

MAKING WAVES

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



June 2019



Mayor Vandersteen welcomes fellow member mayors to Sheboygan for this year's Annual Conference

CITIES INITIATIVE NEWS AND UPDATES

Stakeholder Webinar on Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Collaborative

The Cities Initiative, in partnership with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the Council of the Great Lakes Region, Freshwater Future, and Stratégies Saint-Laurent, has been leading the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Collaborative Strategy. The project is inspired by the U.S. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and focus on four key areas: climate change, toxics, beaches and nutrients. Involving the work of over 200 volunteers, the report containing 15 recommendations will be released on **Tuesday June 18** and available on our GLSLCI website. Please consider using your social media network to help announce the release of the report. Any members wishing a briefing or additional information, please contact Deputy Director Sarah Rang at sarah.rang@glslcities.org

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Pictures and Speaker Presentations from the Annual Conference online now!



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Canadian and American Mayors Call for Urgent Action against Asian Carp Signing of the Mayors' Declaration to Stop Asian Carp

June 6, 2019 – at the GLSLCI Annual Conference, our members mayors united in demanding action and funding to stop Asian Carp from entering the Great Lakes. Read the press release and contact Sarah Rang sarah.rang@glslcities.org with any questions.

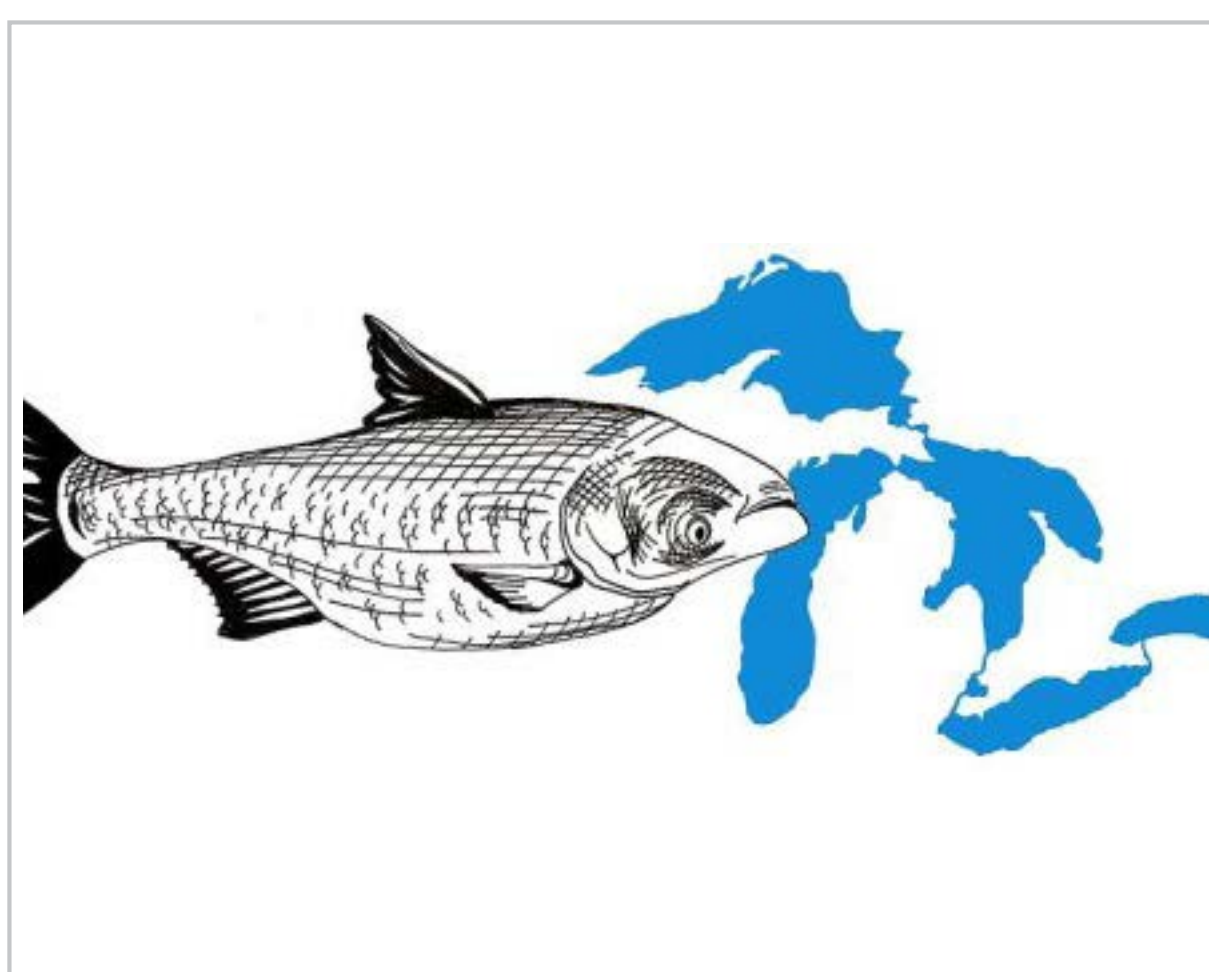
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GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE NEWS

U.S. Army Corps concludes years-long study of Asian carp prevention options. Congress urged to support the project

Efforts to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes took an important step forward yesterday. Commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, signed the Brandon Road Chief's Report recommending a suite of Asian carp protections at Brandon Road Lock and Dam located near Joliet, Illinois. The report concludes a years-long feasibility study and paves the way for Congressional action on the project.

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Ship-oil Protection Fund celebrates 30th anniversary

Last May 28 in Ottawa, the Cities Initiative was present at a conference celebrating 30 years of compensating victims of oil pollution from ships. Since its creation in 1989, the Ship-source Oil Pollution Fund (the Fund) has paid \$24 million in compensation following the discharge of oil in Canadian waters. The highest compensation amount paid (\$4.2 million) was in 2018, following the sinking of the Chalk Determination in Trois-Rivières (Québec).

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Great Lakes water levels expected to set record highs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, announces that record high water levels are forecasted on several of the Great Lakes over the next six months. Due to recent wet conditions, the six month water level forecast now predicts higher forecasted water level peaks this summer. The forecasted water levels on Lakes Superior, St. Clair and Erie are all expected to break records set in the early 1950s and middle 1980s. Very high water levels are expected for Lakes Michigan, Huron and Ontario.

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House Appropriators Vote to Boost Great Lakes Funding

U.S. House appropriators have voted to boost federal investments in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, from \$300 million to \$320 million. The popular and effective program helps local communities clean up toxic pollution, manage invasive species, and reduce runoff pollution. The vote to increase Great Lakes Restoration Investments came as House appropriators voted on a slew of funding bills over the last two days that support key Great Lakes programs, including bills to fund drinking water and wastewater infrastructure nationally, as well as activities to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes. The funding bills now go to the full House for a vote. The U.S. Senate has yet to take up its funding bills.

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Jane Corwin, Robert Sisson and Lance Yohe confirmed as IJC Commissioners

The International Joint Commission (IJC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Jane Corwin as US Section chair, and Robert Sisson and Lance Yohe as US Section Commissioners.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

June 18, 2019

Creating a Water Centric Milwaukee and Healthy Great Lakes
Milwaukee, WI

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June 19, 2019

Step In and Speak Out for the Great Lakes: IJC Public Roundtable
Milwaukee, WI

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July 24, 2019

Step In and Speak Out for the Great Lakes: Lake Michigan
Traverse City, MI

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admin@glslcities.org | 20 N. Wacker Dr. Suite 2700 Chicago, IL 60606 | (312) 201-4518

