



International Joint Commission Public Input Webinar

Perspectives on Engaging with the Great Lakes Coasts

**March 11, 2026
11:30 am – 1:00 pm ET**





Greetings from the Great Lakes



Welcome

Credit: The Decolonial Atlas



IJC Public Input Webinar Series

February 24 @ 6 pm ET

Perspectives on
Working with Great
Lakes Fish

February 25 @ 11:30 am ET

Perspectives on
Working with Algal
Blooms in the Great
Lakes

March 11 @ 11:30 am ET

Perspectives on
Engaging with the
Great Lakes Coasts

March 24 @ 6 pm ET

Perspectives on
Restoration in Great
Lakes Communities

March 25 @ 11:30 am ET

Perspectives on
Engaging in Great
Lakes Participatory
Science





Agenda

About the IJC

Video: Assessing Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Progress

Invited Talks

Joan Rose

Michigan State University
IJC Health Professionals
Advisory Board



Darren Vogt

1854 Treaty Authority

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 change 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**
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24 February, 2026 to 25 March, 2026 ☐

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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

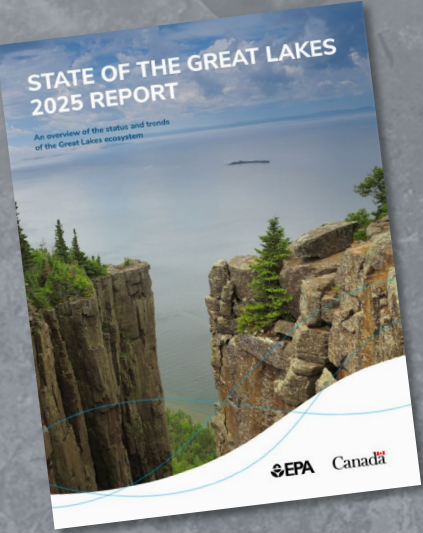
The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Assessment Cycle



Poll Results



2025 State of the Great Lakes Report



BEACHES

The 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement states that “the Waters of the Great Lakes should allow for swimming and other recreational use, unrestricted by environmental quality concerns.”

Status: **GOOD**
Trend: **UNCHANGING**

Sub-indicator supporting the Beaches assessment

Sub-Indicator	Lake Superior	Lake Michigan	Lake Huron	Lake Erie	Lake Ontario
Beach Advisories	Good & Unchanging to Improving	Good & Improving	Good & Unchanging to Improving	Fair to Good & Unchanging	Good & Unchanging

STATUS



Good



Fair



Poor



Undetermined

2025 State of the Great Lakes Report



HABITAT AND SPECIES

The 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement states that “the Waters of the Great Lakes should support healthy and productive wetlands and other habitats to sustain resilient populations of native species.”

Status: **FAIR**
Trend: **UNCHANGING**

Sub-indicators supporting the Habitat and Species assessment – Coastal Wetlands and Aquatic Habitat Connectivity

Sub-Indicator	Lake Superior	Lake Michigan	Lake Huron	Lake Erie	Lake Ontario
Coastal Wetland Invertebrates	Fair & No Trend	Fair & No Trend	Fair & No Trend	Undetermined & Undetermined	Undetermined & Undetermined
Coastal Wetland Fish	Good & Improving	Fair & No Trend	Fair & No Trend	Poor & No Trend	Fair & No Trend
Coastal Wetland Amphibians	Fair & No Trend	Fair & No Trend	Fair & Deteriorating	Fair & No Trend	Fair & No Trend
Coastal Wetland Birds	Fair & No Trend	Fair & No Trend	Fair & No Trend	Fair & No Trend	Fair & Unchanging
Coastal Wetland Plants	Good & Unchanging	Fair & Unchanging	Good & Unchanging	Poor & Unchanging	Poor & Unchanging
Coastal Wetland Extent & Composition	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
Aquatic Habitat Connectivity	Fair & Improving	Poor & Improving	Fair & Improving	Fair & Improving	Fair & Improving

STATUS



Provide input on the 2025 Progress Report of the Parties

Consider including:

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- Looking ahead three years, how do you imagine water quality changes will impact how you live, work, play and engage with the Great Lakes?

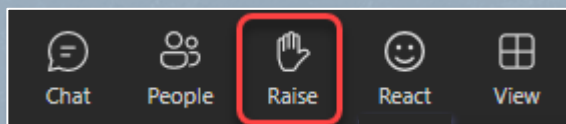




Public Input Logistics

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.

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

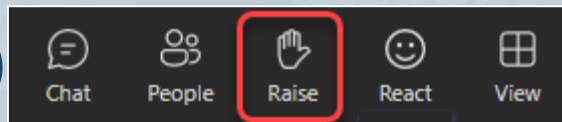
2

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.

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2

Join as panelist

Stay as attendee

3



Rejoining...

The host has promoted you to a panelist.

4



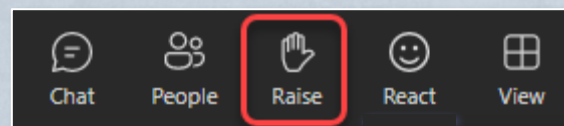
Rejoining...

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
- Raise your hand to be added to the speaker queue
- You will be “promoted” to turn on audio and video
- Keep comments to around 5 minutes



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Comment Period CLOSES April 3, 2026

Online Platform:
GLperspectives.ijc.org



@IJCsharedwaters | bit.ly/sharedwaters

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Welcome to The Welland Canal

Five Great Lakes. Many perspectives.
The International Joint Commission
Great Lakes Regional Office
Windsor, ON

MEETINGS FOR THE GREAT LAKES

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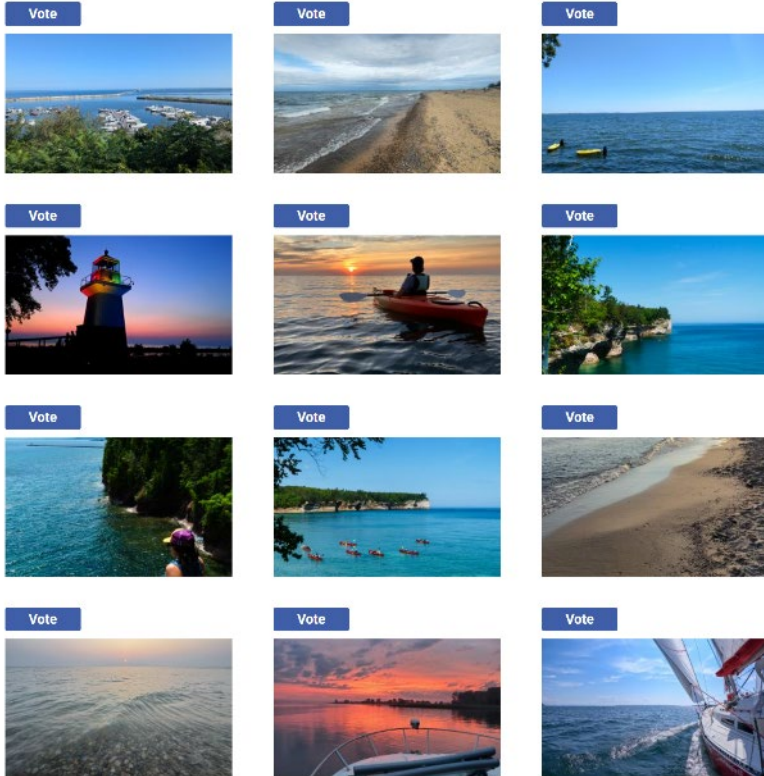
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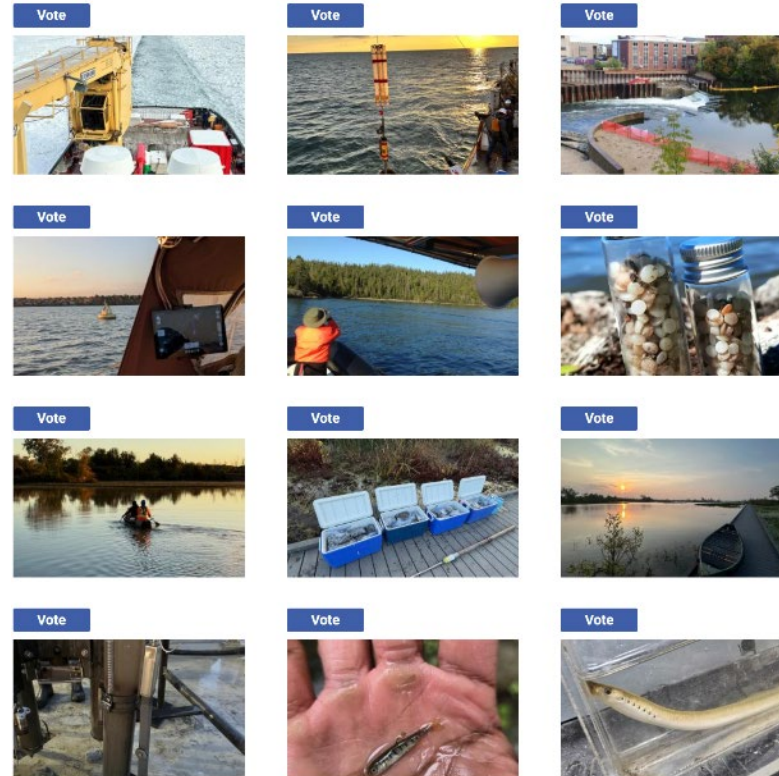


Great Lakes Photo Showcase

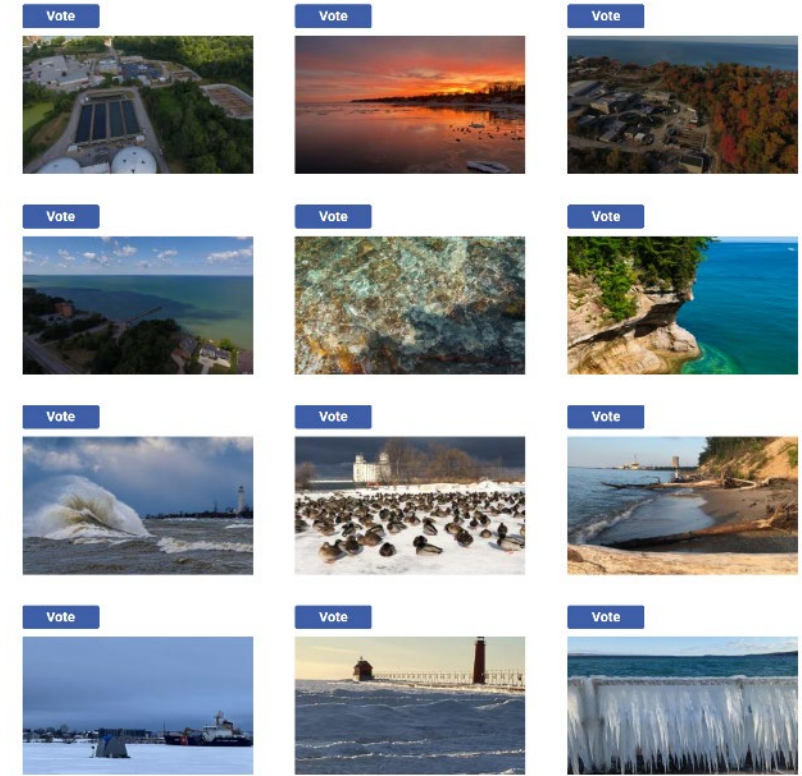
Cast Your Vote: Recreation



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.