

Task the Standing Committee to develop and recommend a common definition of "Resilience" for the Great Lakes Basin. Timeframe: For consideration by the public at the Commission's semi-annual meeting in Kenosha, WI and by the end of Q2.

### **Recommendation 3:**

Develop a compilation and clearinghouse of progress that highlights state, provincial and regional efforts related to climate resilience in the Great Lakes Basin (Timeframe: Q2 2020) and establish partnerships with government agencies, research institutions and NGO's to produce a report that compiles and assesses the environmental, economic, and social impacts of climate change to the Great Lakes Basin. Timeframe: immediate and continuing.

### **Recommendation 4:**

Develop a Great Lakes Climate Resilience "State of the Basin" - a long-term outlook and an action plan that prioritizes efforts that form a roadmap to advance climate resilience in the Great Lakes Basin. Timeframe: to be explored by Standing Committee in 2020.

### **Recommendation 5:**

Establish processes for sharing data, evaluating risks and challenges, and deploying strategies to advance climate resilience in the Great Lakes in collaboration with local, regional, and federal partners.

### **Recommendation 6:**

Establish regular dialogue focused on climate resilience among Commissioners, Observers, and other stakeholders during Commission annual and semi-annual meetings. Timeframe: structure to be developed and recommended by Standing Committee in 2020.

### **Recommendation 7:**

As needed or recommended by the Standing Committee, develop and adopt a clear, consistent and consensus-based policy statement on climate resilience for the Great Lakes Basin. Timeframe: Commission action not later than Q3 2020.

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# Vision:

Reconnect the  
*Great Lakes Basin Compact*  
with  
State and Provincial  
leaders

FINAL REPORT

## Legal Assessment of the Great Lakes Basin Compact and Great Lakes Commission



**National Center for  
Interstate Compacts**  
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR INTERSTATE COMPACTS  
JEFFREY B. LITWAK  
RICHARD L. MASTERS  
NAHALE FREELAND KALFAS

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**Blue Accounting**

## An Invitation

Beta testing opportunity for key user groups

1. State and provincial elected officials
2. State and provincial agency staff
3. Great Lakes Commissioners
4. Interested organizations

30 minute walk through and real-time feedback

Late the week of April 6-10, 2020



# GLLC Events and Activities in 2020

- Events

- April 17, 9/10 am Web meeting on Blue Accounting
- June 5, 9/10 am Quarterly web meeting: Legislative review
- September 7 Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Appreciation Day
- September 18-19 GLLC Annual Meeting in Detroit
- December 11, 9/10 am Quarterly web meeting: Ballast water

- Activities

- Election on September 19
- Outreach on GLLC 2020 Priorities
- 2021 Patricia Birkholz Institute for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Policy

*Thank you to our sponsor*



Fred A. and Barbara M.  
Erb Family Foundation

~~The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus~~  
~~Quarterly Web Meeting~~  
~~Accounting~~  
~~April 17, 9 am Central/10 am Eastern~~



# Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus

## Quarterly Web Meeting

March 6, 2020 | 9 am CST/10 am EST



Great Lakes-St. Lawrence  
Legislative Caucus



MIDWEST