



International Joint Commission Public Input Webinar Perspectives on Engaging in Great Lakes Participatory Science

March 25, 2026
11:30 am – 1:00 pm ET





Greetings from the Great Lakes

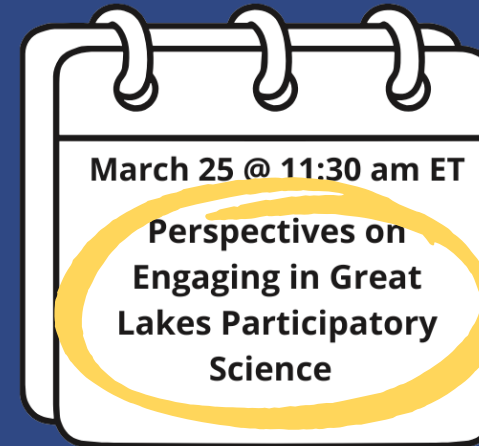
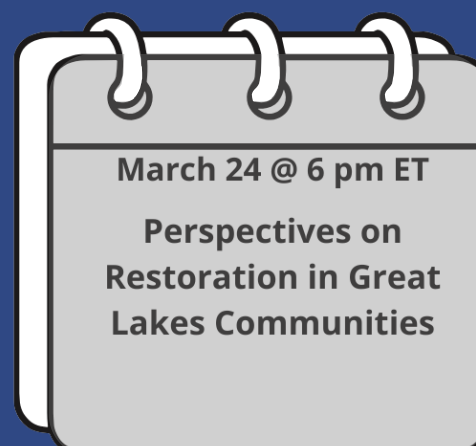
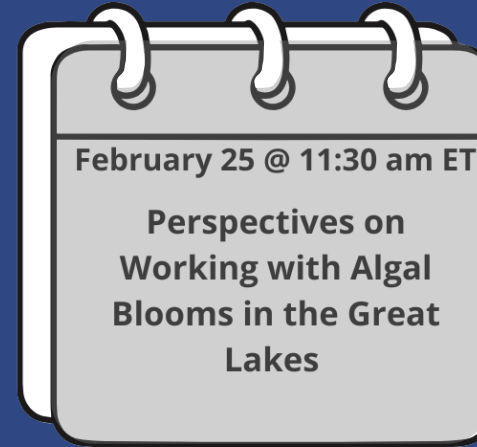
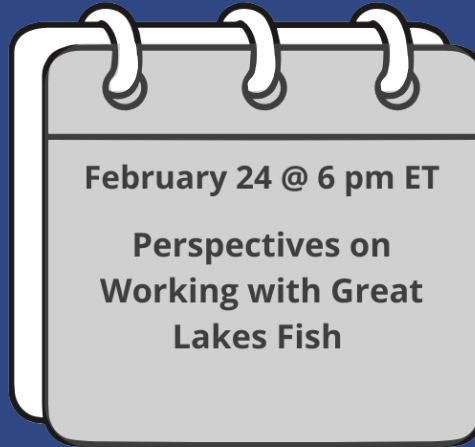


Welcome

Credit: The Decolonial Atlas



IJC Public Input Webinar Series





Agenda

About the IJC

Video: Assessing Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Progress

Invited Talks

Elizabeth George

University of Waterloo
CoastReach



Gabrielle Parent-Doliner

Water Rangers

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:

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2. Submit your comments to the IJC below
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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**
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2025 Progress Report of the Parties released [Read the report.](#)

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Public Comment Webinars Register to share your input with the IJC

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



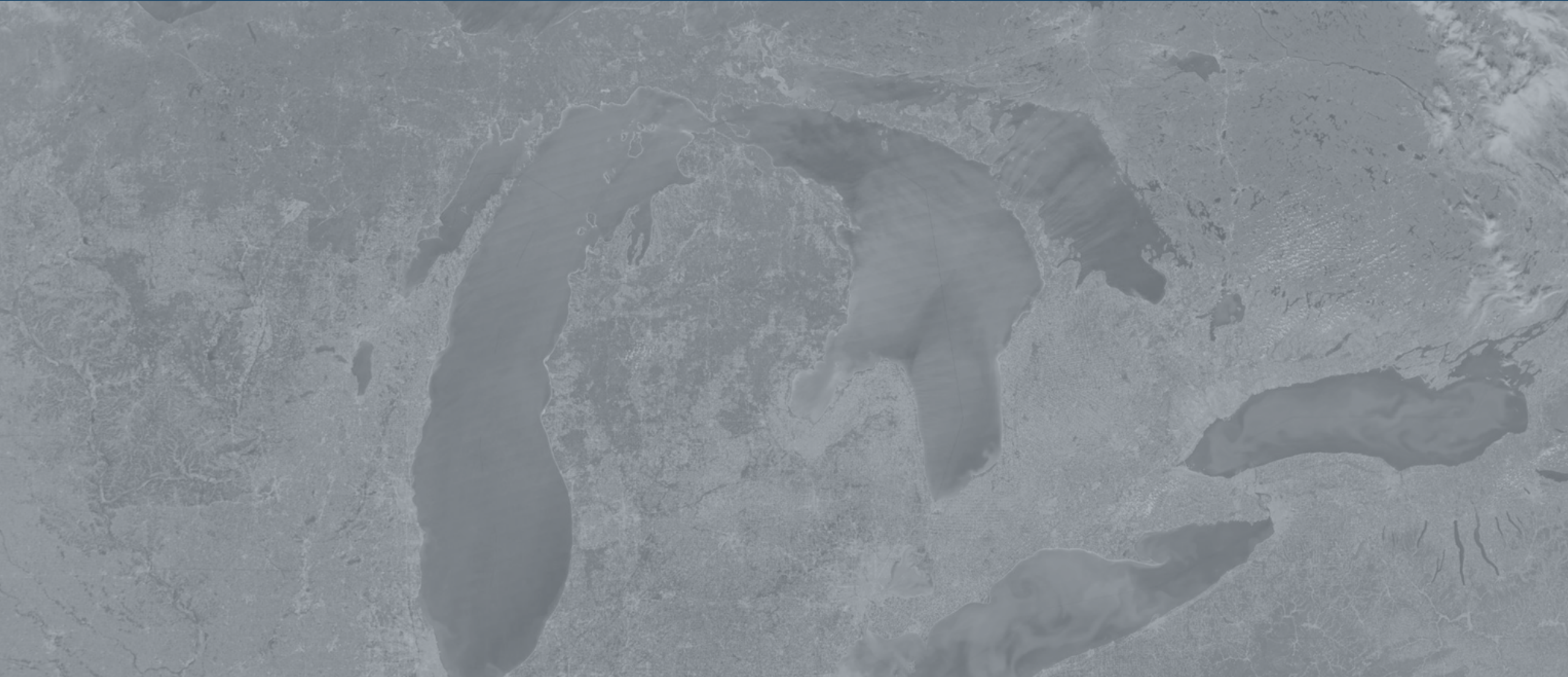
Lance Yohe
US Commissioner

The Great Lakes Water Quality

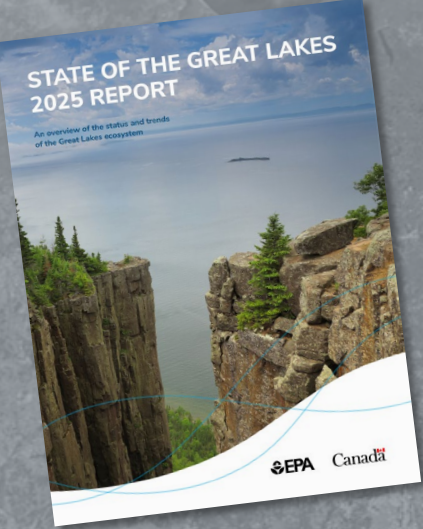
Agreement Assessment Cycle



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



Great Lakes RESTORATION

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE ACTION PLAN III

Fiscal Year 2020 - Fiscal Year 2024

Focus Area 5: Foundations for Future Restoration Actions	5.1. Educate the next generation about the Great Lakes ecosystem.	• Support experience-based learning opportunities for youth to promote Great Lakes stewardship.
	5.2. Conduct comprehensive science programs and projects.	• Assess overall health of the Great Lakes ecosystem and identify the most significant remaining problems. • Identify cross-cutting science priorities and implement projects to address those priorities.

3 | Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan III

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Search Canada.ca

MENU

Canada.ca > Canada Water Agency > Funding opportunities > Funded projects: Canada Water Agency

Projects funded under the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative

- [Restoring Great Lakes Areas of Concern](#)
- [Preventing toxic and nuisance algae](#)
- [Restoring and protecting critically important coastal areas](#)
- [Reducing releases of harmful chemicals](#)
- [Engaging Indigenous Peoples in addressing Great Lakes issues](#)
- [Increasing public engagement through community-based science](#)
- [Working together](#)

Support community-based science projects, including advancing stakeholder and public knowledge, improving the sharing and quality of data produced, and advancing broader application of new technologies

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?

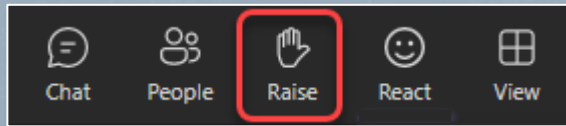




Public Input Logistics

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.

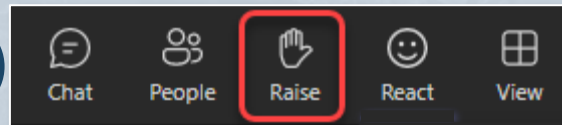
2

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.

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2

Join as panelist

Stay as attendee

3

Rejoining...

The host has promoted you to a panelist.

4

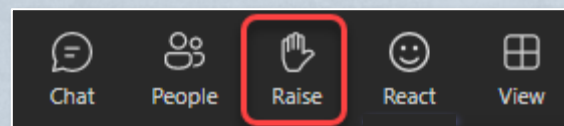
Rejoining...

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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@IJCsharedwaters | bit.ly/sharedwaters

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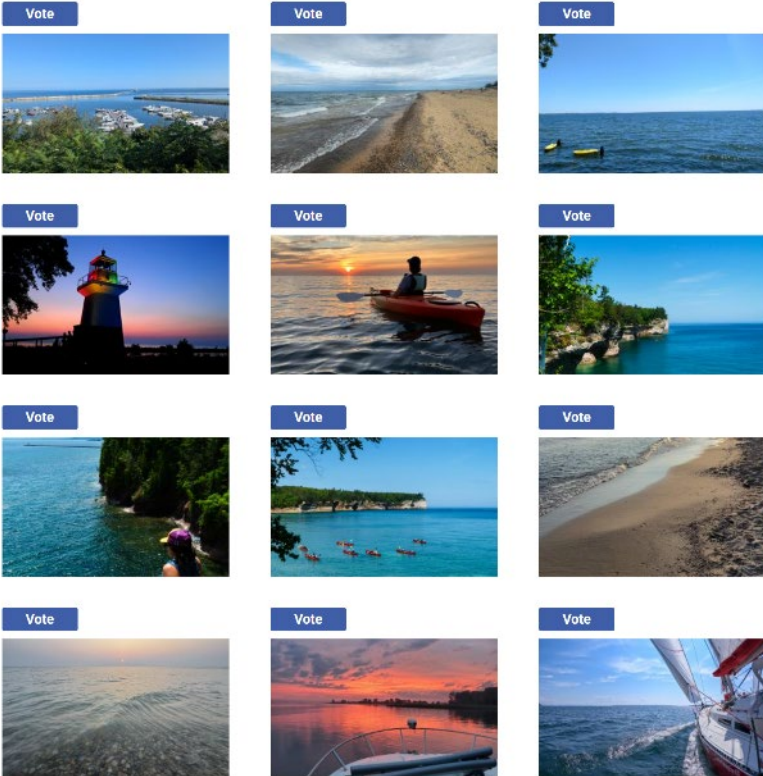
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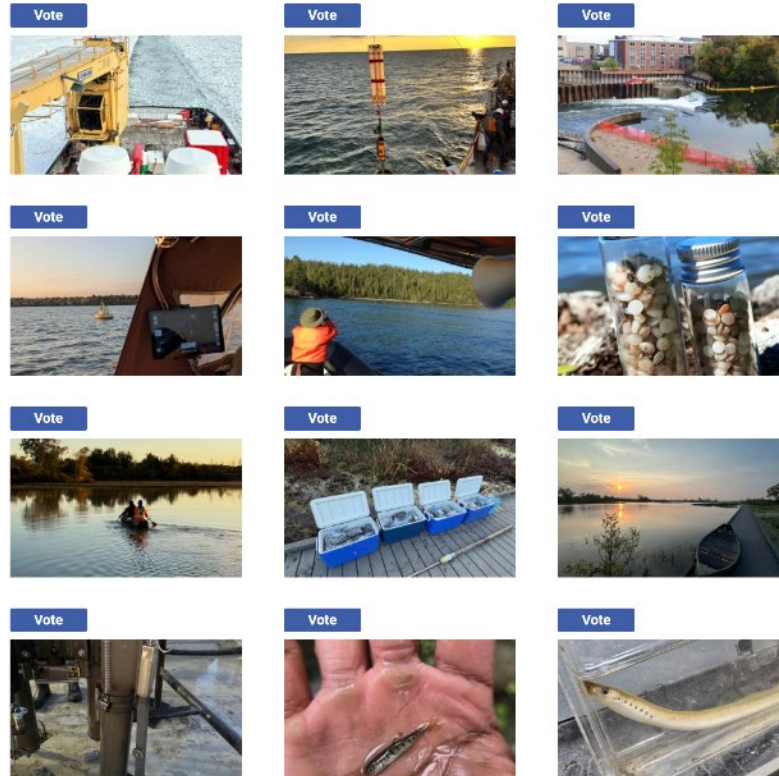


Great Lakes Photo Showcase

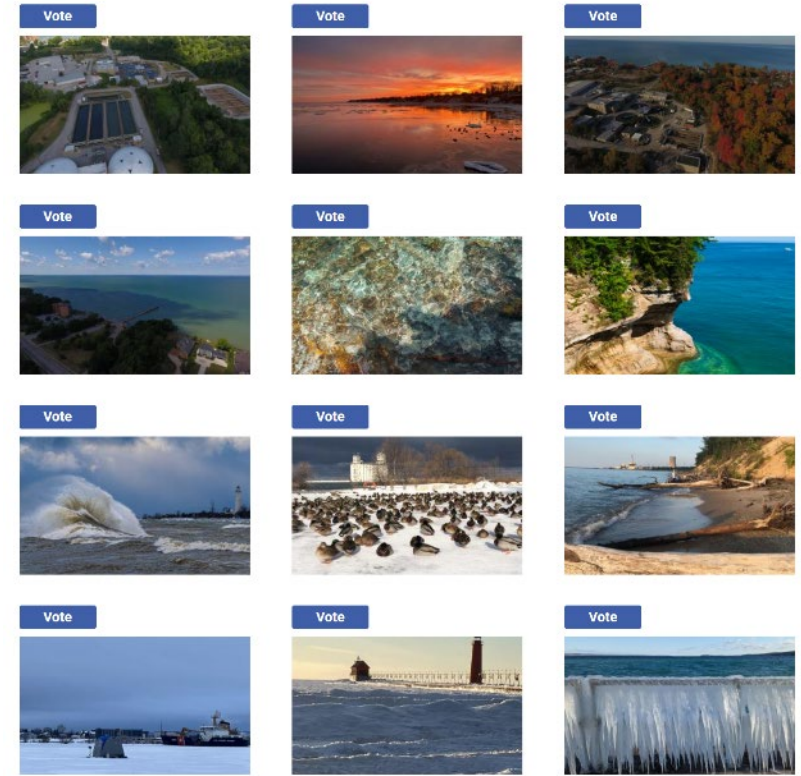
Cast Your Vote: Recreation



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.