

# Great Lakes Provisions in the President's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

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The FY 2026 appropriations process is officially underway with the release of President Trump’s budget request. Many provisions impacting the Great Lakes were included, including stark cuts to clean water and scientific research. The EPA would see its budget cut by over 50%. A major casualty would be the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, EPA programs that fund water infrastructure across the nation. The CWSRF was funded at \$1.639 billion and the DWSRF at \$1.126 billion in FY25, but the budget would cut funding by 90%, to \$155 million and \$150 million, respectively. The budget also seeks to eliminate 16 EPA categorical grants totaling about \$1 billion. Funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, however, would be retained at \$368 million.

NOAA’s budget would be cut by \$1.8 billion, about 27% of its \$6.7 billion budget. The budget eliminates the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), which could lead to severe cuts to harmful algal bloom research. The budget would also slash the budgets of the National Ocean Service by over 30% and NOAA Fisheries by 27%, and eliminate funding entirely for six of the seven accounts NEMWI tracks.

The Northeast-Midwest Institute (NEMWI) has provided this summary highlighting some of the key appropriations bills and accounts pertaining to the Great Lakes and will update it with more information when available.

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

Program	FY 23 Funding	FY 24 Funding	FY 26 Request	Notes
NOAA’s Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes account	\$39.5 million	\$39.5 million	\$0*	This NOAA account includes funding for the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL).
National Sea Grant College Program	\$80 million	\$80 million	\$0*	
Sea Grant Aquaculture Research	\$14 million	\$14 million	\$0*	
Coastal Zone Management Grants	\$81.5 million	\$81.5 million	\$0	
IOOS Regional Observations account	\$42.5 million	\$42.5 million	\$0	This NOAA account includes funding for the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS)

Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas	\$68 million	\$67 million	\$40 million	
Harmful Algal Blooms (Competitive Research)	\$14 million	\$14 million	\$0**	

\*These NOAA accounts are under the Office of Ocean and Atmospheric Research, which would be zeroed out in the President’s Budget.

\*\*This funding comes from NOAA’s Competitive Research account, which was funded at \$20 million in FY24 but would be terminated under the President’s Budget.

*Additional Items of Interest*

The President’s Budget would terminate NOAA’s National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), which was appropriated \$54.5 million in FY24, and is integral to harmful algal bloom monitoring. The Congressional Justification does mention, however, that “NOAA will continue to provide \$4.3 million to support critical operational Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) forecasts that will be carried out by other NOS [National Ocean Service] programs.”

**Army Corps of Engineers**

Program	FY 23 Funding	FY 24 Funding	FY 26 Request
Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Dispersal Barriers, IL	\$14.33 million	\$13.75 million	\$12.9 million
Sault Sainte Marie (New Soo Lock), MI	N/A	\$257.4 million	\$176.6 million
Great Lakes Authority	N/A	\$5 million	\$0

*Additional Items of Interest:*

*Regional Sediment Management.*

The budget requests \$2 million, down 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 26 Request
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)	\$368 million	\$368 million	\$368 million*
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	\$1.639 billion	\$1.639 billion	\$155 million
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	\$1.126 billion	\$1.126 billion	\$150 million
WIFIA	\$75.64 million	\$72.27 million	\$8 million

\*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 2026, equal to FY 2024 levels.

#### *Lake Champlain*

The budget includes \$15.59 million to the Lake Champlain Program, down from \$25 million in FY24. The program was appropriated an additional \$8 million in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for FY 2026. If the President’s budget were to be enacted, the program would be funded at \$23.59 million.

#### *Other relevant EPA grant programs*

Program	FY 23 Funding	FY 24 Funding	FY 26 Request
Reducing Lead in Drinking Water (State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG))	\$25.01 million	\$22 million	\$20 million
Brownfields Projects (STAG)	\$98 million	\$98 million	\$80 million
Drinking Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability (STAG)	\$7 million	\$6.5 million	\$6.5 million
Technical Assistance for Wastewater Treatment Works (STAG)	\$27 million	\$25.5 million	\$10 million
Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants (STAG)	\$50 million	\$41 million	\$41 million
Water Infrastructure Workforce Investment (STAG)	\$6 million	\$5.4 million	\$6 million
BEACH Grants (Categorical Grants)	\$10.62 million	\$9.75 million	\$0
Nonpoint Source (Sec. 319) (Categorical Grants)	\$182 million	\$174 million	\$0

Pollution Control (Sec. 106) (Categorical Grants)	\$237 million	\$225.7 million	\$0
Public water system supervision (Categorical Grants)	\$121.5 million	\$116 million	\$0
Brownfields Protection (Categorical Grants)	\$47.2 million	\$46.25 million	\$0

**State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies**

Program	FY 23 Funding	FY 24 Funding	FY 26 Request	Notes
Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC)	\$50 million	\$50 million	\$39 million	
International Joint Commission (IJC)	\$10.88 million	\$10.88 million	\$10.88 million	The budget would allocate \$1.1 million for the Great Lakes Regional Office, and \$850,000 for Great Lakes Adaptive Management

**Department of Transportation**

Program	FY 23 Funding	FY 24 Funding	FY 26 Request	Notes
Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS)	\$38.5 million	\$40.29 million	\$41 million	\$16 million would be provided for the seaway infrastructure program.
MARAD's Port Infrastructure Development Program	\$212.20 million	\$120.460 million	\$550 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 rise from \$570.46 million in FY 24 to \$1 billion in FY 26.