

GOVERNANCE OF THE GREAT LAKES

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The Water Resource



The Water Resource

- One of the largest bodies of surface fresh water in the world
- Formed 10,000 years ago by glaciers
- 94,000 square miles
- Over 10,000 miles of shoreline
- 35 million people
- Third largest economy in the world





U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District



Historical Sketch

- Indigenous people all around the lake
- The early explorers came in the 1600's
- Settlers followed in the 1700's
- Major Cities founded and grew in the 1800's
- Industrial revolution and agriculture
- Decline in the 1960's
- Boom in the water belt



Legal Framework

- Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909
- Great Lakes Fishery Convention of 1955
- Great Lakes Basin Compact 1955/1968
- Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement 1972
- Great Lakes Charter 1985
- Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Agreement and Compact 2008



Domestic Laws

- United States
 - Clean Water Act
 - Clean Air Act
 - Superfund
- Canada
 - Canada Water Act
 - Canadian Environmental Protection Act



Organizational Framework

- International Joint Commission
- Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- Great Lakes Commission
- Conference of Great Lakes Governors and Premiers
- Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
- Non Government Organizations





GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE ORGANIZATIONS



FEDERAL

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Commerce
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: Sea Grant, Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, Great Lakes Observing System
- U.S. Department of the Interior
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - U.S. Geological Survey
 - U.S. National Parks Service
- U.S. Department of Transportation
 - U.S. Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation

STATE

- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- New York Department of Environmental Conservation
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Approximately 126 First Nations and Tribes in the Basin

Tribal Organizations

- Association of Iroquois and Allied Nations
- Chippewa Ottawa Resources Authority
- Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission
- Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council
- Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes
- National Congress of American Indians
- United Tribes of Michigan

First Nations/Métis

- Assembly of First Nations
- Assembly of First Nations of Québec and Labrador
- Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians
- Chiefs of Ontario
- Métis Nation of Ontario
- Native Alliance of Quebec
- Union of Ontario Indians

BINATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Non-Governmental

- Chamber of Marine Commerce
- Council of Great Lakes Industries
- Council of the Great Lakes Region
- Ducks Unlimited
- Freshwater Future
- Sierra Club Great Lakes Program
- The Nature Conservancy
- World Wildlife Fund

Governmental

- International Joint Commission
- Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers
- Great Lakes Commission
- Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

U.S. NGOs

- Alliance for the Great Lakes
- Healing Our Waters Coalition
- Michigan Environmental Council
- National Wildlife Federation
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Northeast-Midwest Institute
- Ohio Environmental Council

CANADIAN NGOs

- Canadian Wildlife Federation
- Environmental Defence Canada
- ROBVQ
- St. Lawrence River Institute
- Strategies Saint Laurent
- Watersheds
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

U.S. MARITIME ASSOCIATIONS

- Lake Carriers' Association
- American Great Lakes Port Association
- U.S. Great Lakes Shipping Association

CANADIAN MARITIME ASSOCIATIONS

- Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation

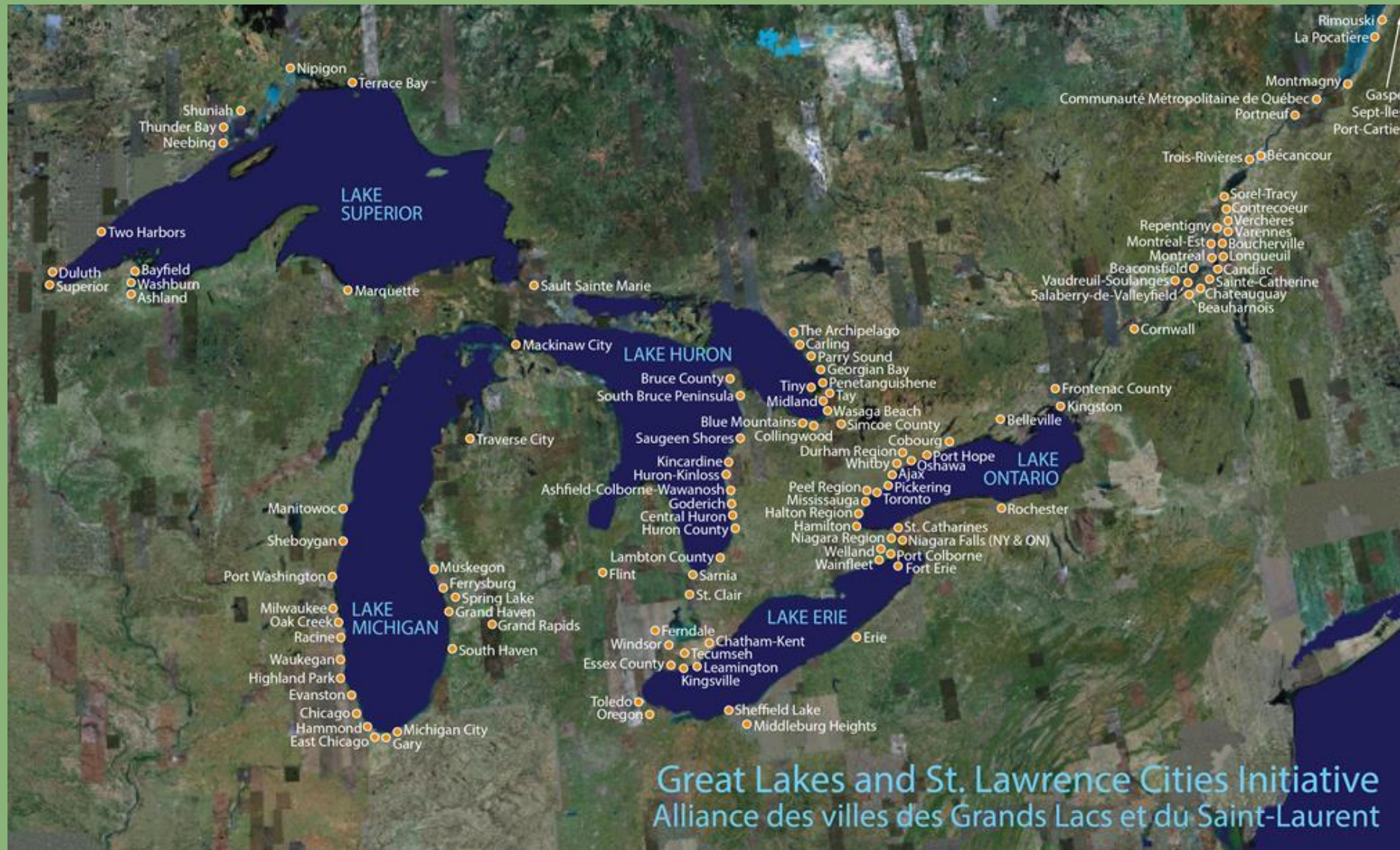
FEDERAL

- Environment and Climate Change Canada
 - Canada Centre for Inland Waters
 - St. Lawrence Centre
 - National Water Research Institute
- Canadian Coast Guard
- Natural Resources Canada
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
- Transport Canada
- Parks Canada

PROVINCIAL

- Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
- Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs
- Conservation Ontario
 - 36 conservation authorities
- Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles
- Ontario Ministry of Transportation
- Ministère des Transports, de la Mobilité durable et de l'Électrification des Transports
- Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'occupation du territoire
- Secrétariat aux affaires maritimes

Cities Initiative



Government Structures

- United States
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Corps of Engineers
 - Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Coast Guard
 - Other agencies
- Eight states
- Tribes
- Local Governments



Government Structures

- Canada
 - Environment and Climate Change Canada
 - Natural Resources Canada
 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 - Other agencies
- Provinces
- First Nations
- Local Governments
- Conservation Authorities



Planning Documents

- United States
 - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan
 - Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy
 - State Plans – Domestic Action Plans - nutrients
- Canada
 - Canada Ontario Agreement
 - St. Lawrence Plan
- Lakewide Action and Management Plans
- Remedial Action Plans



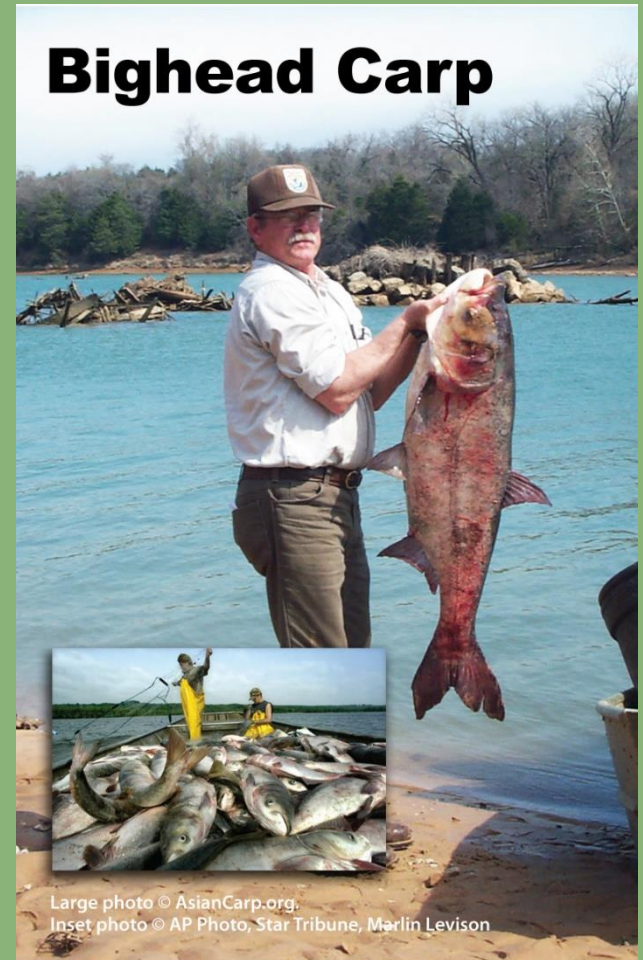
Observations and Challenges

- How does all of this work? Not as well as it should or needs to.
- Fundamental concerns
 - No one in charge
 - Little accountability
 - No central plan or scorecard
 - Inadequate funding
 - Lack of vision



Key Issues

- Climate change
- Invasive species
- Toxic pollutants
- Nutrients
- Combined sewer overflows
- Loss of coastal wetlands



Conclusion

- Legal foundation critically important
- Key is to use it effectively
- Great potential for the Great Lakes Region





Sources

Boundary Waters Treaty

Treaty Text (1909)

<http://www.ijc.org/en /BWT>

III. Great Lakes Compact and Convention of Great Lakes Fisheries

Great Lakes Compact Council Website:

<http://www.glscompactcouncil.org/>

Great Lakes Basin Compact (1968) Text:

<http://www.glc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/GreatLakesBasinCompact.pdf>

General Overview of Compact:

<http://www.cgslgqp.org/projects/water-management/great-lakes-agreement-and-compact/>

Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries:

<http://www.glfcc.org/pubs/conv.htm>

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

Full text:

http://www.ijc.org/en /Great_Lakes_Water_Quality

History:

<https://www.epa.gov/glwqa/what-glwqa>

Illinois Municipal Wastewater Disposal Act:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=817&ChapterID=14>

Canadian Environmental Protection Act:

<http://canlii.ca/t/52ws5>

Canada Water Act:

<http://canlii.ca/t/527q3>

Rights of Indigenous People

Example of Treaty – 1833 Treaty of Chicago:

<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/kappler/vol2/treaties/chi0402.htm>

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission:

<http://glifwc.org/>

Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers

Website of organization:

<http://www.cgslgqp.org/>

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Water Resources Management Compact and Agreement

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (2005) Text:

http://www.cgslgqp.org/media/1330/great_lakes-st_lawrence_river_basin_water_resources_compact.pdf

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Organization website:

<https://www.glri.us/>

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) text:

<https://www.epw.senate.gov/cercla.pdf>

CERCLA information:

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund>

Other Treaties and Links

Clean Air Act text:

<https://www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview/clean-air-act-text>

