

# Great Lakes Horizons: Learning for the Future

Inspiring action through an interactive exploration of potential scenarios

- 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 Water Quality Board developed four scenarios describing potential conditions of the Great Lakes in 2053 in its project: *On the Great Lakes Horizon*.
- With interactive tools to explore the four scenarios, the Board seeks to educate and inspire people to consider how today's actions will impact the Great Lakes in the future.

## Exploring the Great Lakes in 2053

Learn what policies and actions will help achieve the best future scenario for the region

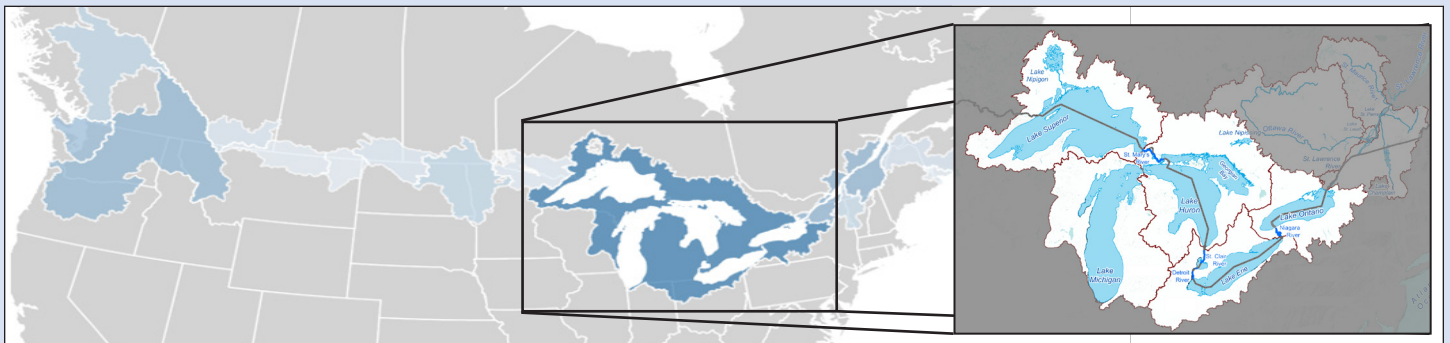
The *On the Great Lakes Horizon* report presents four scenarios outlining different futures for the region, from worst to best possibilities (visualized below).

The Great Lakes Water Quality Board is transforming these scenarios into free, interactive online tools. These products will engage people to think about the future of the Great Lakes, what they want the Great Lakes to look like, and what can be done now so that decisions and actions ensure better water quality and human and environmental health in the future.



Partial depictions of the four scenarios, the worst future state on the left to the best future state on the right. Illustrated by Jennifer Clausen for the Board. The board's current project is making interactive multimedia tools to explore the scenarios.

## Where will this work impact?



More than a century of cooperation protecting shared waters  
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# Exploring the Great Lakes Horizons

Great Lakes Water Quality Board

## About the Project

The *On the Great Lakes Horizon* report collected and analyzed ecological, economic, social, political, demographic, technological and cultural data to identify key drivers and trends expected to influence the Great Lakes region over the next 30 years.

The report presents four scenarios outlining different possible futures for the Great Lakes region, from worst to best conditions, based on underlying drivers, trends and trajectories.

In 2024, the Great Lakes Water Quality Board is creating animated videos and an interactive tool that explores the four scenarios. The Board's goal is to engage with individuals and decision-makers for the purpose of:

- Learning about the four future scenarios;
- Fostering an appreciation for how policy decisions can affect the scenario outcomes;
- Championing decisions that help achieve the most desirable future scenario; and
- Guiding decisions and actions that aligns with the vision for the future.

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## The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement charges the Great Lakes Water Quality Board with assisting the IJC to identify emerging issues and recommending strategies and approaches for preventing and resolving complex challenges facing the Great Lakes.

## 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 Water Quality Board advises the IJC to support the achievement of the Agreement.

Scan for more  
about this project!



## The Great Lakes ...



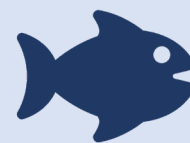
contain roughly  
20 percent of the world's  
fresh surface water



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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