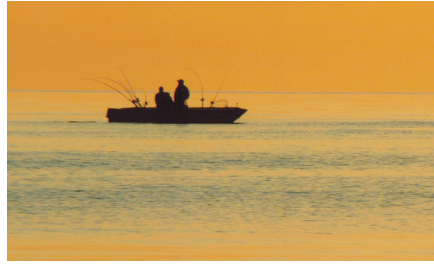


# GREAT LAKES, GREAT SHORES

TAKING ACTION TO RESTORE THE GREAT LAKES FOR WISCONSIN FAMILIES



## CONTENTS

- 2 INTRODUCTION
- 4 PROTECTING OUR COASTS
- 6 PREVENTING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES
- 8 STOPPING POLLUTED RUNOFF
- 10 RESTORING HABITAT AND NATIVE SPECIES
- 12 ENDING TOXIC INPUT
- 13 WATCHING WATER LEVELS
- 15 THE PATH TO RESTORATION



## INTRODUCTION

WISCONSIN IS FORTUNATE to border two of the greatest lakes in the world. Whether it's kayaking along the rugged windswept coastline of the Apostle Islands on Lake Superior's south shore, beachcombing on the soft, sandy Lake Michigan beaches of Door County, or taking in the sounds of summer festivals in Milwaukee, Wisconsin's two Great Lakes shorelines offer something for everybody.

"We Wisconsinites have a rich Great Lakes lifestyle, where we have beautiful places to spend time with our families making memories, and have a variety of job opportunities: manufacturing, business, tourism, shipping, fishing, farming and more. Our Great Lakes make our lifestyle and economy possible."

—Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle

The Great Lakes are a national treasure. These lakes draw families from across the state and around the country to fish, paddle, or simply relax. It is on these shores that we create lasting family memories. The lakes also provide drinking water to millions of people in Wisconsin and are the foundation of our multi-billion dollar tourism and recreation, manufacturing, forestry, and agriculture economies in the state.

Looking out from their shores, these vast waters may appear endless, but they are increasingly vulnerable. These seemingly infinite 'sweetwater seas' are threatened by invasive species, polluted runoff, habitat destruction, raw sewage overflows, toxic contaminants, and problems like cladophora, a nuisance alga. "Not everyone realizes it, but the Great Lakes are facing a crisis," says Todd Ambs, Water Division Administrator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. "There's a very real concern that the combination of stresses they are facing could push them beyond a 'tipping point' where we could see massive and potentially irreversible damages to the Great Lakes ecosystem."

## **A UNIFIED STRATEGY**

Fortunately we have manageable solutions to the problems facing the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) is a comprehensive, collective effort to create a strategy to protect and restore the Great Lakes. The GLRC was born out of a May 2004 Executive Order, which recognized the Great Lakes as a “national treasure,” improved coordination of federal agencies through a new Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, and called for a “regional collaboration of national significance for the Great Lakes.”

On December 12, 2005, the GLRC released its strategy to ensure that a shared commitment guides future efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes. This document—the “Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes”—is a comprehensive plan that outlines the specific steps necessary to restore the lakes. Adopted in its entirety, the strategy would provide funding to keep invasive species out of the Great Lakes, clean up toxic hot spots, help farmers protect our waterways, bring back our prized native fish species, and restore wildlife habitat.

## **WISCONSIN TAKES THE LEAD**

The State of Wisconsin demonstrated leadership during the drafting of the GLRC strategy by becoming the first Great Lakes state to initiate a state-specific Great Lakes restoration strategy

that flows from the regional effort. Department of Natural Resources staff held a series of public meetings in 2005 that helped shape the Wisconsin Great Lakes Strategy. Wisconsin’s efforts recognize that every day we wait, the problems get worse and the solutions get more costly.

Since 2005 many of Wisconsin’s conservation and environmental organizations—working as part of the regional Healing Our Waters® - Great Lakes Coalition—have held listening sessions with the public about the urgent need to restore the Great Lakes. This report is the product of those listening sessions. Through the lens of the people and places of this great state, the report synthesizes the most pressing issues facing Wisconsin’s “Great Shores.” It also illuminates the manageable solutions at our disposal to ensure future generations of Wisconsinites can enjoy the Great Lakes as we have.

## **TIME FOR ACTION**

Delaying the protection and restoration of our Great Lakes is not an option. We know what needs to be done and have created manageable solutions to the problems facing the Great Lakes. You can be a part of the solution to protect and restore Wisconsin’s Great Lakes for our families by urging decision makers to implement the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy and the Wisconsin Great Lakes Strategy. Make your voice heard at [www.healthylakes.org](http://www.healthylakes.org), the home of the Healing Our Waters Coalition.



## PROTECTING OUR COASTS

“Part of what makes the Great Lakes so amazing are all of the creatures, both plant and animal, that make up the ecosystem. My grandson, Duncan, loves walking along the water, looking for all the creatures living along the shore - it’s an exceptional resource that feeds his growing mind.”

—*Lucia Petrie, grandma of Duncan the Genius*

### MILWAUKEE METROPOLITAN SEWAGE DISTRICT (MMSD)

While they have significantly reduced the number of sewage overflows in recent years, MMSD has been a significant contributor – along with urban and agricultural sources – to poor water quality and beach health in southeastern Wisconsin. Major storms, in combination with failing infrastructure, can cause raw sewage to enter Lake Michigan when the capacity of sewage treatment plants and pipes is exceeded. Broken sewage pipes can send untreated wastewater into storm sewers and local waterways, where they contribute bacteria and pathogens. Like many cities in the Great Lakes region Milwaukee has a combined sewer system. This means that sanitary sewage and stormwater mix in one system. Preventing sewage overflows thus means addressing not only sanitary sewer infrastructure, but also reducing the amount of stormwater that enters the system.

THE COASTS OF THE GREAT LAKES are not just where the land meets the water but also where we meet the lakes. Closed beaches, stinking shorelines and contaminated water are all symptoms of the decline in health of the Great Lakes and their shorelines.

Wisconsin’s beaches are one of our main attractions in the summer, yet our beaches are facing significant contamination problems. In 2007, over 17% of Wisconsin beach samples exceeded the daily E.coli maximum<sup>1</sup> due to bacteria from wildlife (seagulls, raccoons), pets, human sewage (from both sewage overflows and leakages from old failing pipes), and agricultural operations. These beach closings are a sign that our coasts are not healthy.

Manitowoc County, which is between Green Bay and Milwaukee on Lake Michigan’s shore, is a beautiful area of Wisconsin with a mixture of tree-lined, secluded coasts and sunny, family-friendly beaches. Unfortunately, Manitowoc County’s beaches are frequently closed due to safety concerns, and in the summer of 2006, beach-goers were turned away from closed beaches more than half the time. Beach closings were primarily caused by

<sup>1</sup>[http://infotrek.er.usgs.gov/docs/beach/Annual\\_Report\\_to\\_EPA\\_2007.pdf](http://infotrek.er.usgs.gov/docs/beach/Annual_Report_to_EPA_2007.pdf)

E.coli contamination, which is an indicator of fecal contamination and other bacteria harmful to humans. This E. coli contamination is linked to polluted runoff from agricultural operations. In addition to E. coli, Manitowoc beaches are impacted by cladophora, a fine seaweed that mats into stinking clumps when washed up on the shore.

Sewage overflows are another threat to beaches and our Great Lakes. Without adequate wastewater treatment infrastructure, millions—and sometimes billions—of gallons of untreated sewage can enter the lakes during large rainstorms. The sewage overflows in Milwaukee have received a lot of attention, but many cities around the state and the region are dumping, or have the potential to dump, raw sewage into our lakes.

Keeping sewage out of our lakes requires that wastewater treatment systems be kept up to date. Unfortunately cities across Wisconsin are sitting on aging infrastructure systems that need repairs or upgrades. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimated in 2004 that \$3.9 billion is needed to update Wisconsin's wastewater infrastructure and bring it to where it needs to be.

Much of the money for upgrading aging sewer systems comes from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund, a federal program that provides low interest loans for wastewater treatment improvements. Unfortunately this program has seen its funding cut regularly while the price tag for

### STOP DRUGGING THE LAKES

Pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs), including antibiotics, mood stabilizers, and hormones that interfere with fish reproduction and development, currently go through wastewater treatment plants untreated and are polluting our water. As these substances make their way into lakes and rivers, evidence is showing that they are having impacts on animals that ingest or absorb them. Policy makers are learning more about this issue and how to prevent PPCPs from entering our waters. To learn more about this issue, please visit: [www.epa.gov/esd/chemistry/pharma/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/esd/chemistry/pharma/index.htm).

repairs continues to grow. Thankfully, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy would greatly increase the funding available through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund.

The availability of these state revolving loan funds is critical for Wisconsin communities to have the opportunity to begin the process of fixing their sewage systems before the problems get worse and the price gets higher.

Wisconsin citizens deserve healthy beaches to spend time with family and friends. The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy will help Wisconsin beaches—like those in Manitowoc—by restoring wetlands which filter polluted runoff, restoring coastland, and providing funding for communities to update their wastewater treatment facilities. Congress can help restore and protect our beaches by implementing and funding the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy.

# PREVENTING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

It seems like every year brings a new invasive species that hurt our native fish populations even more. If we don't stop these invaders, the fishing traditions of our Great Lakes and waterways are going to be ruined.

—George Meyer, Executive Director, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

THE GREAT LAKES and Wisconsin's inland waters have been plagued by aquatic invasive species. Each year, businesses and citizens spend millions of dollars in damages and control costs due to invasive species like the zebra mussel and sea lamprey. One study puts the cost of aquatic invasive species to the Great Lakes region at \$5 billion every year. Invasive species foul Wisconsin's beaches, harm commercial and recreational fishing, clog power plants and municipal water infrastructure, and disrupt the Great Lakes food chain—leading to the regional extinction of species. To date, more than 180 non-native species have entered the Great Lakes, and a new species is discovered approximately every 28 weeks.

Two recent arrivals to the Great Lakes include the quagga mussel and Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS). VHS is a virus that is deadly for over 25 species of fish, and responsible for major fish kills in 2005 and 2006. VHS is not harmful to humans, but could seriously impact Wisconsin's fisheries if not addressed. Another new arrival is the quagga mussel. Close cousins of the zebra mussel, the quagga mussels are actually out-competing the zebra mussels in the lakes and have shown themselves to be even more pernicious. Quagga and zebra mussels filter water, increasing clarity but also reducing vital ingredients, like phytoplankton, that serve as the basis for the lakes' food web. They also bring nutrients, like phosphorus, up from the sediments and into the water column. This re-suspension of phosphorus contributes to the algal blooms that have been seen in some of our lakes. Quaggas, however, do this all year round, whereas zebra mussels go dormant in the winter, and quaggas have the ability to live at much greater depths (up to 300 ft) than their cousins, meaning that their impact on the lakes is much greater.

Another invader knocking at the door of the Great Lakes is the Asian carp. These carp have made their way up the Mississippi and the Illinois Rivers from southern states and are prevented from reaching the Great Lakes by an electronic barrier near Chicago—our last line of defense. A flood, malfunction, or a Congressional failure to fund the barrier is all that it would take for these fish to get into the lakes. These carp are wreaking havoc along the Illinois River, decimating native fish populations and putting boaters at risk for injury as the large fish (up to 100 pounds) jump into the air when disturbed.

Asian carp would be especially destructive to Wisconsin's large inland lakes like Lake Butte des Morts and Winnebago. These lakes are renowned fishing areas and popular, easily accessible boating waters. If Asian Carp are in the Great Lakes, they will quickly enter these water bodies through rivers. Asian carp could have an especially atrocious effect on these shallow, unique fisheries and boating areas.

The majority of invasive species enter the lakes through the ballast water of ocean-going ships sailing to the Great Lakes. This water can contain species from all over the world. Federal regulation of the ballast water in Great Lakes ships has been slow in coming, so states have begun taking matters into their own hands. Michigan has a ballast water law in place, and Wisconsin is drafting rules to regulate ballast water through existing permits. Ultimately, Congress must act this year by passing federal ballast water legislation, and other components of a comprehensive approach to dealing with invasive species, as envisioned in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy.

Unfortunately, invasive species are a fact of life in the Great Lakes. But we all can do our part by educating recreational boat owners, bait shops, and others about the dangers of invasive species, and calling on decision makers to implement and fund the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy.



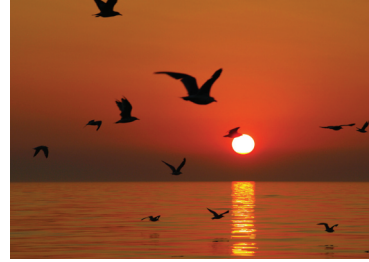
## STOPPING POLLUTED RUNOFF

MOST OF THE WATER THAT ENTERS the Great Lakes through rivers begins its trip on the land somewhere. Rain falls on the land, and reaches the water through the process of runoff. Therefore the quality of our water depends on what happens on our land – the chemicals that are applied, pollution prevention measures used, and the developments that are built.

Unfortunately, Wisconsin's waterways and the Great Lakes have experienced the consequences of poor community development choices and weak enforcement when it comes to polluted runoff from urban areas, agricultural land, and construction sites. Runoff from city streets and yards brings contaminants and excessive nutrients like phosphorus into our rivers and lakes. Manure applied to frozen or snow-covered ground runs off the land and contaminates

streams and can lead to fish kills and contaminated drinking water. Construction sites are also major contributors of contaminated runoff; some DNR estimates indicate that 30 tons of sediment, and the attached phosphorus particles, can be lost from a single acre of construction site and end up in our waters. There are technologies and best management practices that can prevent polluted runoff. When these opportunities to prevent pollution are ignored, the costs of the consequences and clean up are passed on to the rest of us.

Whatever the cause of closures, nobody likes to go to a beach that stinks. Cladophora, a green algae that washes up on shore and can be mistaken for sewage because of its appearance and smell, has returned to Wisconsin beaches in the last decade. Potential causes of Cladophora's resurgence is heavily linked to polluted runoff and aquatic invasive species. Increased nutrients, especially phosphorus from agricultural runoff, along with the chemical and physical changes to the lakes as a result of zebra mussels, combine to create conditions favorable to Cladophora.



Although water quality has generally improved since passage of the Clean Water Act, Milwaukee's rivers still suffer from the effects of both agricultural and urban polluted runoff, which impairs drinking water and closes beaches. Additionally, Milwaukee's rivers, once the commercial and industrial heart of the city, are degraded by contaminated sediments, and in some cases, pose human health liabilities. The Kinnickinnic River for example, was recently named by the conservation group American Rivers as one of America's top ten most endangered rivers due to the damage that polluted and toxic runoff had caused. Great Lakes Legacy Act funding is helping by allowing the removal of 170,000 tons of contaminated sediment from the Kinnickinnic River. An analysis of other rivers in Milwaukee shows that in addition to stormwater and sewer overflows, agricultural runoff is a significant part of the rivers' pollution problems. In particular, while many water quality parameters are getting better, most of our urban rivers continue to show downward declines in water quality for bacteria, phosphorus (fertilizers) and chlorides (road salt).

Adoption of the GLRC Strategy recommendations for addressing polluted runoff would be a significant step toward cleaner water in Wisconsin and the Great Lakes.

Cladophora is no day at the beach. My daughters get so excited to go to the beach, so it's always disappointing to get to the beach, and see the stinking piles of cladophora covered in flies. It's heartbreaking to have to pile back in the car and go back home.

—Nick Hade, father of Kateri, Felicity, and Niamh

Money would be provided to restore wetlands and create riparian buffers along streams and rivers to filter polluted runoff. Funding for technical and financial assistance to

farmers to promote tillage practices will help keep the soil on the land and support the development and implementation of nutrient management plans. It will also guide farmers with their everyday decisions. By providing for the funding and policies to clean up polluted runoff, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy will have a major impact to improving Wisconsin's rivers. Cities like Milwaukee will see a regeneration of their local rivers, and these rivers can once again drive the economic engine of our state.

# RESTORING HABITAT AND NATIVE SPECIES

THE GREAT LAKES WOULD BE A BORING PLACE without all the wonderful species that call the lakes home. All those species — from ducks to trout to eagles and sturgeon — need appropriate habitat to make the lakes their home. That means they need clean water and protected places.

## PROTECTING WETLANDS

Wetlands are critical for the health of the Great Lakes. They remove pollutants from the water and provide habitat for birds and fish. They are also crucial for the health of our economy, as they provide flood protection, improve water quality, recharge our groundwater, and support a multi-billion dollar fishing and hunting industry in the state.

Unfortunately, over 60% of the historic wetlands in the Great Lakes basin have been lost, and the remaining wetlands are constantly threatened. While some mitigation is required when wetlands are lost, these replacement wetlands rarely meet the quality of the original wetland, making it imperative that we protect what little is remaining.

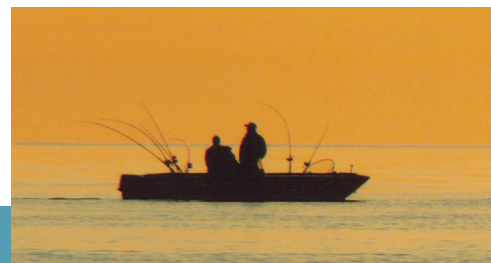
One major threat to high quality wetlands on the Milwaukee River comes from a proposed expansion of the West Bend airport. This expansion would require the largest single filling of wetlands in Wisconsin since the passage of the Clean Water Act and would lead to more polluted runoff flowing through Wisconsin's largest city.

When Congress passed the Clean Water Act in the 1970s, they intended the legislation to broadly protect waters and wetlands in the United States. Unfortunately a recent Supreme Court decision misinterpreted the intent of Congress and over 20 million acres of wetlands are now in jeopardy of being lost in the lower 48 states. Fortunately, the Clean Water Restoration Act would reaffirm the original intent of Congress to broadly protect water and wetlands.

Species once abundant such as the Coaster Brook Trout in Lake Superior have largely disappeared from Wisconsin's northern rivers. No naturally reproducing 'coasters' can be found in Wisconsin. Restoring river habitat and protecting high quality rivers by designating them as Exceptional or Outstanding Resource Waters will help bring back the coaster brook trout and others.

Funding for the protection and restoration of wetlands, and other vital habitats like nearshore and riparian areas is critical. In 2006, Congress passed, and the President signed into law, one important element of implementing the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy called the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. The law authorizes Congress to spend up to \$16 million per year on habitat restoration in the Great Lakes region. Funding can also come from major federal sources such as the conservation programs of the Farm Bill. Let's use the commonsense approach of protecting the wetlands and habitat that remain, and investing in the restoration of wetlands that have been lost by urging Congress to pass and fund the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy and the conservation programs of the Farm Bill. Our kids' ability to go fishing, birding and waterfowling in the Great Lakes region depends on it.

Murphy Oil is proposing a massive expansion of its dirty oil sands refinery near the shores of beautiful Lake Superior. Wisconsin's economic security relies on the Great Lakes to drive the multi billion dollar industries of tourism, recreation, shipping, and agriculture. This enormous economic engine is driven by clean water, and Murphy's project could jeopardize not only the economic value Lake Superior brings to Wisconsin, but would also threaten our cleanest Great Lake and our way of life in Wisconsin. Besides destroying hundreds of acres of biologically significant wetlands, an expansion of the refinery would increase that facility's potential to emit global warming gases, mercury pollution, and other toxins, and threaten public health and impair water quality. The costs of expansion in terms of public health risks and environmental degradation should be seriously examined.



# ENDING TOXIC INPUT

TOXIC POLLUTANTS LIKE MERCURY AND PCBs are a serious health concern for everybody who lives in Wisconsin. Many Wisconsinites celebrate the end of the work week with a traditional Friday night fish fry. Some people depend on fish from rivers and lakes for subsistence. Unfortunately, they may be putting their health on the line by doing so.

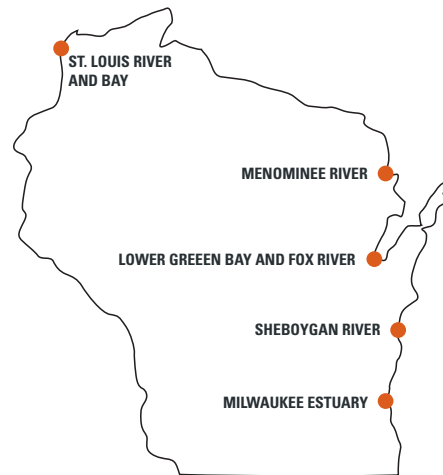
## MERCURY

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that can cause birth defects and inhibit brain development in children. It also affects the reproduction of fish-eating birds like loons. Eating fish is the most common way for mercury to get into humans and all of Wisconsin lakes are covered by a mercury consumption advisory. In general, the bigger the fish, the higher the concentration of mercury.

One of the primary sources of mercury in the environment is emissions from coal fired power plants. While new technologies allow coal plants to be cleaner and emit less mercury and other toxins, making the switch to renewable sources of energy like wind will help keep the rain of mercury out of the lakes. So, too, will a ban on mercury in products such as electrical switches and dental amalgams.

## PCBS

While PCBs are no longer used, they have not gone away. Banned in 1977, PCBs continue to contaminate river and harbor sediments including all five of Wisconsin's designated Areas of Concern.



## WISCONSIN AREAS OF CONCERN (AOCs)

Wisconsin should work aggressively to reduce mercury emissions from coal fired power plants so our kids can safely enjoy a Friday evening fish fry. Further, Congress should act on the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy that would increase funding for communities in Wisconsin to clean up and virtually eliminate PCBs, mercury and other toxins that limit our enjoyment of Wisconsin's tremendous waterways.

Described by some as the “hardest working river in the world” because of all the industry along its banks, the Fox River has suffered from decades of PCB and other toxic inputs. Despite the PCB ban, PCBs still contaminate much of the lower river. Fish have returned to the once barren river but they are still not safe to eat. Cleanup efforts must be fully funded to be successful.



## WATCHING OUR WATER LEVELS

“I’ve spent every summer on Washington Island since 1943. Over the last 9 years, the Lake Michigan water levels have been receding at an alarming rate, threatening the livelihood of those who live and work on the island, and the lifestyle of those who enjoy Lake Michigan.”

*Charlie Imig, Commodore, Washington Island Yacht Club*

THE QUALITY OF THE GREAT LAKES relies on not only what goes in and out of the Great Lakes, but how much water they contain. Water levels can have impacts on water quality, beach health, aquatic life, and the industries that use the water. Lake levels have an enormous impact on the shipping industry, and for each inch water levels fall, ships must reduce their load by up to 270 tons or risk running aground. While some variation in the lakes’ levels is part of their natural cycle, extreme or prolonged levels is damaging for the entire ecosystem and the people and industries that rely on it. For example, when lake levels go down, vegetation—like bulrush—grows in the newly exposed lake bed, and when the water levels rebound, that vegetation prevents erosion of the lake bed, and provides habitat for aquatic life. On the western side of Green Bay, this means increased habitat for yellow perch. However, prolonged low lake levels inhibit this natural cycle, allowing erosion and preventing the rebound of the species that rely on those plants.

Scientists are predicting that climate change and drought are expected to impact this natural cycle. Lake levels are most influenced by precipitation and evaporation, both of which are linked to temperature. Scientific models indicate that as our temperature increases with climate change, there will be less precipitation in the Great Lakes area, and decreased ice cover over the lakes in winter will allow more evaporation. This could result in the Great Lakes having lower lake levels.

Because of the threat climate change poses to the Great Lakes, we have a larger responsibility to protect the Great Lakes water levels through water conservation, regulating water use, and preventing diversions. A massive water diversion, like those in the Southwest part of the United States, could have a devastating impact on the Great Lakes. With this threat looming, the governors of the Great Lakes states signed the Great

Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (“Compact”). The Compact effectively closes off the chance of a major diversion from the Great Lakes, and promotes a region-wide accounting through conservation and monitoring of water usage. This interstate agreement will be binding once each state passes it, and the U.S. Congress consents to it.

As of the date of this report, the Great Lakes Compact is law in four of the eight Great Lakes states, and is being debated in the Wisconsin legislature. Once it has passed the state legislatures, it must be approved by Congress. The Healing Our Waters® Coalition is optimistic that the U.S. Congress understands the importance of protecting this national treasure, and will protect our lakes into the future through the Great Lakes Compact.

## THE PATH TO RESTORATION

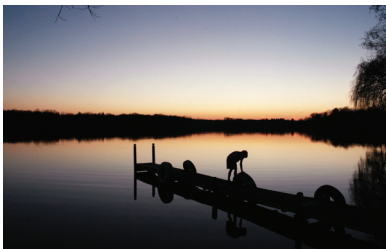
"We don't advocate protecting the Great Lakes because they are wonderful for summer picnics and fishing trips. We advocate protecting the Great Lakes because they are essential to every aspect of our day-to-day life."

—From *Green Bay Press Gazette* editorial, March 13, 2007



FROM THE APOSTLE ISLANDS TO THE MILWAUKEE SHORELINE, the Great Lakes mean so much to the people of Wisconsin. Yet, as you've read, our Lakes are damaged economically and ecologically by untreated sewage, toxic pollution, invasive species, and more. Unless we invest in a solution today, we will pay a much higher price tomorrow, and future generations may never experience the Lakes as we know them.

Fortunately there is a solution — you.



Urge state and national leaders to implement and fund the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, a comprehensive regional plan that dedicates funding to protect our drinking water, economic future, and way of life. Congress can heed the call from Wisconsin's residents and begin implementing the GLRC strategy this year by passing ballast water legislation, Clean Water Restoration Act, Great Lakes Legacy Act, and fully funding key Great Lakes restoration programs. You can help support the solution for the Great Lakes today by visiting [www.healthylakes.org](http://www.healthylakes.org) and [www.cleanwisconsin.org](http://www.cleanwisconsin.org).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For additional information about the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, visit [www.epa.gov/greatlakes/collaboration](http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/collaboration).

**THIS REPORT IS AUTHORED BY CLEAN WISCONSIN,**  
in collaboration with the following state conservation partners:

Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers

Sierra Club, and  
Dale Olen, Conservation Chair  
Great Waters Group, Sierra Club

Town and Country Resource Conservation and Development

Trout Unlimited, Wisconsin State Council

Wisconsin Environment

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

The Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives campaign is directed by the Healing Our Waters®–Great Lakes Coalition. The coalition consists of more than 90 zoos, aquariums, museums, and hunting, fishing and environmental organizations representing millions of people, whose common goal is to restore and protect the Great Lakes. Formed in 2005 with support from the Wege Foundation, Joyce Foundation, and others, the Healing Our Waters®–Great Lakes Coalition reflects a growing public awareness about the urgent need to protect the Great Lakes.

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