

St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact was formed to join the Great Lakes states and the federal government in a common pledge to protect the Great Lakes.

Withdrawals that occur in Ohio's Lake Erie basin not only impact Ohio, but also Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ontario, and Pennsylvania's waters. In this spirit the compact is an important commitment from the states with the common mission to regulate the water use of the Great lakes and reduce annual water diversions. While all the Great Lakes states have ratified the compact and a deadline of December 2013 was set to require all states to implement and register their water withdrawal and diversion plan. Moving forward, these plans of action will preserve the Great Lakes, which provide drinking water to over 30 million Americans.

2) Action Item: Enact *Harbor Maintenance Act of 2011*

While we cannot control the level of water in the Great Lakes directly, lake levels are vital information that greatly alters the environment and the shipping economy in the United States. The Senate is currently considering proposals that target specific concerns, such as dredging, which are exacerbated by sustained low water levels. Senator Carl Levin (D-MI) and Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) introduced, S. 412, the *Harbor Maintenance Act of 2011* to ensure funds in the harbor maintenance trust fund are used for intended purposes to address the maintenance dredging of our harbors. There is currently a balance of more than \$6 billion in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) that is not being used to address the backlog of maintenance dredging. This proposal would ensure that moving forward the annual funds deposited into the trust fund will be used for intended purposes and would help to address the current a dredging backlog of 18 million cubic yards in the Great Lakes.

Cleanup of Superfund Polluted Sites

Grade: B

Explanation: For over 25 years Waukegan Harbor has been recognized as an international area of concern along Lake Michigan. While the full remediation process has been arduous, plans for removing the contaminated sediment from the Harbor are in place. The full restoration of beneficial use of Waukegan Harbor and the ultimate delisting as an Area of Concern (AOC) is within reach.



Sediment contamination of toxic substances poses a serious threat to the water quality of the Great Lakes and its ecological habitat. There are a total of 43 AOCs along the Great Lakes both in the United States and Canada. There is one AOC identified and located along Lake Michigan at Waukegan Harbor in Lake County, Illinois. Remediation is the necessary next step to ensure that toxic substances are removed and the sediment is healthily restored for beneficial use.

The United States and Canada recognized Waukegan Harbor as an AOC within the Great Lakes region in 1981 after polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were found in the harbor sediment in 1975. After further investigation of the area it was discovered that the PCBs were likely the result of the fluid used by the Outboard Marine Corporation (OMC) during its operation.

Remediation plans for Waukegan Harbor began in 1990. According to the EPA, approximately one million pounds of sediment with PCB was removed and placed in a confined disposal facility on site. Only sediment with 50 ppm PCB or greater was removed and residual contamination remained after the dredging. Over 30 years have passed since PCBs were discovered at Waukegan Harbor and the site is yet to be fully restored and delisted as an AOC in the Great Lakes. Through the coordination of the U.S. EPA, Illinois EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) the final stages of the remediation plan are in place through the Superfund process. EPA is ready to move forward in the last phases of the cleanup of the harbor and store the waste close to the site in a fully contained and protected area.

- **Action Item: Work with local, state, and federal stakeholders to ensure the timely cleanup of Waukegan Harbor and the delisting of Waukegan Harbor as an Area of Concern on the Great Lakes**

INVASIVE SPECIES

Grade for Lake Michigan: C

Explanation: One of the greatest threats of invasive species to the Great Lakes is Asian carp. To date, Asian carp have not been found in Lake Michigan; however, populations of adult carp with potential for spawning are approximately 62 miles away from the Lake. The threat of invasive species has a long history in the Great Lakes. Sea lamprey and Zebra and Quagga mussels are examples of the havoc aquatic invasive species can have on an entire ecosystem. According to the Great Lakes Commission, sea lamprey caused the sharp decline in the harvest for lake trout from 5.5 million pounds to 402 pounds in Lake Michigan between 1946 and 1953. History shows us that we need to be more aggressive in protecting our Great Lakes fisheries from invasive species.