

GLBET SHOWCASE II



Region 3 RMT

August 25, 2003

*Rich Greenwood – Team Leader
USFWS Liaison to USEPA
Great Lakes National Program Office*



SHOWCASE FOCUS

- Recap and Overview of the Great Lakes, the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team
- Who We Are ... The Ongoing Evolution of Our Team
- Recent Successes, Challenges ... What Lies Ahead
- Opportunities for feedback ... and future steps

RMT's ideas on how the Team can better serve our Mission and Programs – how can we together best proactively engage in the myriad of new Great Lakes initiatives and opportunities?

GREAT LAKES ACRONYMS

Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team: GLBET

Not -- *Glee – Bit*

Not -- *Glee – Butt*

but

GLEE – BET

A happy ... good ... bet!

GREAT LAKES OVERVIEW



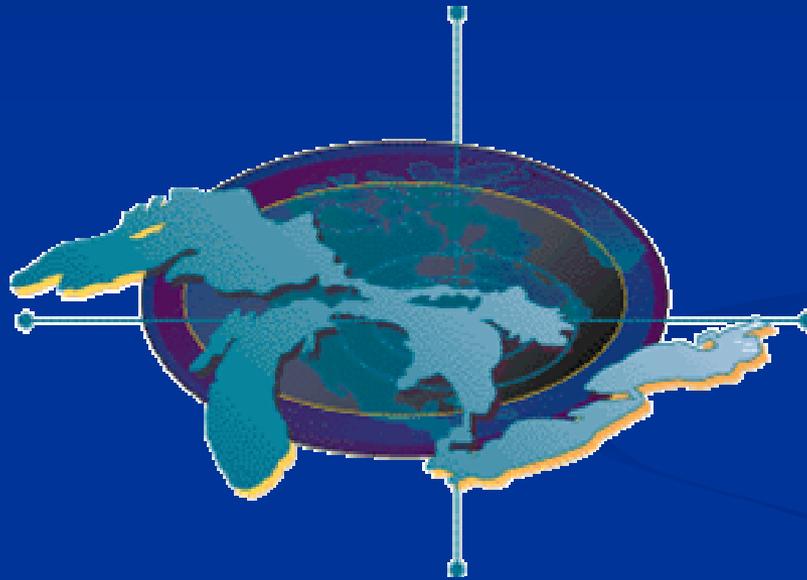
... why are they important?

Great Lakes Overview

Two Nations ...

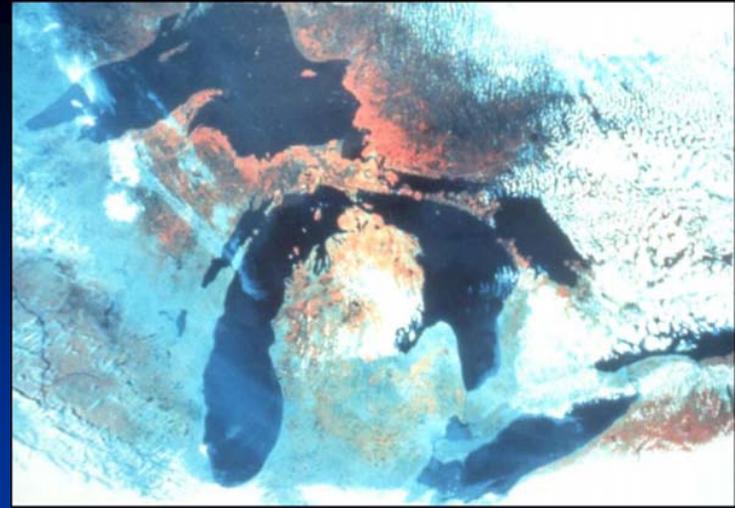


Eight Great Lakes States....



Two Great Lakes Provinces

Great Lakes Overview



95% of the U.S. surface fresh water

20% of all earth's surface fresh water

Great Lakes Overview – Social, Political, and Economic Significance

The Great Lakes Watershed is home to over 40 million people



Over 25 million in the U.S. depend on the Lakes for their drinking water

Great Lakes Overview

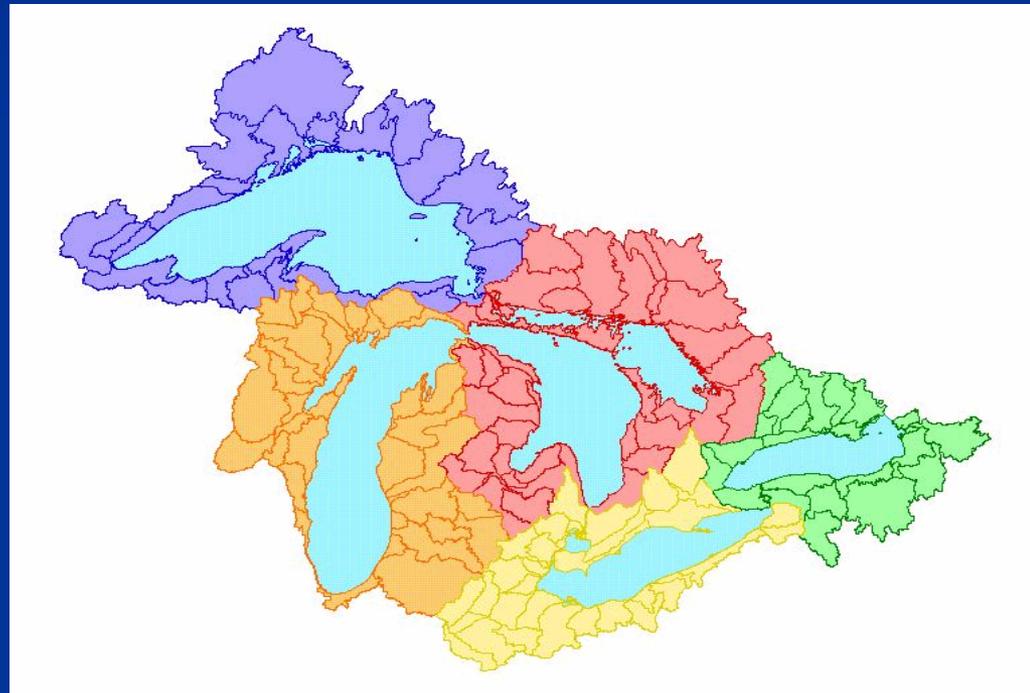
The watershed contains 20% of
all U.S. timberland



... and 20% of all U.S
manufacturing

East to west ...

Great Lakes stretch 1,000 miles
across the heartland of the U.S. and
Canada



Almost 200,000 square miles in the
watershed



Great Lakes Overview

The nation's “fourth seacoast” ...

The Great Lakes shoreline is over

10,000 miles long

The U.S. Great Lakes Shoreline
is over 4,500 miles long

Longer than the U.S. East Coast
and
Gulf Coast

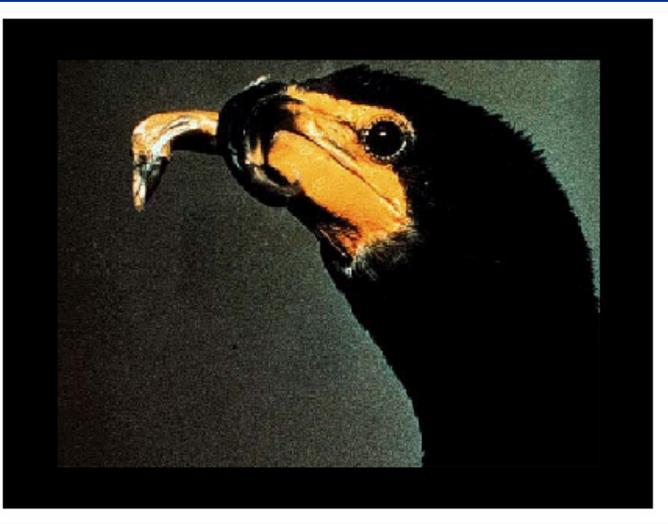
COMBINED

Great Lakes Ecosystem

There is no shortage of ...



significant fish and wildlife resources



... or significant resource issues

Home to Globally Significant Natural Habitats

ECOREGIONS, WETLANDS AND DRAINAGE BASINS

MAJOR WETLANDS

There are numerous wetlands in northern Ontario and elsewhere that are too small to show individually at this scale.

NOTE:
Ecoregions are areas that exhibit broad ecological unity, based on such characteristics as climate, landforms, soils, vegetation, hydrology and wildlife.

CANADIAN ECOREGIONS

- 1 Lake St. Joseph Plains
- 2 Nipigon Plains
- 3 Thunder Bay Plains
- 4 Superior Highlands
- 5 Matagami
- 6 Chapeau Plains
- 7 Nipissing
- 8 Hurontario
- 9 Erie
- 10 Saint Laurent

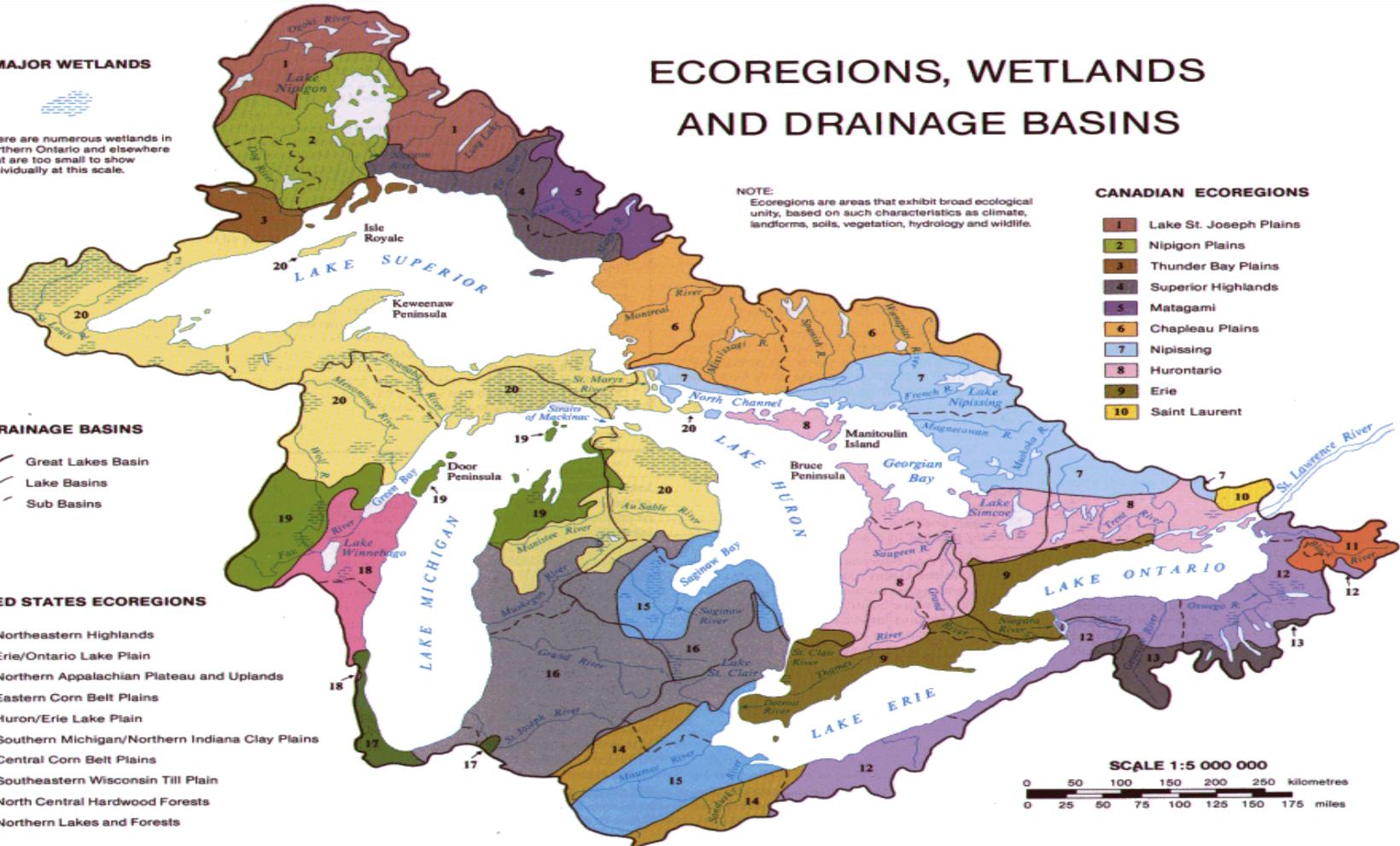
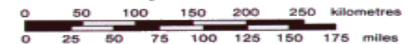
DRAINAGE BASINS

- Great Lakes Basin
- Lake Basins
- - - Sub Basins

UNITED STATES ECOREGIONS

- 11 Northeastern Highlands
- 12 Erie/Ontario Lake Plain
- 13 Northern Appalachian Plateau and Uplands
- 14 Eastern Corn Belt Plains
- 15 Huron/Erie Lake Plain
- 16 Southern Michigan/Northern Indiana Clay Plains
- 17 Central Corn Belt Plains
- 18 Southeastern Wisconsin Till Plain
- 19 North Central Hardwood Forests
- 20 Northern Lakes and Forests

SCALE 1:5 000 000



Great Lakes Ecosystem

Includes over 35,000 islands. The largest freshwater island system on earth...



Manitoulin Island is the world's largest freshwater island

World's largest collection of freshwater coastal sand dunes



Great Lakes Ecosystem

Estimated 300,000 acres of coastal wetlands



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District

95% of earth's Alvars

... home to hardy, globally rare
plant and animal species

The Great Lakes supports many fish and wildlife species of concern

Lake sturgeon, lake trout, whitefish, coaster brook trout, walleye, landlocked Atlantic salmon

Native mussels

Piping plover, bald eagles, common tern, cormorants

Lake Erie water snake

Gray wolf, Canada lynx

Dwarf lake iris, Houghton's goldenrod, lakeside daisy





The Great Lakes supports many fish and wildlife species of concern

Critical breeding, feeding, resting areas, as well as migration corridors for ...

waterfowl, colonial nesting birds, neotropical migrants, and many other migratory birds.

31 species of migratory non-game birds of management concern to the Service occur in this ecosystem





*The Great Lakes supports many fish and
wildlife species of concern*

The Great Lakes support a
\$1 billion – plus
recreational fishing industry

Great Lakes Stressors



Stressors to the Great Lakes Ecosystem...

- **Toxic contaminants ...**
sediments and water column
- Uptake and bioaccumulation
in fish and wildlife species
- **Pathogens**
- **Invasive species – 160**
And growing?
- **Loss of habitat**



Myriad of Great Lakes Programs, Initiatives, Stakeholders



Lots of Great Lakes Programs Opportunities

- Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement: SOLEC, LaMPs, RAP's (AOC's); GLNPO
- Coastal Zone Management
- **Regional/Major Watershed Organizations**
- Midwest Natural Resources Directors Group
- International Joint Commission
- Council of Great Lakes Governors
- Great Lakes Commission
- Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- Northeast-Midwest Institute – Great Lakes Task Force
- Great Lakes Research Consortium
- National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes Office
- Lake Michigan Federation
- Great Lakes United
- Council of Great Lakes Industries
- The Nature Conservancy Great Lakes Program
- Great Lakes Sea Grant Institutions
- Great Lakes Dredge Team – Binational
- Great Lakes Cities Initiative – Great Lakes Mayors - Binational

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

**As amended by protocol
Signed November 18, 1987**

Overall Purpose of Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement



“ . . . to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.”

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (1987)

Included provisions for authorization of
GLNPO



TWO MAJOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES FOR MEASUREMENT OF PERFORMANCE RESULTS

- Great Lakes State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference Ecosystem Indicators
- The Great Lakes Strategy - USPC

What is SOLEC?

- State of the Lakes
Ecosystem Conference
- Biennial report on progress toward meeting goals of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
- Target Audience: environmental managers, decision makers, upper administration, public



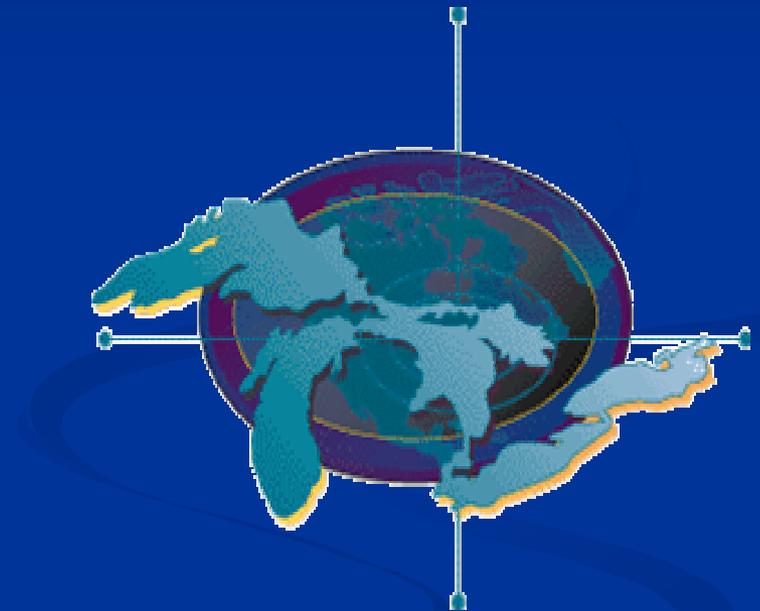


SOLEC OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen decision making and management
- Assess the state of the Great Lakes ecosystem based on accepted indicators – provide sound information for sound environmental decisions
- Inform local decision makers of Great Lakes environmental issues
- Provide forum for communication and networking among all stakeholders

GLBET ENGAGEMENT IN SOLEC INDICATOR PROCESS

- Formed GLBET SOLEC Indicators Work Group to determine if and how to best engage the Team, and make recommendations for the Team's consideration.
- Reviewed all proposed Indicators, identified those indicators the Service/Team should take lead on or participate in a coordination role.



GLBET ENGAGEMENT IN SOLEC INDICATOR PROCESS

➤ Team SOLEC Indicator Work Group

Developed proposal to engage in a subset of the identified priority indicators as a Demonstration Project ... Team endorsed plan



GLBET ENGAGEMENT IN SOLEC INDICATOR PROCESS

- Team Members volunteered to take lead, and to coordinate and author the SOLEC Indicator Reports for: Bald eagles, Lake Sturgeon, Lake Trout, Islands, and Hexagenia (GLSC)
- In addition Team members are active participants in the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Consortium, and GLFC Lead Sea Lamprey Indicators

GLBET ENGAGEMENT IN SOLEC INDICATOR PROCESS

- Authored papers, made presentations, and lead working sessions at SOLEConferences
- Participated in Expert Panels and Work Groups to identify, select, and develop SOLEC Indicators

An aerial photograph of a large body of water, likely one of the Great Lakes, with a rocky shoreline. The water is a deep blue, and the rocks are a mix of brown, tan, and grey. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

U.S. POLICY COMMITTEE GREAT LAKES STRATEGY

The Service is a signatory and full partner for the U.S. Policy Committee's new plan to protect and restore the Great Lakes; Great Lakes Strategy 2002 - A Plan for the New Millennium (GLS) The GLS contains 126 collective goals and priorities that will restore and protect the Great Lakes.

U.S. POLICY COMMITTEE GREAT LAKES STRATEGY

The Service - Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team were specifically identified as the lead for the implementation responsibility, tracking, and deliverables for several of the GLS goals and actions.

GREAT LAKES STRATEGY



These include our Team priorities of Great Lakes Island Conservation and Lake Sturgeon Restoration, Great Lakes Migratory Bird Stopover Sites, National Wildlife Refuges Invasive Species Control Demonstration Projects, Invasive Species, State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference Indicators Initiative, Public Involvement, and Coastal Wetlands

GREAT LAKES STRATEGY

OPPORTUNITY REALIZED

DEFINITIONS:

(2) *REFUGE COMPLEX*- The term 'Refuge Complex' means the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Complex and the lands and waters in the complex, as described in the document entitled 'The Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Complex' and dated September 22, 2000, including--

(A) *the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, established by the Secretary in accordance with the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715 et seq.);*

(B) *the West Sister Island National Wildlife Refuge established by Executive Order No. 7937, dated August 2, 1937; and*

(C) *the Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge established by the Secretary in accordance with the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715 et seq.).*

OPPORTUNITY REALIZED

(4) to advance the collective goals and priorities that--

(A) were established in the report entitled 'Great Lakes Strategy 2002 -A Plan for the New Millennium', developed by the United States Policy Committee, comprised of Federal agencies (including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the United States Geological Survey, the Forest Service, and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission) and State governments and tribal governments in the Great Lakes basin; and

(B) include the goals of cooperating to protect and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem.

About our Team ...



... who we are

Working Cross Program and Cross Regions in Partnership efforts...

*Two Nations, Two Regions, Eight States, Two
Provinces...*

*The Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team works closely with
others to carry out our mission and mandates, and strives to
contribute to the effective conservation of natural biological
diversity through perpetuation of a dynamic and healthy Great
Lakes ecosystem.*



Great Lakes Basin
E C O S Y S T E M T E A M

Great Lakes Basin

E C O S Y S T E M T E A M

Composed of 43
U. S. Fish and Wildlife
Service Field Stations
in the Great Lakes Basin

2 Regions

Representing all
Service Programs ...

Many partners are
members...

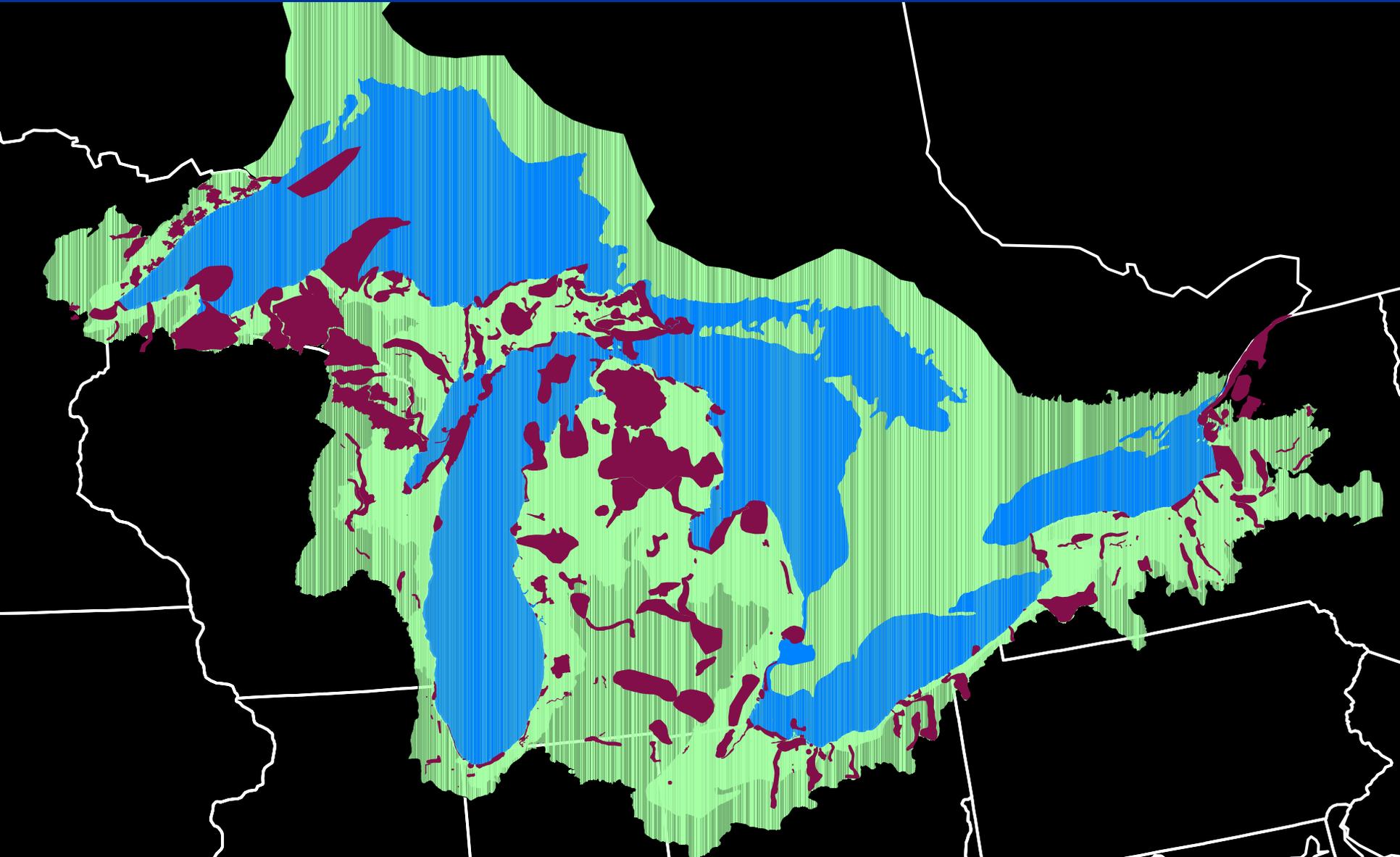
Every level ... both nations



Gold - Ecological Services
Offices (ES)
Red - National Wildlife Refuge
(NWR)
Blue - National Fish Hatchery
(NFH) or
Fishery Resource Office (FRO)
White - Law Enforcement (LE)



**Seek Opportunities to Add Value to the Service Mission
Landscape Level Emphasis
Identify Priority Places & Issues for Conservation**



TEAM PRIORITIES

- Lake Sturgeon Restoration and Fish Passage
- Great Lakes Islands Conservation
- Geographic Information & Decision Support System
- Outreach and Communications
- Endangered Species
- Migratory Birds
- Invasive Species
- Coastal Habitat Restoration

GLBET LEADERSHIP

- **Great Lakes Ecosystem Biologist:** Mike Hoff R3 Fisheries
- **Islands Committee Co-Chairs:** Leslie Tewinkel R3 ES and Megan Seymour ROFO
- **Lake Sturgeon Committee Chair:** Emily Zollweg LGLFRO
- **Outreach Committee Chair:** Rachel Levin, R3 EA
Assistants: Fred Caslick NYFO and Cyndi Duda CFO

GLBET LEADERSHIP

- **GIS/DSS Committee Chair:** Chris Castiglione
LGLFRO
- **Migratory Bird Committee Chair:** TBA
- **Endangered Species Committee Chair:** TBA
- **Invasive Species Committee Co-Chairs:** Mike Hoff R3 Fisheries and Sandy Keppner LGLFRO
- **Coastal Habitat Committee Chair:** TBA
- **Team Leader Elect:** Tracy Hill AFRO

GLBET EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Comprised of Team Leader, Team Leader-Elect,
Committee Chairs, Past Team Leaders, and
Members-at-Large

TEAM PRIORITIES

Team decided to focus on two Team Priorities to make progress and demonstrate success:

- Lake Sturgeon Restoration
- Islands Conservation

We also formed a Work Group to determine how to engage in GIS on a Great Lakes Ecosystem Basis to support these Team Priorities

Conservation of Great Lakes Islands

Objectives ...

- Recognize the importance of islands to wildlife, particularly migratory birds, fish, and endangered species
- Complete an overall assessment of the islands for protection and restoration efforts
- Respond to unique opportunity of many Federally held Great Lakes islands being excised

Restoration of Lake Sturgeon Basinwide - Objectives ...

- Population Assessment
- Assessment of genetic makeup of various stocks
- Development and implementation of recovery plans
- Development of fish passage technology
- Identify, coordinate, and take actions with partners

Great Lakes Geographic Information Systems and Decision Support Objectives...

- To provide geo-spatial data to assist management efforts in the Great Lakes Basin at many scales ranging from small localized places to large landscape level assessments
- Provide managers and other decision makers with geo-spatial information needed to make sound resource management decisions

Taking Care of Business

GLBET Organization of Activities

- Full Team Meetings ... twice per year.
- Address Team Priorities, Team Kitty, Service and External Funding Opportunities, Interactions with Programmatic Staff, and Partners
- Committees meet, hold conference calls much more frequently – *where the rubber meets the road*

TEAM ACTION PLANS

- Detailed Action Plans Completed for Each Committee
- Overall Team Action Plans - Adapt Mission, Objectives, Actions
- Proactively Identify and Compile Great Lakes Priority Research Needs, Projects, Opportunities
- Team and Committee Membership – GL Rosters

R3 RMT – R5 REAT INTERACTIONS

- Conference Calls
- Meetings
- Presentations

Great Lakes Basin

E C O S Y S T E M T E A M



**OUR 2003 TWO FULL TEAM MEETINGS
WERE TO BE HELD IN EACH OF OUR TWO
REGIONAL OFFICES**

APRIL 1 – 3, 2003 at the Minnesota Valley NWR

-- postponed

FALL 2003 in Hadley, Massachusetts - ?

Role & Added Value of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team

- The Team does not view itself as a “separate entity”.
- We believe our role is to serve our Programs and Stations, and the Service Mission on a landscape level in the Great Lakes
- We can and have served as a “point of contact”, and in a coordination role, between Regions, Stations, and with the many and varied partners.

Great Lakes Basin

ECOSYSTEM TEAM

TEAM SUCCESSES



A scenic view of a lake at sunset or sunrise. The sky is a warm, golden-orange color. In the foreground, two people are silhouetted in a canoe on the water. A large tree with dark foliage is on the right side of the frame. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

*Lake Sturgeon
Committee Successes*

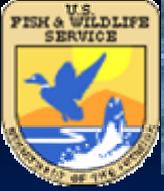


Lake Sturgeon Committee Successes

- Commercial Fishers Monitoring Assessment Program
- Brochure "Lake Sturgeon: Giant of the Great Lakes"



Great Lakes Basin
E C O S Y S T E M T E A M



Great Lakes Basin

E C O S Y S T E M T E A M



LAKE STURGEON COMMITTEE SUCCESSES



- A web-based lake sturgeon database and associated GIS maps
- Great Lakes lake sturgeon website site consolidating information from more than 26 contributing partners
- Progress on standardized genetic assessment of lake sturgeon, coordination of successful basinwide genetics workshop

Great Lakes Fishery Trust Lake Sturgeon Workshop



- The GLBET Lake Sturgeon Committee worked in FY2002 to develop a Great Lakes basin wide coordination meeting. Funds for the meeting were provided by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust. The purpose for the meeting is to provide an annual forum to foster communication and exchange of information relating to the study, management, and restoration of lake sturgeon in the Great Lakes basin, to address priority research and assessment needs, and to address selected emerging issues

A large, smooth sand dune dominates the left and center of the frame. The sand is a warm, golden-brown color. In the foreground, a piece of dark, weathered driftwood lies horizontally on the sand. The background shows a clear, pale blue sky and a distant, low horizon line with some faint, dark shapes that could be trees or structures. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day in a desert or coastal dune environment.

Island Committee Successes



GREAT LAKES ISLANDS COMMITTEE Successes

- Developed Great Lakes Island Assessment/Inventory Checklist
- Secured Team Kitty funds to conduct a predator control project to help piping plover
- Built interest and secured funding for Refuges to purchase new boats capable of safely visiting islands within the Great Lakes
- Drafted Great Lakes Islands Conservation Strategic Plan
- Secured GLNPO Funding to support December Island Workshop



Great Lakes Basin
E C O S Y S T E M T E A M



GREAT LAKES ISLANDS COASTAL WORKSHOP

December 10 – 12, 2002

Chicago



GREAT LAKES ISLANDS COASTAL WORKSHOP

ISLANDS WORKSHOP PRODUCTS

- 1) Framework for a model strategy for Conservation of Great Lakes Islands at both landscape and local levels, including draft GLBET Great Lakes Islands Survey Protocols
- 2) A Great Lakes Island and Coastal Habitat Conservation Ranking/prioritization system
- 3) Updating of SOLEC Islands Indicator Report, including a listing/inventory of Great Lakes Islands currently under conservation protection through inclusion in NWR's, or other means; islands known to be in need of priority conservation efforts



GREAT LAKES ISLANDS COASTAL WORKSHOP

ISLANDS WORKSHOP PRODUCTS

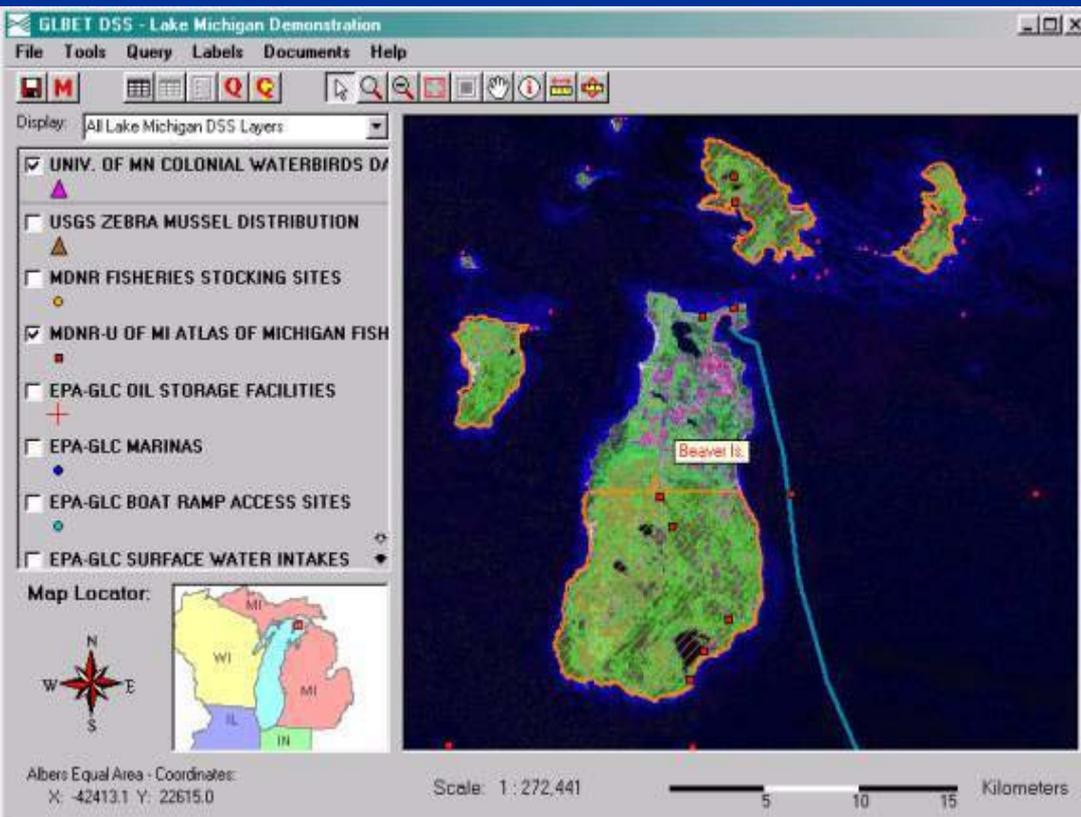
- 4) Inventory the databases available for island conservation - concurrence on action plan for repository/access of this information; Preliminary Guidelines for development of a classification system for nearshore coastal habitats of the Great Lakes and inventory of the databases available for coastal GAP analysis
- 5) Plan to improve the utility of the DSS - including demonstration of DSS, hands on opportunities provided, follow up training and utilization opportunities identified
- 6) Development of a communications campaign/plan for Great Lakes island conservation as a product and/or development of a network of communications specialists

GIS/DSS Committee Successes



GLBET GIS/DSS Core Group

Status Report, Accomplishments, and Next Steps



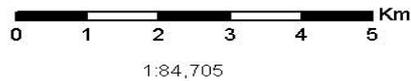
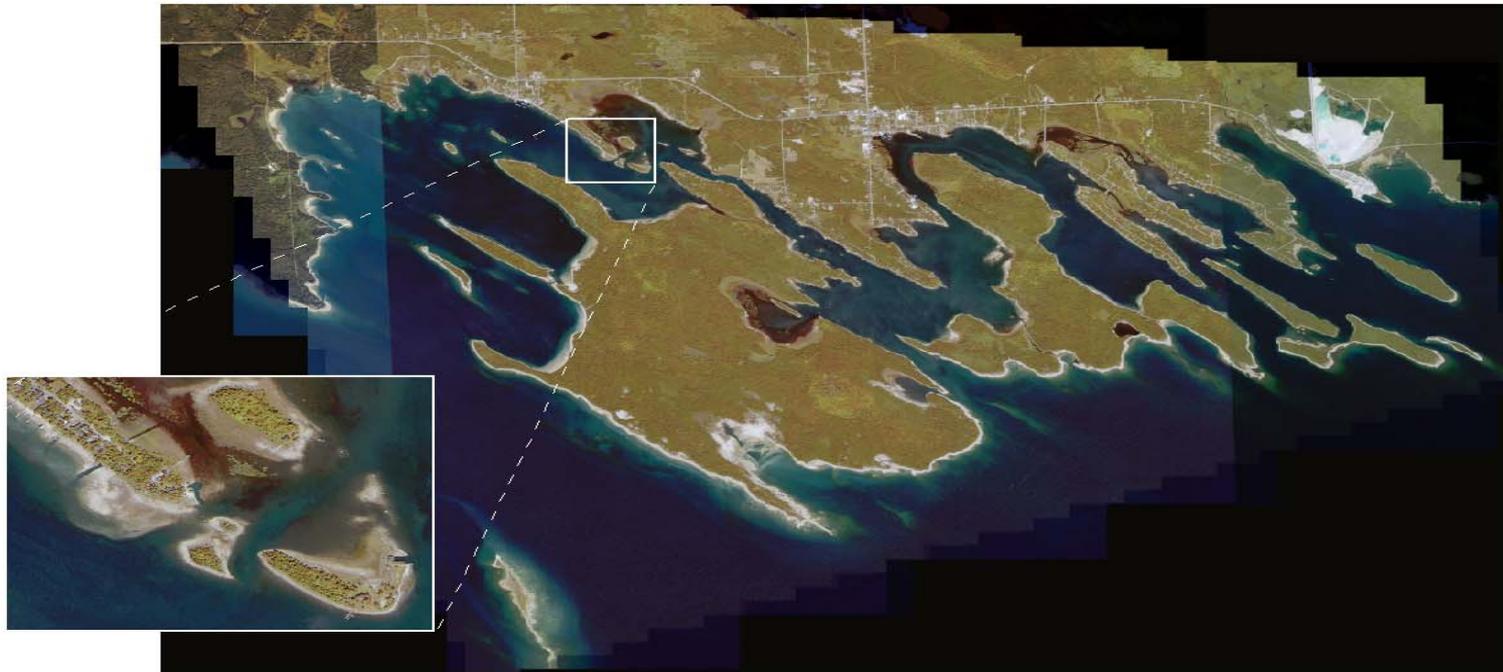
Completed Great Lakes GIS Strategic Plan & Implementation Recommendations

Completed Great Lakes Islands GIS/DSS Demonstration

GLC Team Intranet Web Site

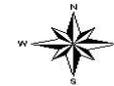
Strong Team, Regional, and Partner Support

**IKONOS Pan-Sharpener Unclassified Image
Les Cheneaux Islands**



Pixel Resolution: 1m

Dates Acquired:
08/28/2000
07/23/2001
07/26/2001



**IKONOS Band Combination
(Simulated True Color)**

-  Red: Band 3 .64-.72um
-  Green: Band 2 .52-.61um
-  Blue: Band 1 .45-.53um

**USGS Great Lake Science Center Partnership
In Support of our GIS/DSS Committee**

- **Mapping Sensitive Habitats on Great Lakes Islands with Multispectral Satellite Imagery**
- **\$48.5 K - Eastern Region Partnership Integrated Science Funds**

OUTREACH COMMITTEE SUCCESSES



OUTREACH COMMITTEE SUCSESSES

- Team Web Site Updated ... Improved!
- Progress Made on Service Great Lakes Video
- Team Display Improved ... Utilized
- Accomplishment Reports/News Releases
- Initiated Model Outreach/Communications Plan for Conservation of Great Lakes Islands – can be used as model for other activities, “Silver Anvil Award”, secured Dr. Darryl Armstrong donated services for one year.

RECENT GLBET SUCCESSES



ENERGY & SYNERGY

Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team's Two Workshops
in December, very successful!

Partnerships strengthened, commitment for actions
made ...

ENERGY AND SYNERGY

- Follow up commitments for actions...
- Grant “Swat Teams” formed ...
- Strong support pledged for Detroit River IWR,

Strong binational interest in supporting proposed Lake Erie IWR, and to pursue additional IWR's in Thousand Island area of eastern Lake Ontario, and along Georgian Bay in northern Lake Huron

RECENT SUCCESSES

NRDA – GL Legacy Act Web Conference
April 4th

Identified opportunities and challenges for the Service, identified points-of-contact, and leads for coordination.

PRESIDENT'S FY 2004 BUDGET TO DOUBLE FUNDING FOR GREAT LAKES ACTIVITIES

- Nearly \$34 Million to improve Great Lakes water quality
- \$15 Million to support Great Lakes Legacy Act to cleanup contaminated sediments
- GLNPO to receive \$15.4 Million – LaMPs \$2.7 Million
- Invasive Species Research funded at \$500, 000

Conservation Biology Conference

June 30

Tools and Partnerships for the Conservation of Great Lakes Islands

**Leslie TeWinkel, Rich Greenwood, & Megan
Seymour: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Karen Vigmostad: Northeast-Midwest Institute



1000 Islands, Parks Canada

GIS/DSS COMMITTEE SUCCESS

GREAT LAKES BINATIONAL REGIONAL DATA EXCHANGE MEETING/WEB CONFERENCE – July 8

Ann Arbor/USFWS NCTC Web Conferencing

Co-hosted by GLC/GLBET GIS/DSS Committee

Objectives of the meeting were to 1) develop relationships; 2) enhance the understanding of on-going initiatives; 3) explore collaborative opportunities; and 4) define components of a regional data exchange agreement.

Twenty participants were at the meeting, and another forty seven participated via web conferencing.

Great Lakes National Program Office

Habitat Grants Awarded to GLBET

- 1. Framework for Binational Conservation of Great Lakes Islands, \$200,000 awarded.** This project was the direct result of our Great Lakes Islands Committee efforts, culminated by our December Island Workshop. Northeast-Midwest Institute will be administering this grant for us.
- 2. Coastal Wetland Habitat Restoration and Exploration, \$100,000 awarded.** Kurt Kowalski of the USGS Great Lakes Science Center, who is a lead member of our Islands and GIS/DSS Committees, submitted this proposal that will move us a long way in restoring natural functions of coastal wetlands to the diked Lake Erie coastal wetlands, including those in our National and International Wildlife Refuges. This work will also benefit coastal habitat in many other areas in the Great Lakes as well.
- 3. Assessment of Lake Sturgeon Rehabilitation: St. Regis River, New York, \$64,000 awarded.** Our USGS Great Lakes Science Center Team Members also submitted this proposal that will be of great assistance to our Lake Sturgeon Committee in its Great Lakes lake sturgeon restoration goals.

88 Preprosals – 7 Selected for Funding - 3 of the 7 were for GLBET!

Great Lakes National Program Office

Habitat Grants Awarded to GLBET

In Addition:

GLNPO also awarded \$35,000 to the **St. Louis River Citizens Action Committee** for implementing the RAP Habitat Recommendations - for the St. Louis River System AOC. This important Lake Superior estuary system is one of our Team focus areas. Dan Stinnett (our Twin Cities Ecological Services Project Leader) coordinated a St. Louis River Citizens Action Committee presentation to GLNPO that proved to be very beneficial.

GLNPO also selected a proposal, and is awarding a grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Midwest/Mississippi River Valley Region to administer GLNPO's Habitat Grant Program.

Great Lakes Fishery Trust Board

... approved a request by our Lake Sturgeon Committee for the Great Lakes Basin Sturgeon GIS Database Project, for \$34,000. Emily Zollweg, our Lake Sturgeon Committee Chair, informs us that the leveraging of our GLBET Lake Sturgeon Flex Fund Projects, was very important in securing this Great Lakes Fishery Trust Board.



GLBET AWARDED REGION 3 AND 5 FLEX FUNDS AWARDS

**GLBET CONTINUED THEIR SUCCESSES ... Leveraging with
Many Partners:**

➤ **Lake Sturgeon Committee:**

- Continuation of Successful Great Lakes Commercial Fishers Program
- Habitat, Population, Genetics Assessment

➤ **Islands Committee**

- Develop an islands prioritization system; this project is being contracted to the TNC-Great Lakes program

➤ **GIS/DSS Committee**

- Expand Island DSS basinwide, complete lake sturgeon GIS needs

➤ **Outreach Committee**

- Complete a brochure/fact sheet and implement the communications strategy that was developed at the workshop

2003 State of the Great Lakes Report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 21, 2003

STATE OF GREAT LAKES REPORT GIVES BALD EAGLE RECOVERY A PLUS, NON- NATIVE SPECIES THREAT A MINUS

CHICAGO (Aug. 21, 2003) ---- The State of the Great Lakes 2003 Report, released today by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada, reveals information on over half of the 80 Great Lakes indicators originally proposed in 1998.

Indicator data, collected over the past four years, are being ...

2003 State of the Great Lakes Report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 21, 2003

Positive Signs of Recovery Include:

- Lake trout in Lake Superior remain self-sustaining;
- Some Lake Ontario lake trout are reproducing;
- Bald eagles nesting and reproducing along the shorelines are recovering;

2003 State of the Great Lakes Report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 21, 2003

Negative Signs of Degradation Include:

- Continuing entry of non-native species is a significant threat to the ecosystem;
- Type E botulism outbreaks are occurring in Lake Erie, resulting in deaths of fish and aquatic birds;

ONGOING GREAT LAKES INITIATIVES



GLWQA

SOLEC

LaMPs

RAPs – AOC's

US Policy Committee

GLC – States Compact

Great Lakes Fishery Commission – Lake Technical Committees

New GL Legislation and Initiatives

Unique and Significant Opportunities for Service Presented

GAO Great Lakes Report and Recommendations

GAO Assessment of SOLEC Indicators

GL Legacy Act – Several Other Newly Introduced Legislation –
With Significant Funding Support Proposed

USGS GL Aquatic GAP

Great Lakes Cities Initiative – Binational Mayors Initiative

Efforts to “Restore the Greatness” move Forward

MEDIA ADVISORY - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2003

Great Lakes Commission, Sea Grant to partner on restoration effort

Ann Arbor, Mich. – Efforts to restore and protect the Great Lakes Ecosystem are taking a significant step forward, thanks to a new initiative by the Great Lakes Commission and the National Sea Grant College Program.

The Commission will partner with university-based Sea Grant...

An aerial photograph of a large reservoir, likely the St. Lawrence Seaway, with a prominent dam structure in the center. The surrounding landscape is lush green with some white patches, possibly snow or clouds. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

GLBET ISSUES TO PRESENT TO THE R3 RMT

GLBET ISSUES TO PRESENT TO R3 RMT

➤ **INVASIVE SPECIES**

- Control introductions, spread of exotics.
- Continued leadership in identifying vectors, monitoring, assess impacts, develop preventive measures.
- Build support for backup barrier structures and methods in Chicago River

➤ **COASTAL WETLANDS/NEARSHORE HABITAT**

- Low lake level regimes, climate change issues.
- FWS Coastal Wetland REMAP, SOLEC Coastal Wetland Indicators Consortium.
- Participation in new GL Aquatic-Coastal GAP
- Habitat impact issues, identifying and assessing significant areas and links to species of concern, enhancing Service habitat programs.

➤ **TEAM ENGAGEMENT IN ENDANGERED SPECIES – SPECIES AT RISK**

- Support for basinwide piping plover project.
- Focus on most critically imperiled species, endemic to/only in the Great Lakes; or to prevent listings?
- Continue Rehabilitation Plans for walleye, lake sturgeon, coaster brook trout.

GLBET ISSUES TO PRESENT TO R3 RMT

➤ **CONTAMINANTS**

- Variety of issues continues to slow trust resource progress
- Emphasize Service Great Lakes leadership role via NRDA, biomonitoring, and restoration

➤ **INTERJURISDICTIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

- Support actions to implement Lake Committee Fish Community Objectives
- Monitor fish health status and trends in wild and hatchery stocks

➤ **USFWS GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEM INDICATORS**

- Develop suite of indicators, in addition to SOLEC Indicators that serve us
- Develop the means for assuring sound science, appropriate monitoring methods and levels

GLBET ISSUES TO PRESENT TO R3 RMT

➤ TEAM MEETING ISSUES

- RMT feedback on budget issues, continued travel concerns
- Feedback on opportunity to meet jointly with R3 and 5 RMTs
- Dialogue on importance of Team Meetings; given relevance of GLBET to Service Mission in Great Lakes, and demonstrated capability in leveraging, communication, and coordination which has paid off in many successes for the Service; and importance for sustaining Team momentum.

GLBET ISSUE TO PRESENT/DISCUSS WITH R3 RMT

- **RECENT GAO GREAT LAKES REPORT AND LEGISLATION CALLING FOR STEPPING UP GREAT LAKES RESTORATION, MANAGEMENT, AND MONITORING**
 - How can the Service better engage in and be proactive in these unique, special opportunities?
 - Defining our Service Great Lakes role and priorities at this critical juncture
 - Solidifying our place at the “Great Lakes Restoration Table”



GLBET GREAT LAKES SHOWCASE

**TOP ISSUE TO PRESENT TO THE
REGION 3 RMT**

**HOW CAN THE GLBET BETTER
SERVE OUR SERVICE MISSION,
PROGRAMS AND STATIONS IN
THE GREAT LAKES?**

How Can Team Better Serve Service Mission, Programs for the Great Lakes?

Team Successes – Opportunities to build on: leveraging, coordination, networking, communication

Work with RMT's and Programs to identify, prioritize, and support Service Great Lakes needs

RMT assistance and coordination in identifying opportunities, needs, issues and initiatives to engage in, research priorities, and collaborative landscape level projects

Developing Team Action Plans with the RMTs, Program Leaders, and Stations

Improving coordination/communication between Team and RMT, Programs, Field Stations

In closing ...

- We'd like to thank the Region 3 RMT for all the opportunities to interact, and your support
- We'd also like to thank Teresa Woods and all her staff Ecosystem Team Biologists for all their help and support

Marv Moriarty ~ Bob Krska ~ Charlie Wooley

Leslie Tewinkel ~ John Christian

TJ Miller ~ Rachel Levin

Teresa Woods ~ Tom Magnuson

Mike Hoff ~ Gerry Jackson

Bill Hartwig → Robyn Thorson

Thank you all!

