

# The Great Lakes Deserve Great Science

## Supporting the development of a Great Lakes Science Plan

- The **International Joint Commission (IJC)** helps Canada and the United States prevent and resolve issues over shared waters on 5,525 miles of boundary, including the Great Lakes.
- The IJC **Great Lakes Science Advisory Board's 2022 *Great Lakes Science Strategy for the Next Decade (the Science Strategy)*** identifies the basin's science gaps and resource needs.
- The IJC Great Lakes Science Advisory Board is leading the development of a ***Great Lakes Science Plan for the Next Generation (the Science Plan)***, to transform the Science Strategy into an actionable and sustainable plan that coordinates science efforts basinwide.

### From Strategy to Plan

#### Partners collaborating to shape the Great Lakes Science Plan for the Next Generation

The Great Lakes support a regional economy of US\$6 trillion (CDN\$8 trillion) and provide safe drinking water for 36 million Canadian and US residents. Science provides essential data to build consensus around managing and preventing threats facing the Great Lakes. However, a lack of investment in monitoring and forecasting leaves the region vulnerable. A comprehensive plan is needed to safeguard our communities and the region's economy, while protecting the Great Lakes' ecological health.

The **Great Lakes Science Advisory Board** is working with partners to develop a ***Great Lakes Science Plan for the Next Generation***. Participants are exploring how to transform ***the Science Strategy*** into a forward-thinking plan to prepare the region for stressors and threats that the coming decades will bring.

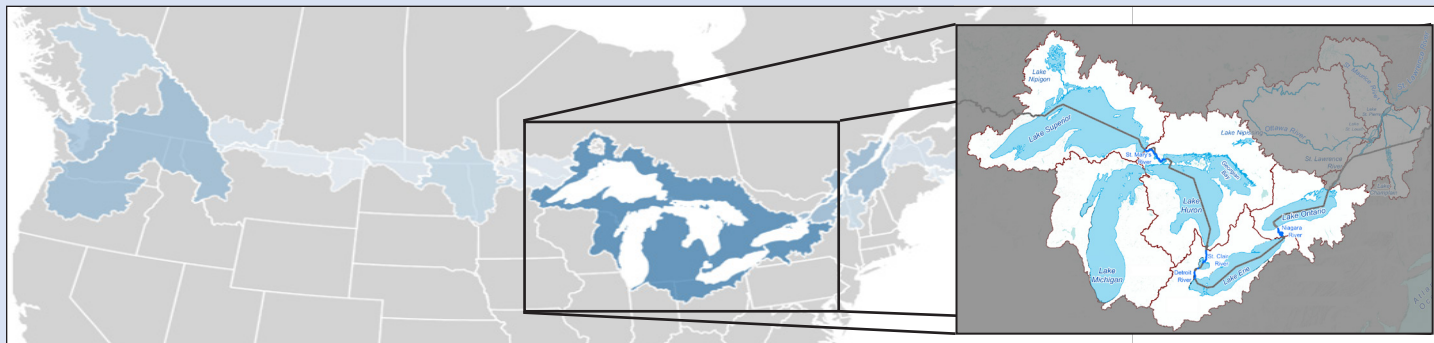
The ***Science Plan*** aims to address the gaps and science needs outlined in ***the Science Strategy*** and develop an approach to coordinating essential science activities to address rapid changes and emerging threats to the Great Lakes.

**Contact the IJC about this project:** [sciencestrategy@ijc.org](mailto:sciencestrategy@ijc.org)



Scan for more about this project!

### Where will this work impact?



More than a century of cooperation protecting shared waters  
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# Great Lakes Science Plan

Great Lakes Science Advisory Board

The Great Lakes Science Advisory Board has formed a collaborative of more than thirty Great Lakes science stakeholder to develop *the Science Plan*. This work includes developing a framework for sustainable funding, shared governance and collaborative management. A crucial part of *the Science Plan* is to address the gaps and science needs in six priority areas identified in *the Science Strategy*.

## The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the IJC, supported by its Great Lakes advisory boards, is charged with providing advice and recommendations on research and monitoring of Great Lakes water quality and coordinating with other binational and international institutions that address concerns to the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. The *Science Plan* helps the IJC fulfill both obligations.

## About the International Joint Commission

The IJC was established in 1909 under the Boundary Waters Treaty to help Canada and the United States prevent and resolve disputes over shared waters. The IJC's responsibilities include reporting on progress made by the governments under the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The Great Lakes Science Advisory Board provides advice and guidance on scientific research to the IJC and the Great Lakes Water Quality Board.

## The six priority areas for investment



basic process research



enhanced modeling and forecasting systems



monitoring and long time series measurements



workforce development



science infrastructure and Centers of Excellence



inclusion of broad perspectives

## The Great Lakes ...



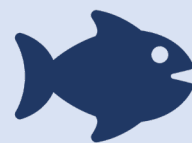
contain roughly  
20 percent of the world's  
fresh surface water



support a  
US\$6 trillion (CAD\$7.5  
trillion) regional economy



are a source of  
drinking water for  
36 million people



are home to  
4,000 species of  
plants and animals



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