



Environmental Quality

Goal: To restore and maintain a healthy environment by promoting the cleanup of contaminated sites, protecting high-quality areas and ensuring a strong foundation of scientific research and monitoring

What we did in 2002 to *restore the greatness:*

- Developed recommendations for a binational management framework for Lake St. Clair, and moved a comprehensive restoration plan initiative toward completion.
- Populated a basinwide coastal wetlands inventory and classification system by consolidating local data
- Helped improve detection and monitoring of new aquatic nuisance species invasions through a pilot project
- Tested new mechanisms for monitoring the environmental health of coastal wetlands
- Produced a geographically searchable database of monitoring programs in the Lake Michigan basin
- Developed a reference guide and web site of information on Great Lakes Areas of Concern
- Supported restoration in Great Lakes Areas of Concern by training members of Michigan public advisory councils in organizational skills

Featured Projects

www.glc.org/about/programs/eq.html

What we do

The Environmental Quality Program promotes efforts to restore and maintain ecosystem quality, with an emphasis on Areas of Concern cleanup, comprehensive planning and environmental monitoring. Contact: Matt Doss, program manager, at mdoss@glc.org



Monitoring coastal wetlands

www.glc.org/wetlands

The Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium was established by the Commission and U.S. EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office to improve the ecological health of Great Lakes coastal wetlands. Comprised of regional scientists and policymakers, the consortium is working to expand and coordinate the coastal wetland monitoring and reporting capabilities of the United States and Canada.

The consortium is developing a long-term program to monitor a variety of coastal wetlands indicators. It is also supporting a number of projects to collect data and field-test new monitoring methods, and has compiled a basinwide inventory and classification system of coastal wetlands.

Current efforts include evaluating techniques for calculating broad-scale wetland impacts, developing a process to select sites that merit long-term monitoring, building a geographic database to integrate monitoring data, and coordinating efforts among the monitoring organizations in the Great Lakes basin. Contact Ric Lawson, rlawson@glc.org

Restoration planning for Lake St. Clair

www.glc.org/stclair

A vital shared resource between the United States and Canada, Lake St. Clair is one of the most heavily used portions of the Great Lakes basin. Sometimes called the “forgotten lake” because its problems have not received the attention given the five Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair is now the focus of an array of Commission initiatives. These include:

- Preparing a comprehensive management plan for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River (www.glc.org/stclair);
- Developing a geographically searchable inventory of monitoring programs in the Lake St. Clair basin and a strategic monitoring plan (www.glc.org/monitoring/stclair);
- Compiling a draft coastal habitat restoration and conservation plan (www.glc.org/habitat); and
- Providing recommendations for a binational management framework for the lake.

Project funders include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA and U.S. EPA. Contact Matt Doss, mdoss@glc.org

Photos: Opposite, Agate Falls near Bruce Crossing, Mich. – Ray Malace, Ray Malace Photo Illustration. At left, Tobico Marsh, Bay City, Mich. – Dave Brenner, Michigan Sea Grant.