

Great Lakes Provisions in the President's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

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The President’s budget request for FY27 was released on Friday, April 3rd. The budget proposes strikingly similar cuts to those that were rejected by Congress in the FY26 cycle, including to clean water, scientific research, and Great Lakes programs. The EPA would see its budget cut by 52%, to just \$4.2 billion. The President’s Budget again proposes to cut the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, EPA programs that fund water infrastructure across the nation and are critical to the Great Lakes region. 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 faces a cut of 0.4%, to 367.7 million.

NOAA’s Operations, Research, and Facilities budget would be cut by \$1.6 billion, or 33%. 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 50% and NOAA Fisheries by 40%.

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

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Program	FY 25 Enacted	FY 26 Enacted	FY 27 Request	Notes
NOAA’s Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	\$39.5 million	\$40 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*	

*The Department of Commerce Congressional Justification has not yet been released, but these NOAA accounts are under the Office of Ocean and Atmospheric Research, which would be zeroed out in the President’s Budget.

Environmental Protection Agency

Program	FY 25 Enacted	FY 26 Enacted	FY 27 Request
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)	\$368 million	\$369 million	\$367.7 million
Lake Champlain Geographic Program	\$25 million	\$25.5 million	\$15.59 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	\$72.27 million	\$72.27 million	\$7.8 million

EPA Grant Programs

Program	FY 25 Funding	FY 26 Funding	FY 27 Request
<i>State and Tribal Assistance Grants</i>			
Reducing Lead in Drinking Water	\$22 million	\$22 million	\$20 million
Brownfields Projects	\$98 million	\$98 million	\$80 million
Drinking Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability	\$6.5 million	\$6.5 million	\$16 million
Technical Assistance for Wastewater Treatment Works	\$25.5 million	\$25.5 million	\$19.9 million
Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants	\$41 million	\$41 million	\$41 million
Water Infrastructure Workforce Investment	\$5.4 million	\$5.4 million	\$5 million
<i>Categorical Grants</i>			
BEACH Grants	\$9.75 million	\$9.75 million	\$0
Nonpoint Source (Sec. 319)	\$174 million	\$175.2 million	\$0
Pollution Control (Sec. 106)	\$225.7 million	\$226.4 million	\$0
Public Water System Supervision	\$116 million	\$116.7 million	\$0
Brownfields Protection	\$46.25 million	\$46.25 million	\$0

Program	FY 25 Funding	FY 26 Funding	FY 27 Request
<i>U.S. Geological Survey</i>			
Invasive Carp Research	\$11 million	\$11 million	\$11 million*
Great Lakes Science Center	\$15 million	\$15 million	N/A**
National Cooperative Mapping Program***	\$43.5 million	\$43.5 million	\$23.7 million
National Water Quality Program	\$96 million	\$94.5 million	\$79.6 million†
<i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>			
Invasive Carp	\$27 million	\$27 million	\$13.9 million
Invasive Carp Contract Fishing	\$4 million	\$4 million	\$0
Great Lakes Sea Lamprey	\$1.01 million	\$1.01 million	\$1.01 million
Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey	\$818,000	\$818,000	\$0
Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program	\$3 million	\$3 million	\$0
Zebra and Quagga Mussels	\$3.5 million	\$3.5 million	\$3.5 million
Great Lakes Consent Decree	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$910,000

*The budget would eliminate USGS' Ecosystems Mission Area, which contains invasive carp research, but the program would be maintained under the National Water Quality Program.

**As part of the elimination of the Ecosystems Mission Area, DOI would begin to “prioritize the decommissioning of Ecosystem Mission Area facilities,” of which the Great Lakes Science Center is one. The proposal notes that “Funding will be used to decommission and conduct the environmental cleanup required at EMA center locations, as well as operate the facility until facilities are fully decommissioned and, if owned, sold. In some cases, facilities may be transferred to partners willing to assume the cost of operating them.” It is not clear what the particular plans for the Great Lakes Science Center might be.

***This USGS account includes the Great Lakes Mapping Coalition. In addition to a reduced funding level, the budget also proposes that the National Cooperative Mapping Program be moved from “Core Science Systems” area to the “Geology, Energy, and Minerals” area. The budget includes the following justification: “The move brings the program that produces and archives the country’s geologic maps into closer alignment with the programs that apply those maps to energy and mineral resource assessments and decision support for land management. This change also ensures that geologic

mapping is directly informed by the country’s most pressing needs, such as identifying domestic mineral resources, assessing energy potential, supporting federal and state land managers, and characterizing mine and energy-related waste.

†Because \$11 million of this number would now go towards invasive carp research, there is essentially only \$68.9 million in funding for programs that the National Water Quality Program currently operates, including those addressing harmful algal blooms.

Department of State

Program	FY 25 Funding	FY 26 Funding	FY 27 Request	Notes
Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC)	\$50 million	\$52.4 million	\$39 million	
International Joint Commission (IJC)	\$10.88 million	\$10.8 million	\$10.9 million	The budget would allocate \$1.2 million for the Great Lakes Regional Office, and \$830,000 for Great Lakes Adaptive Management

Department of Transportation

Program	FY 25 Funding	FY 26 Funding	FY 27 Request	Notes
Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS)	\$40.29 million	\$38.1 million	\$50 million	\$25 million would be provided for the seaway infrastructure program.
MARAD Port Infrastructure Development Program	\$120.46 million	\$103.3 million	\$50 million	