

Great Lakes Provisions in the President's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

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Despite the fiscal year 2024 appropriations process being only half-concluded, work on FY 2025 has officially begun with the release of President Biden’s budget. Many provisions impacting the Great Lakes were included. The \$3.7 trillion proposal is a mixed bag. It includes an 8.4% increase over FY 2023 levels and a 20% increase over the FY 2024 appropriation passed earlier this month for the Environmental Protection Agency, but would cut funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund by 24.4%. It would increase funding for NOAA’s climate change programs, but would sharply cut that agency’s budget in other areas, particularly ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes research.

The Northeast-Midwest Institute (NEMWI) has provided this summary highlighting some of the key appropriations bills and accounts pertaining to the Great Lakes.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Program	FY 23 Funding	FY 24 Funding	FY 25 Request	Notes
NOAA’s Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes account	\$39.5 million	\$39.5 million	\$37.2 million	This NOAA account includes funding for the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL).
Coastal Zone Management Grants	\$81.5 million	\$81.5 million	\$81.5 million	
National Sea Grant College Program	\$80 million	\$80 million	\$72.4 million	
Sea Grant Aquaculture Research	\$14 million	\$14 million	\$0	
IOOS Regional Observations account	\$42.5 million	\$42.5 million	\$10 million	This NOAA account includes funding for the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS)
Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas	\$68 million	\$67 million	\$86.1 million	

Additional Items of Interest

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

In the FY 2024 Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations bill, \$14 million from NOAA’s Competitive Research account was directed to research on HABs. The

President’s budget does not give a number for HABs research specifically, but it does decrease funding for the Competitive Research account to \$5 million from \$20 million in FY 2024.

Center of Excellence for Operational Ocean and Great Lakes Mapping

The President’s budget would terminate the Center of Excellence for Operational Ocean and Great Lakes Mapping, which had been funded at \$10 million in FY 2023, but did not receive funding in FY 2024.

Army Corps of Engineers

Program	FY 23 Funding	FY 24 Funding	FY 24 Request
Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Dispersal Barriers, IL	\$14.33 million	\$13.75 million	\$17.98 million
Sault Sainte Marie (New Soo Lock), MI	N/A	\$257.4 million	\$264 million
Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study	\$3 million	\$3 million	\$3 million
Great Lakes Authority	N/A	\$5 million	\$5 million

Additional Items of Interest:

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

The budget requests \$200,000, equal to the FY 2024 level, for interbasin control of Great Lakes-Mississippi River aquatic nuisance species.

Regional Sediment Management.

The budget requests \$2.9 million, up from the FY 2024 level of \$2.6 million, for the Corps’ Regional Sediment Management Program.

Environmental Protection Agency

Program	FY 23 Funding	FY 24 Funding	FY 25 Request	Notes
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)	\$368 million	\$368 million	\$368 million	See note*
BEACH Grants	\$10.62 million	\$9.75 million	\$9.81 million	
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	\$1.639 billion	\$1.639 billion	\$1.239 billion	
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	\$1.126 billion	\$1.126 billion	\$1.126 billion	

*The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law appropriated \$200 million per year from FY 2022 – FY 2026, so were this funding level to be enacted, the GLRI would be funded at \$568 million in FY 2025, equal to FY 2024 levels.

Department of Interior

Program	FY 23 Funding	FY 24 Funding	FY 25 Request	Notes
USFWS Invasive Carp Programs	\$31 million	\$31 million	\$21 million	The budget would fund contract fishing at \$3 million, down from \$4 million in FY 2024
Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration program	\$3 million	\$3 million	N/A	
USGS National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program	\$44.56 million	\$43.5 million	\$46.32 million	This USGS account includes the Great Lakes Mapping Coalition
USGS Invasive Carp Research	\$11 million	\$11 million	\$10.6	
Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey	\$818,000	\$818,000	\$0	

Additional Items of Interest

EPA

Lake Champlain

The budget includes \$25 million to the Lake Champlain Program, to be used in part on projects that will reduce phosphorus loading to make progress towards meeting the 2016 TMDL. The program was appropriated an additional \$8 million in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for FY 2025. If the President’s budget were to be enacted, the program would be funded at \$33 million.

Other relevant EPA grant programs

Program	FY 23 Funding	FY 24 Funding	FY 25 Request
Reducing Lead in Drinking Water (State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG))	\$25.01 million	\$22 million	\$64.5 million

Drinking Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability (STAG)	\$7 million	\$6.5 million	\$25 million
Technical Assistance for Wastewater Treatment Works (STAG)	\$27 million	\$25.5 million	\$18 million
Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants (STAG)	\$50 million	\$41 million	\$50 million
Water Infrastructure Workforce Investment (STAG)	\$6 million	\$5.4 million	\$6 million
Nonpoint Source (Sec. 319) (Categorical Grants)	\$182 million	\$174 million	\$189 million
Pollution Control (Sec. 106) (Categorical Grants)	\$237 million	\$225.7 million	\$288.7 million
Public water system supervision (Categorical Grants)	\$121.5 million	\$116 million	\$132.57 million

WIFIA

The President’s budget would fund the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act at \$80 million, up from \$72.27 million in FY 2024.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

The budget includes \$32 million for USGS’s Environmental Health Program, an increase from \$29.5 million in FY 2024. This includes funding for research on PFAS and HABs, among other things.

National Water Quality Program

The budget includes \$106.2 million for the National Water Quality program, an increase from \$96 million in FY 2024.

Department of Transportation

Program	FY 23 Funding	FY 24 Funding	FY 25 Request	Notes
Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS)	\$38.5 million	\$40.29 million	\$40.6 million	\$16.4 million would be provided for the seaway infrastructure program.
MARAD's Port Infrastructure Development Program	\$212.20 million	\$120.460 million	\$80 million	See note*

* The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law appropriated \$450 million for the PIDP per year from FY 2022 – FY 2026, so were this funding level to be enacted, total appropriations for the program would fall from \$570.46 million in FY 24 to \$530 million in FY 25.