

A satellite-style aerial photograph of the Great Lakes basin in North America. The five Great Lakes (Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario) are visible as dark blue-green bodies of water, surrounded by a mix of green and brown land. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down on the continent.

# Great Lakes Governance

**Cameron Davis**  
**Senior Advisor to the Administrator, U.S. EPA**  
**Commission for Environmental Cooperation**  
**Joint Public Advisory Committee**  
**Public Forum on Transboundary Resource**  
**Management and Council Public Meeting**  
**Yellowknife, Northwest Territories**  
**July 16, 2014**

# The Great Lakes – *internationally significant*

- ▶ 6 quadrillion gallons of water
- ▶ 20% of the world's, 84% of North America's fresh surface water
- ▶ 56 billion gallons used daily by 42 million people in both Canada and the US
- ▶ 10,000 miles of coastline, roughly half the Earth's circumference
- ▶ Basin is home to more than 1/3 of Canadian population and 1/10 of US population
- ▶ For every \$1 invested in Great Lakes restoration, \$2 are returned to the US in the short-run, greater ROI in the long-run
- ▶ Estimated 1.5 million jobs, generating an estimated \$62 billion in wages annually in the US alone
- ▶ \$16 billion in tourism every year (boating and boating activities) in the US
- ▶ 40% of the Canadian and 15% of the US Gross Domestic Product originates within the basin

## Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909

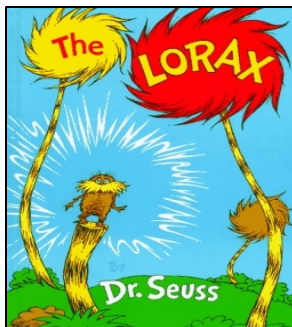


- Set the stage for environmental protection in the Great Lakes
- The Boundary Waters Treaty helps Canada and the US prevent and resolve conflicts over shared waters

### Significant accomplishments of this Treaty:

- Established the International Joint Commission (IJC)
  - Since holding its first meeting in 1912, the IJC has resolved more than 100 transboundary matters raised by the US and Canadian governments
- Provided guidance for dispute resolution

# Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement



You're glumping the pond where the Humming-Fish hummed!  
No more can they hum, for their gills are all gummed.  
So I'm sending them off. Oh, their future is dreary.  
They'll walk on their fins and get woefully weary  
in search of some water that isn't so smeary.  
**I hear things are just as bad up in Lake Erie.**

— *The Lorax*, by Dr. Seuss

# The amended Agreement – *signed September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012*



**PROTOCOL AMENDING THE AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
ON GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY, 1978, AS AMENDED  
ON OCTOBER 16, 1983 AND ON NOVEMBER 18, 1987**

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA ON GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY, 2012**

# Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

- ▶ The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is the largest Great Lakes–specific investment in US history.
- ▶ Governance: chaired by US EPA Administrator McCarthy to coordinate IATF with 11 federal departments.
- ▶ Great Lakes Advisory Board
- ▶ Helps with domestic implementation of GLWQA.
- ▶ Investments are guided by an Action Plan addressing five urgent issues:
  - Cleaning up toxics and areas of concern;
  - Combating invasive species;
  - Promoting nearshore health by protecting watersheds from polluted run-off;
  - Restoring wetlands and other habitats; and
  - Cross-cutting issues: Climate Change, Education, Adaptive Management

# The Action Plan

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*

**2003** – States and stakeholders call for comprehensive strategy; GAO cites dozens of state and fed programs with little coordination

**2004** – Presidential Executive Order establishing Interagency Task Force

**2005** – Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy with support from governors, tribes, mayors, congressional officials and others

**2009** – President Obama calls for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in FY10 budget

**2010** – Task Force and governors release Initiative Action Plan

**2010-2014** – Over 2000 projects to improve water quality, to protect and restore native habitat and species, to prevent and control invasive species and to address other Great Lakes environmental problems have been funded

**2014** – Task Force releases the “next” action plan for Fiscal years 2015 – 2019 for public input

# Toxic Substances and Areas of Concern

- ▶ The agencies have removed 50 Beneficial Use Impairments at 18 Areas of Concern since 2009.
- ▶ Additionally, since the inception of the GLRI, an additional Area of Concern has been delisted.





# Invasive Species

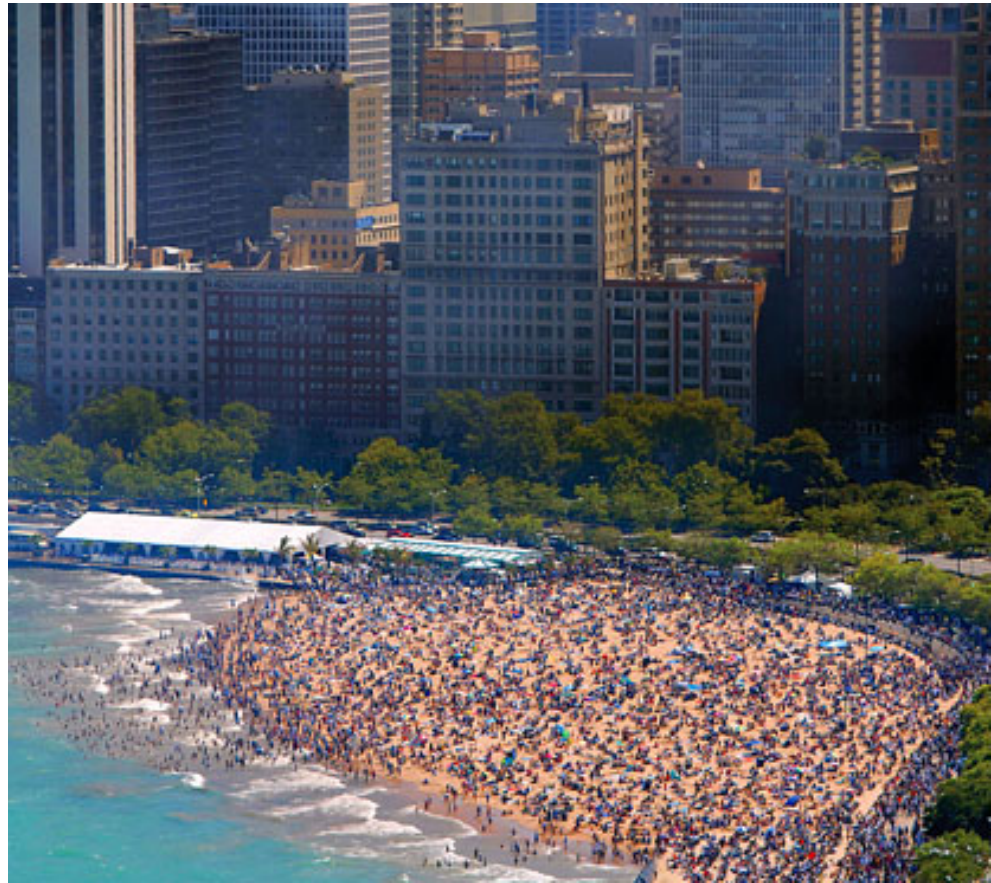
- ▶ Led by White House Council on Environmental Quality, federal, state, provincial and municipal partners have helped keep Asian carp from becoming established in the Great Lakes.



npr.org

# Nonpoint Source Pollution Impacts on Nearshore Health

- ▶ Swimming bans and advisories are at a five-year low at Chicago's beaches due in part to clean beach practices supported in part by GLRI.



Destination360.com

# Habitat and Species

- ▶ GLRI partners have restored, protected or enhanced more than 80,000 acres of wetlands and 33,000 acres of coastal, upland and island habitat.



examiner.com

# Integrated Solutions to Cross-Cutting Issues

- Climate Change
- Education
- Adaptive Management



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