

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

State of the Great Lakes

2007

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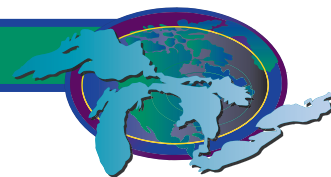


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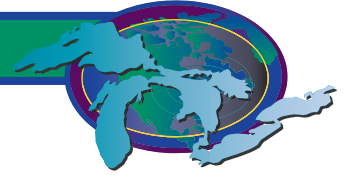
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Preface

The Governments of Canada and the United States are committed to providing public access to environmental information about the Great Lakes basin ecosystem through the State of the Great Lakes reporting process. This commitment is integral to the mission to protect ecosystem health. To participate effectively in managing risks to ecosystem health, all Great Lakes stakeholders (e.g., federal, provincial, state and local governments; non-governmental organizations; industry; academia; private citizens; Tribes and First Nations) should have access to accurate information of appropriate quality and detail.

The information in this report, **State of the Great Lakes 2007**, has been assembled from various sources with the participation of many people throughout the Great Lakes basin. The data are based on indicator reports and presentations from the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC), held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, November 1-3, 2006.

SOLEC and the subsequent reports provide independent, science-based reporting on the state of the health of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. Four objectives for the SOLEC process include:

- To assess the state of the Great Lakes ecosystem based on accepted indicators
- To strengthen decision-making and environmental management concerning the Great Lakes
- To inform local decision makers of Great Lakes environmental issues
- To provide a forum for communication and networking amongst all the Great Lakes stakeholders

The role of SOLEC is to provide clear, compiled information to the Great Lakes community to enable environmental managers to make better decisions. Although SOLEC is primarily a reporting venue rather than a management program, many SOLEC participants are involved in decision-making processes throughout the Great Lakes basin.

The current information about Great Lakes ecosystem and human health is presented in several levels of detail, in both print and electronic formats.

State of the Great Lakes 2007. This technical report contains the full indicator reports as prepared by the primary authors, the indicator category assessments, and management challenges. It also contains detailed references to data sources.

State of the Great Lakes 2007 Highlights. This report highlights key information presented in the main report.

State of the Great Lakes Summary Series. These summaries provide information about a variety of indicators and issues such as: the quality of drinking water, swimming at the beaches, eating Great Lakes fish, air quality, aquatic invasive species, amphibians, birds, forests, coastal wetlands, the Great Lakes food web and special places such as islands, alvars and cobble beaches. In addition there is a summary for each of the Great Lakes, plus the St. Clair-Detroit River ecosystem and the St. Lawrence River.

For more information about Great Lakes indicators and the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference, visit: www.binational.net or www.epa.gov/glnpo/solec or www.on.ec.gc.ca/greatlakes.