



International Joint Commission Public Input Webinar Perspectives on Restoration in Great Lakes Communities

March 24, 2026
6:00 – 7:30 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

Abe Francis

Clarkson University
Chiefs of Ontario



Kathy Evans

Muskegon Lake
Watershed Partnership

Public Input: Share Your Perspectives

Closing Remarks (~7:30 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



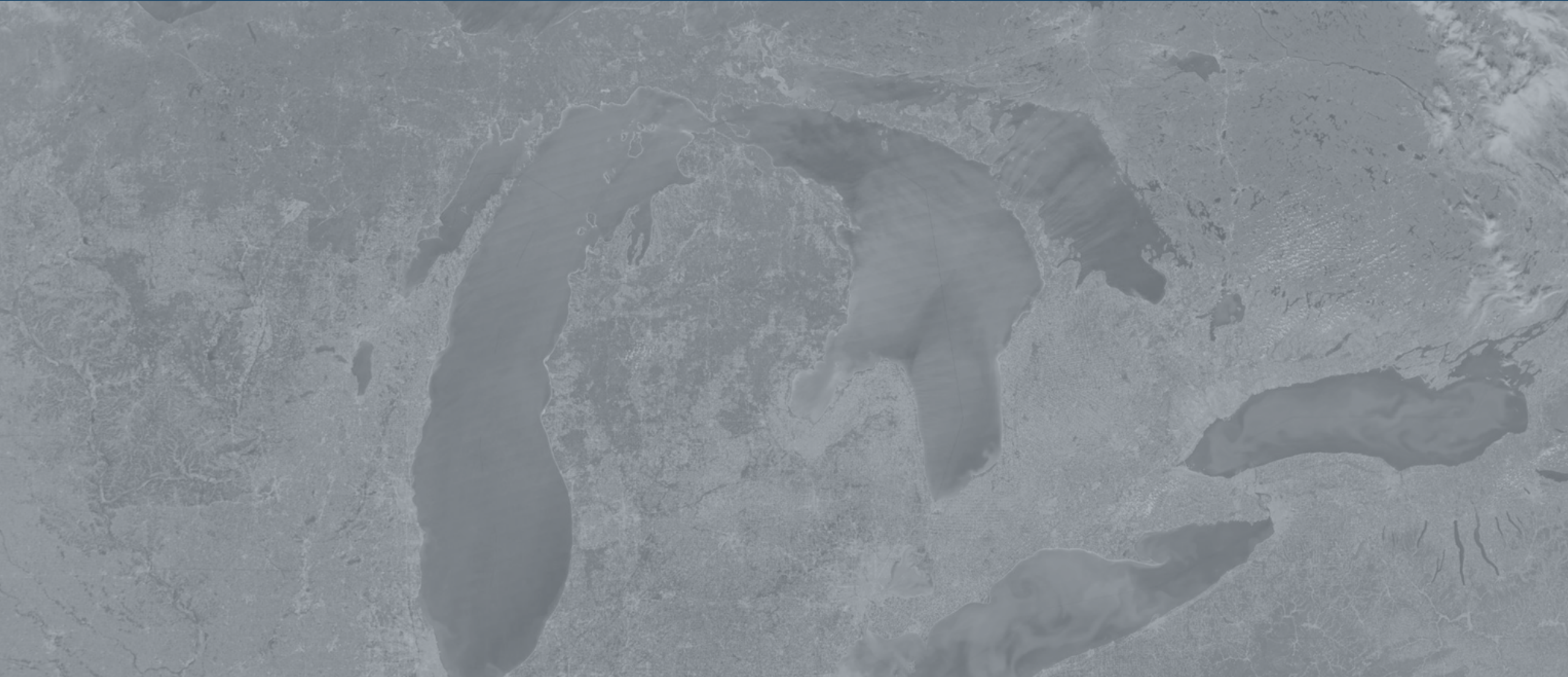
Lance Yohe
US Commissioner

The Great Lakes Water Quality

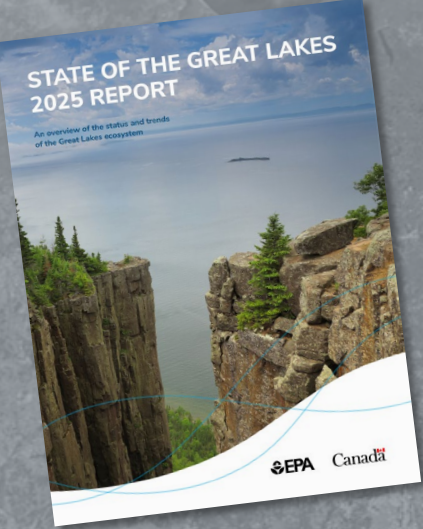
Agreement Assessment Cycle



Poll Results



2025 State of the Great Lakes Report



2025 assessment of the nine Great Lakes indicators of ecosystem health

Great Lakes Indicator	2025 Assessment: Status and Trend
Drinking Water	Status: Good; Trend: Unchanging
Beaches	Status: Good; Trend: Unchanging
Fish Consumption	Status: Fair; Trend: Improving
Toxic Chemicals	Status: Fair; Trend: Unchanging to Improving
Habitat and Species	Status: Fair; Trend: Unchanging
Nutrients and Algae	Status: Poor to Fair; Trend: Unchanging
Invasive Species	PREVENTION Status: Good; Trend: No Trend
	IMPACT Status: Poor; Trend: No Trend
Groundwater	Status: Good; Trend: Undetermined
Watershed Impacts and Changes in Physical Conditions	WATERSHED IMPACTS Status: Fair; Trend: No Trend
	Changes in Physical Conditions: No Overall Assessment

STATUS

■ Good
 ■ Fair
 ■ Poor
 ■ Undetermined

What Is the Status of Each Lake?



Lake Superior's forested watershed and coastal wetlands help maintain water quality and a healthy aquatic ecosystem – Lake Superior is assessed as **Good** and **Unchanging**.



Lake Michigan's habitats support a diverse array of plant and animal species and its waters provide opportunities for swimming and recreational use. However, invasive species and other stressors affect water quality and the lake's food web – Lake Michigan is assessed as **Fair** and **Unchanging**.



Lake Huron provides opportunities for swimming and recreational use. It remains healthy despite algal blooms in some nearshore areas – Lake Huron is assessed as **Fair to Good** and **Unchanging**.



Lake Erie's successful Walleye hatches from previous years continue to support excellent recreational and commercial fisheries. However, elevated nutrient concentrations and algal blooms are persistent problems – Lake Erie is assessed as **Poor** and **No Trend**.



Lake Ontario shows improvements in Lake Trout and Lake Sturgeon populations, but nuisance algae like Cladophora is distributed across broad regions of the lake's nearshore zones – Lake Ontario is assessed as **Fair** and **Unchanging**.

2025 Progress Report of the Parties



Figure 1. U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes Areas of Concern. Map and status of the 43 Canadian and U.S. Great Lakes Areas of Concern designated under the 1987 Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Credit: EPA and Government of Canada.

Beneficial Use Impairments

1. Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption
2. Tainting of fish and wildlife flavor
3. Degradation of fish and wildlife populations
4. Fish tumors or other deformities
5. Bird or animal deformities or reproduction problems
6. Degradation of benthos
7. Restrictions on dredging activities
8. Eutrophication or undesirable algae
9. Restrictions on drinking water consumption, or taste and odor problems
10. Beach closings
11. Degradation of aesthetics
12. Added costs to agriculture or industry
13. Degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations
14. Loss of fish and wildlife habitat

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?

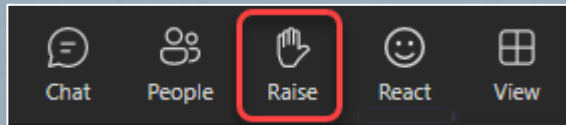




Public Input Logistics

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.

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

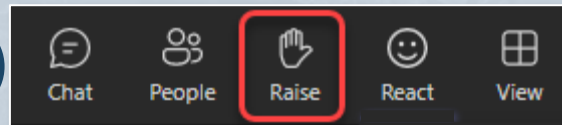
2

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.

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

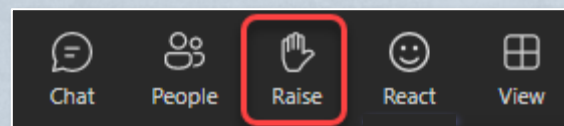
Rejoining...

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
- 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



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?





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Comment Period CLOSES April 3, 2026

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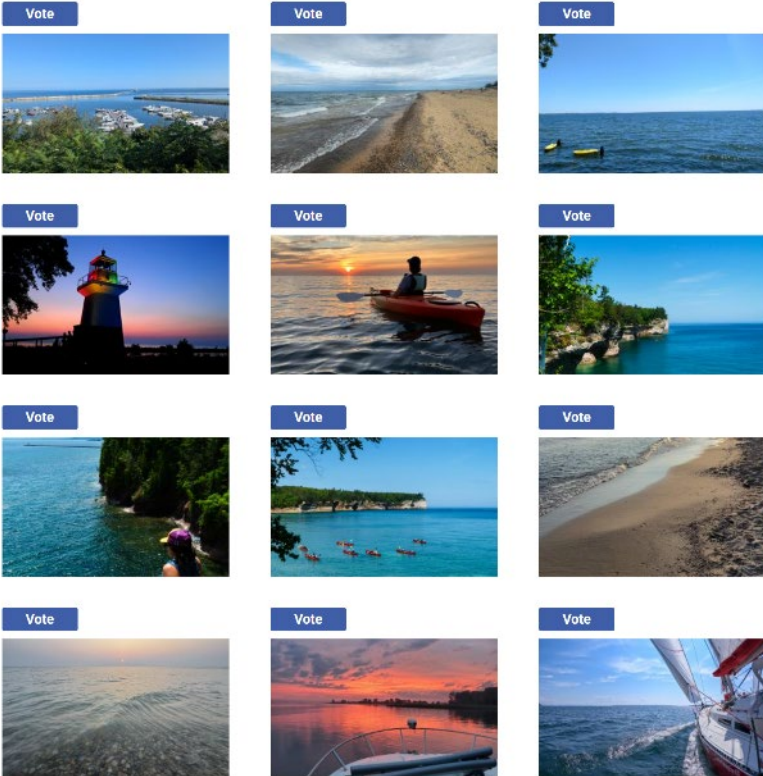


@IJCsharedwaters | bit.ly/sharedwaters

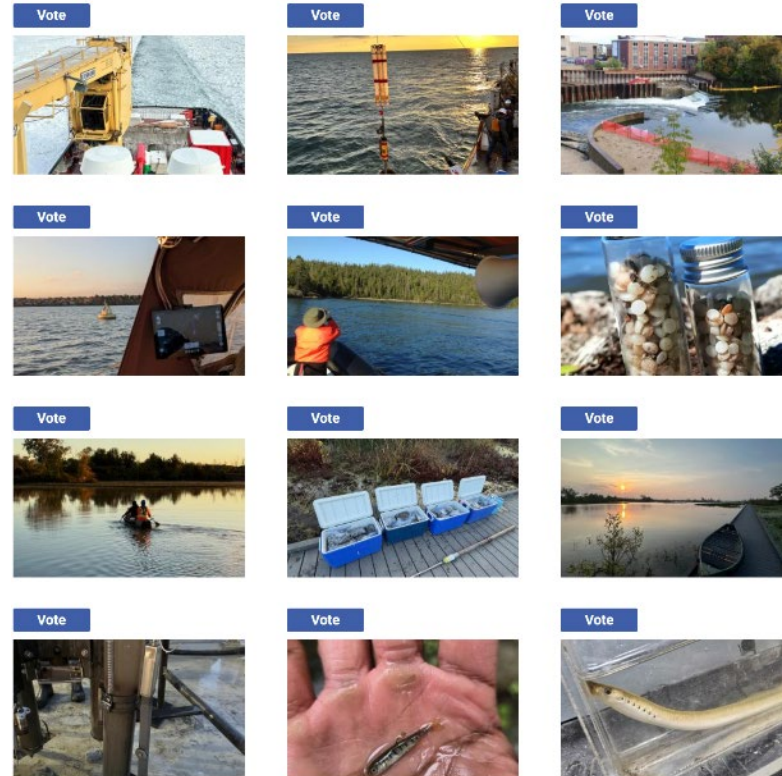


Great Lakes Photo Showcase

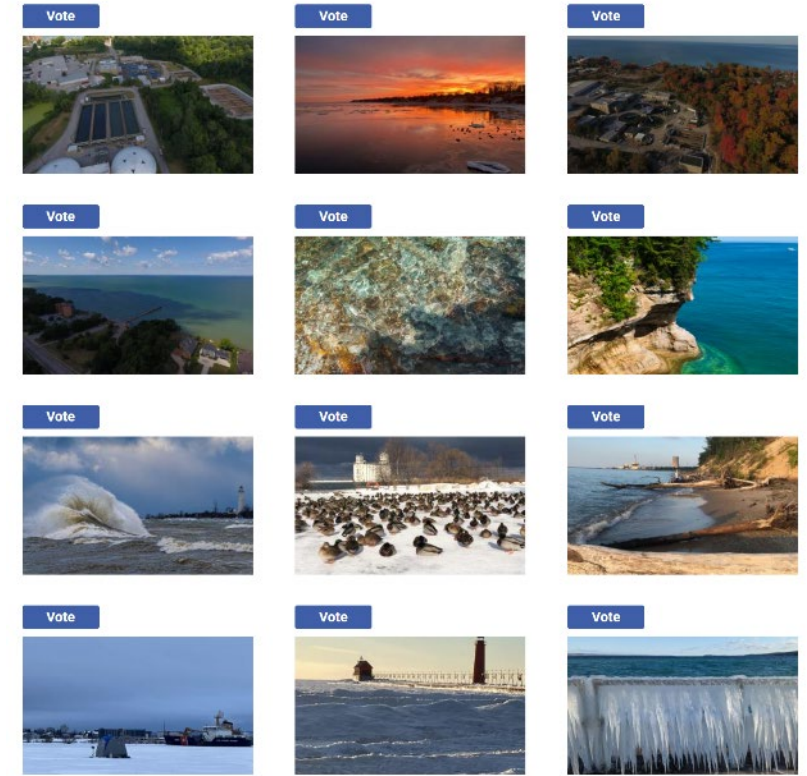
Cast Your Vote: Recreation



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.