



International Joint Commission Public Input Webinar Perspectives on Working with Algal Blooms in the Great Lakes

February 25, 2026
11:30 am – 1:00 pm ET





Greetings from the Great Lakes

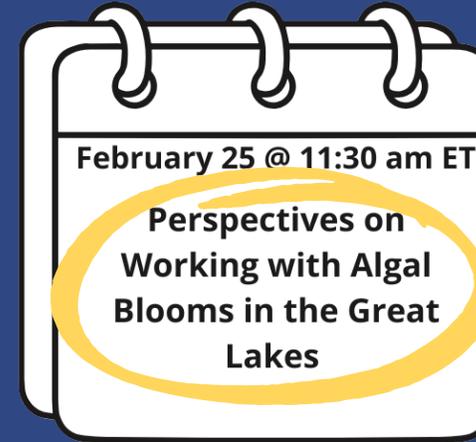
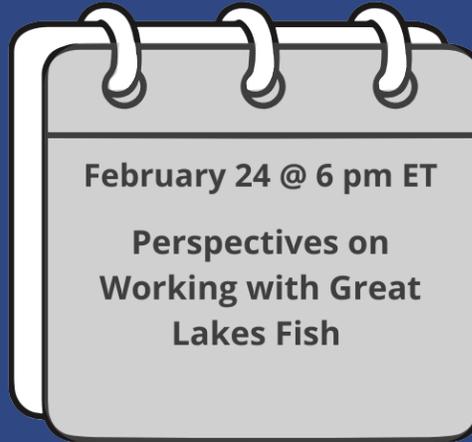


Welcome

Credit: The Decolonial Atlas



IJC Public Input Webinar Series





Agenda

About the IJC

Video: Assessing Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Progress

Invited Talks

Chris Winslow

Ohio State University
Stone Laboratory
Ohio Sea Grant



Alyssa Cousineau

ALUS (Alternative Land
Use Solutions)
Canada Eastern Hub

Public Input: Share Your Perspectives

Closing Remarks (~1:00 pm ET)





Many Ways To Comment

April 3, 2026

Online Platform:
GLperspectives.ijc.org



Home > Share Your Great Lakes Perspectives

Share Your Great Lakes Perspectives

Until Friday, April 3rd, submit your comments to the IJC to share your perspectives on Canadian and US governments' latest Progress Report under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Canada and the United States work together through the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to keep the Great Lakes clean and healthy. Every three years, the IJC assesses progress towards the Agreement's goals for drinkable, fishable, swimmable Great Lakes.

Your input is a crucial part of the IJC's assessment. The governments have documented their activities over the last three years to achieve the goals of the Agreement in the 2025 Progress Report of the Parties.

Actions you can take to get involved:

1. Read the [Progress Report of the Parties](#) (published by Canada and the United States)
2. Submit your comments to the IJC below
3. Attend one of the IJC's [public webinars](#)
4. Coming soon: IJC survey to evaluate the governments' progress report

Question Prompt

When sharing your Great Lakes perspectives, consider including:

- How have changes to water quality impacted the way you live, work, play and engage with the Great Lakes?
- If you had a magic wand, what would you choose to achieve progress on Great Lakes water quality?
- Three years from now, how do you hope changes to Great Lakes water quality will have changed the way you live, work, and play in the Great Lakes?

Submission Formats

You can share your Great Lakes perspectives in three ways:

- Written Comments**
Type or paste your comments directly into the forum and read what others are saying about Great Lakes water quality.
- Video Recording**
Record your comments using your camera and microphone and see what others are saying about Great Lakes water quality.
- Audio Recording**
Record your comments using your microphone and listen to what others are saying about Great Lakes water quality.

2025 Progress Report of the Parties released [Read the report](#)

3 February, 2026

Public Comment Period opens Share your input

5 February, 2026

IJC at the Great Lakes Public Forum Join the IJC online or in Chicago, IL to share your comments. [it](#)

19 February, 2026

Many Perspectives Broadcast Details coming soon

24 February, 2026 to 25 March, 2026

Public Comment Webinars Register to share your input with the IJC. [it](#)

4 April, 2026

Public Comment Period closes







IJC Commissioners



Pierre Baril
Canadian Co-chair



Gerald Acker
US Co-chair



Merrell-Ann Phare
Commissioner appointed
by Canada



Sue Chiblow
Commissioner appointed
by Canada



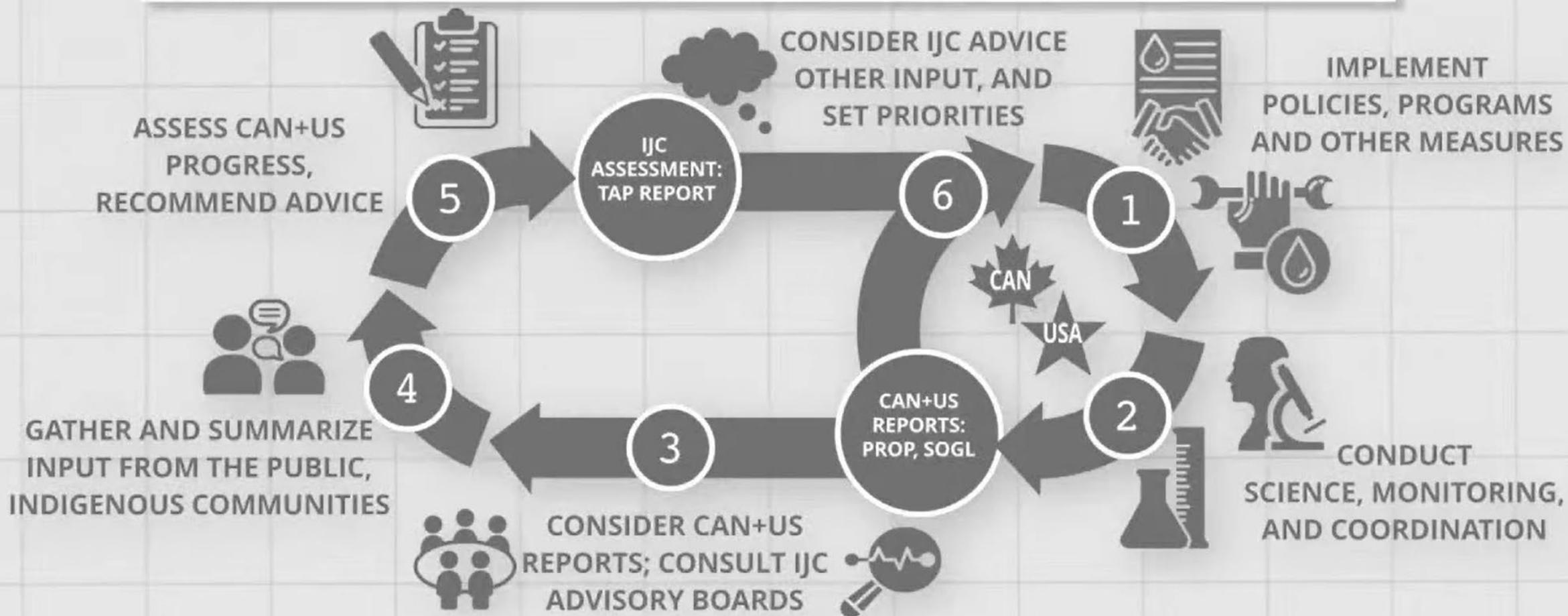
Robert Gioia
US Commissioner



Lance Yohe
US Commissioner

The Great Lakes Water Quality

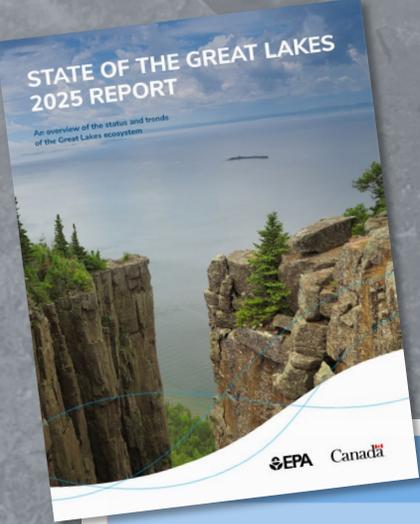
Agreement Assessment Cycle



Poll Results



2025 State of the Great Lakes Report



NUTRIENTS AND ALGAE

The 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement states that “the Waters of the Great Lakes should be free from nutrients that directly or indirectly enter the water as a result of human activity, in amounts that promote growth of algae and cyanobacteria that interfere with aquatic ecosystem health, or human use of the ecosystem.”

Status: **POOR TO FAIR**
Trend: **UNCHANGING**

Sub-indicators supporting the Nutrients and Algae Assessment

| Sub-Indicator | Lake Superior | Lake Michigan | Lake Huron | Lake Erie | Lake Ontario |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Nutrients in Lakes | Good & Unchanging | Fair & Unchanging | Fair & Unchanging | Poor & No Trend | Fair & Unchanging |
| Algal Bloom Extent | Undetermined & Undetermined | Fair & Unchanging | Fair & No Trend | Poor & Unchanging | Good & Unchanging |
| Cladophora | Good & Unchanging | Poor & No Trend | Fair & Undetermined | Poor & No Trend | Poor & No Trend |

STATUS



Provide input on the 2025 Progress Report of the Parties

Consider including:

- How have changes in water quality impacted you?
- What would you change to achieve progress on Great Lakes water quality?
- Looking ahead three years, how do you imagine water quality changes will impact how you live, work, play and engage with the Great Lakes?

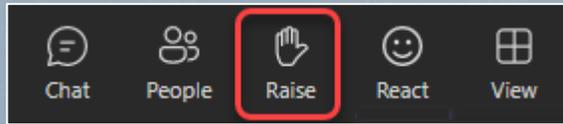




Public Input Logistics

To be heard:

1



The host would like you to speak

If you choose to unmute, others in the webinar will be able to hear you. This webinar may be recorded, transcribed, live-streamed, archived by the host, or shared with apps and others. The transcript may be shared with AI Companion features, which use AI technology and may include third-party models. Zoom does not use any audio, video, chat, screen sharing, attachments or other communications-like content (such as poll results, whiteboard and reactions) to train Zoom's or its third-party AI models.

Participants with relevant permissions may also save and share the webinar transcript, including with AI Companion or apps that use AI technology.

By speaking at this webinar, you consent to your participation being included.

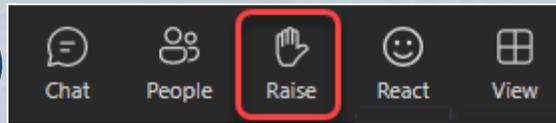
2

Unmute

Stay muted

To be heard *and seen*:

1



The host would like to promote you to be a panelist

As a panelist, you can unmute and start video which means you will be visible to others in the webinar.

This webinar may be recorded, transcribed, live-streamed, archived by the host, or shared with apps and others. The transcript may be shared with AI Companion features, which use AI technology and may include third-party models. Zoom does not use any audio, video, chat, screen sharing, attachments or other communications-like content (such as poll results, whiteboard and reactions) to train Zoom's or its third-party AI models.

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2

Join as panelist

Stay as attendee

3

Rejoining...

The host has promoted you to a panelist.

4

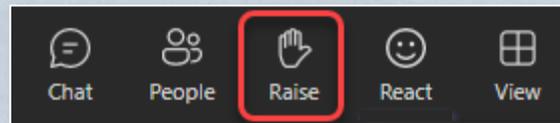
Rejoining...

The host has changed your role to attendee.



Public Input Logistics

- Webinar is being recorded and will be publicly shared
- State your first and last name
- Specify when speaking on behalf of an organization/government
- Chat comments may be read aloud
- Keep comments to around 5 minutes





Goals for Public Engagements

Provide input on the 2025 Progress Report of the Parties

Help the IJC understand:

- How have changes in water quality impacted you?
- What would you change to achieve progress on Great Lakes water quality?
- Looking ahead three years, how do you imagine water quality changes will impact how you live, work, play and engage with the Great Lakes?





Many Ways To Comment

Comment Period CLOSES April 3, 2026

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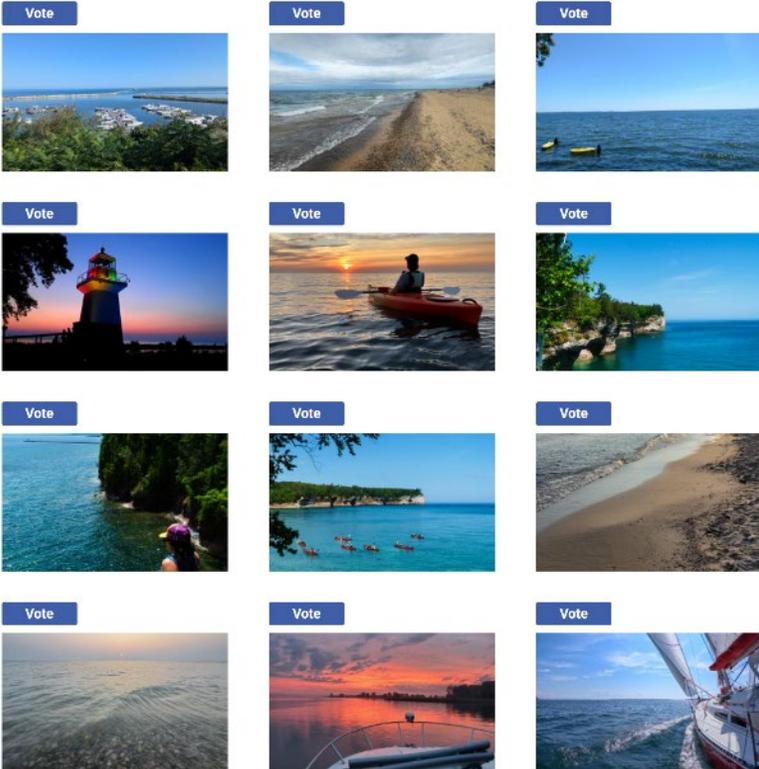
@IJCsharedwaters | bit.ly/sharedwaters

The screenshot shows the website's header with navigation links (Home, Search, Français, Log out, Edit User Profile) and a banner for the Welland Canal. The main content area is titled "Share Your Great Lakes Perspectives" and includes a deadline notice: "Until Friday, April 3rd, submit your comments to the IJC to share your perspectives on Canadian and US governments' latest Progress Report under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement." It also features a "Question Prompt" about water quality impacts and "Submission Formats" (Written, Video, and Audio Recording). On the right, a sidebar lists key dates: "2025 Progress Report of the Parties released" (Feb 3), "Public Comment Period opens" (Feb 5), "Public Comment Webinars" (Feb 24), and "Public Comment Period closes" (Apr 4).

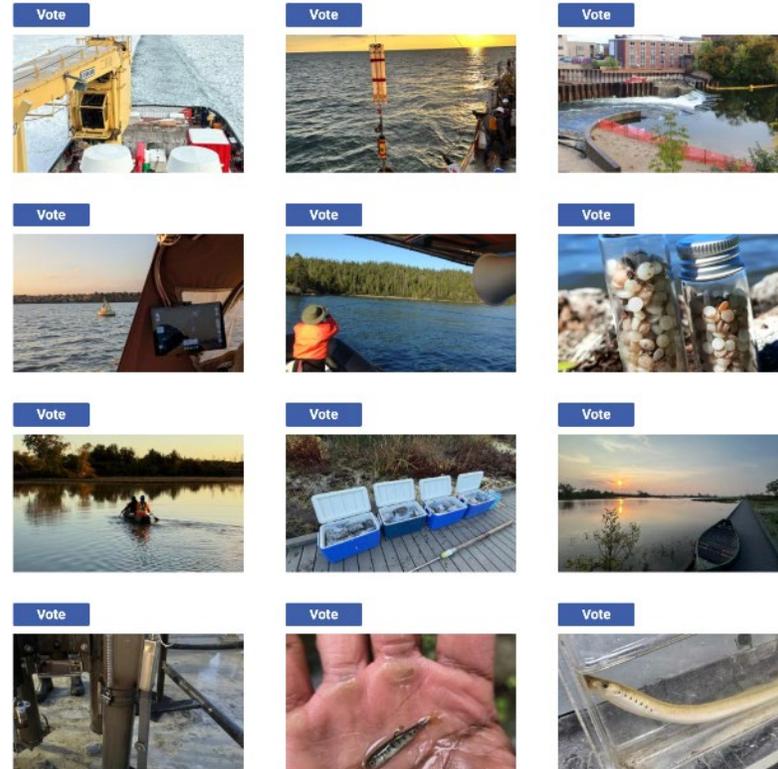


Great Lakes Photo Showcase

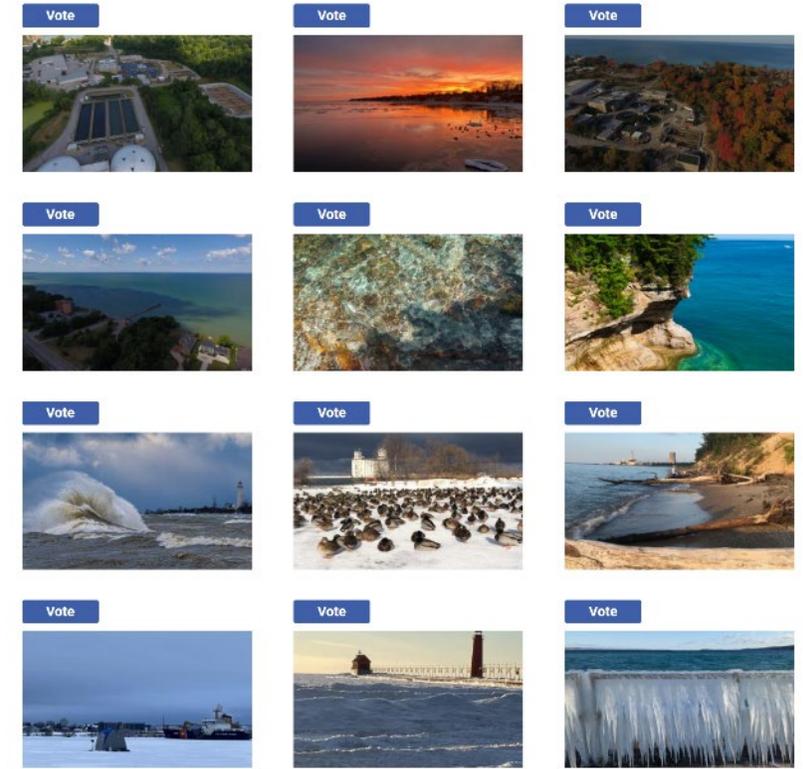
Cast Your Vote: Recreation



Cast Your Vote: Research, Education and Science



Cast Your Vote: Great Lakes Water in Action



Submit and vote thru summer 2026 GLperspectives.ijc.org



**Thank you
Merci
Miigwetch
Niá:wen
Maarsii**



This webinar has ended.