



**National Association of Clean Water Agencies**

**Milwaukee, WI**

**July 15, 2009**

# ENSURING A LIVING RESOURCE FOR ALL GENERATIONS





## What's ahead?

- Who are we?
- Why are the Great Lakes important?
- What are the key issues that face the Great Lakes?
- Who is helping?





## Who is the Alliance for the Great Lakes?



We are more than 8,000 volunteers, members and professionals working for clean water throughout the Great Lakes.





## Who is the Alliance for the Great Lakes?

**We conserve and restore the world's largest freshwater resource using policy, education and local efforts.**





## The Great Lakes: So What's The Big Deal?



- International, interstate treasure
- 20% of the world's fresh surface water
- 90% of the U.S. fresh surface water
- Support diversity of fish, wildlife, plants and more than *40 million people!*
- Provide over \$200 billion in economic support annually
- Enhance property values



## The Great Lakes: So What's The Problem?

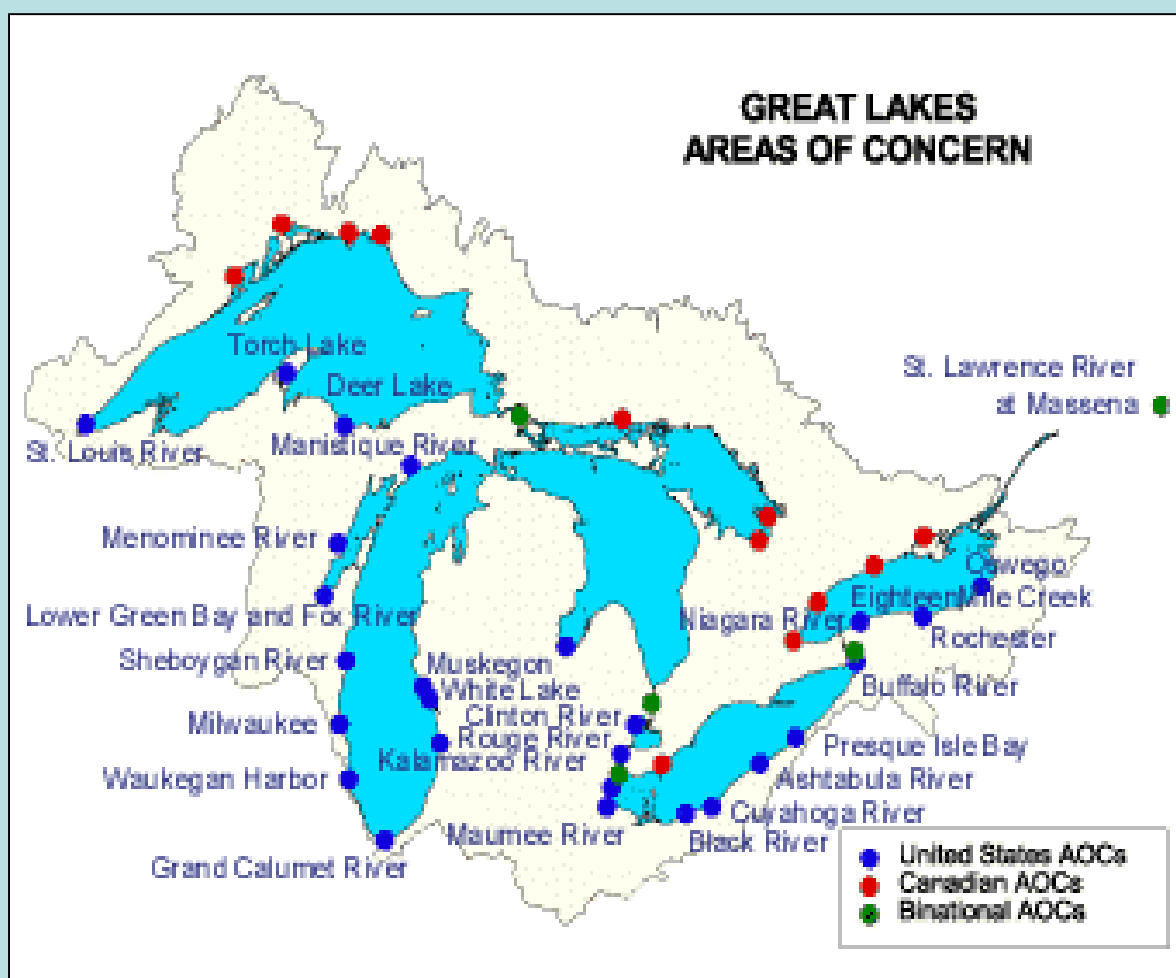


- A legacy of heavy industry
- Sewage and stormwater
- New invasive species every few months
- (Formerly) fast and loose with water supply
- A history of mixed results





## The “Legacy” of Industrial Pollution







## **Sewage Overflows – 24 billion gallons U.S. and Canada**





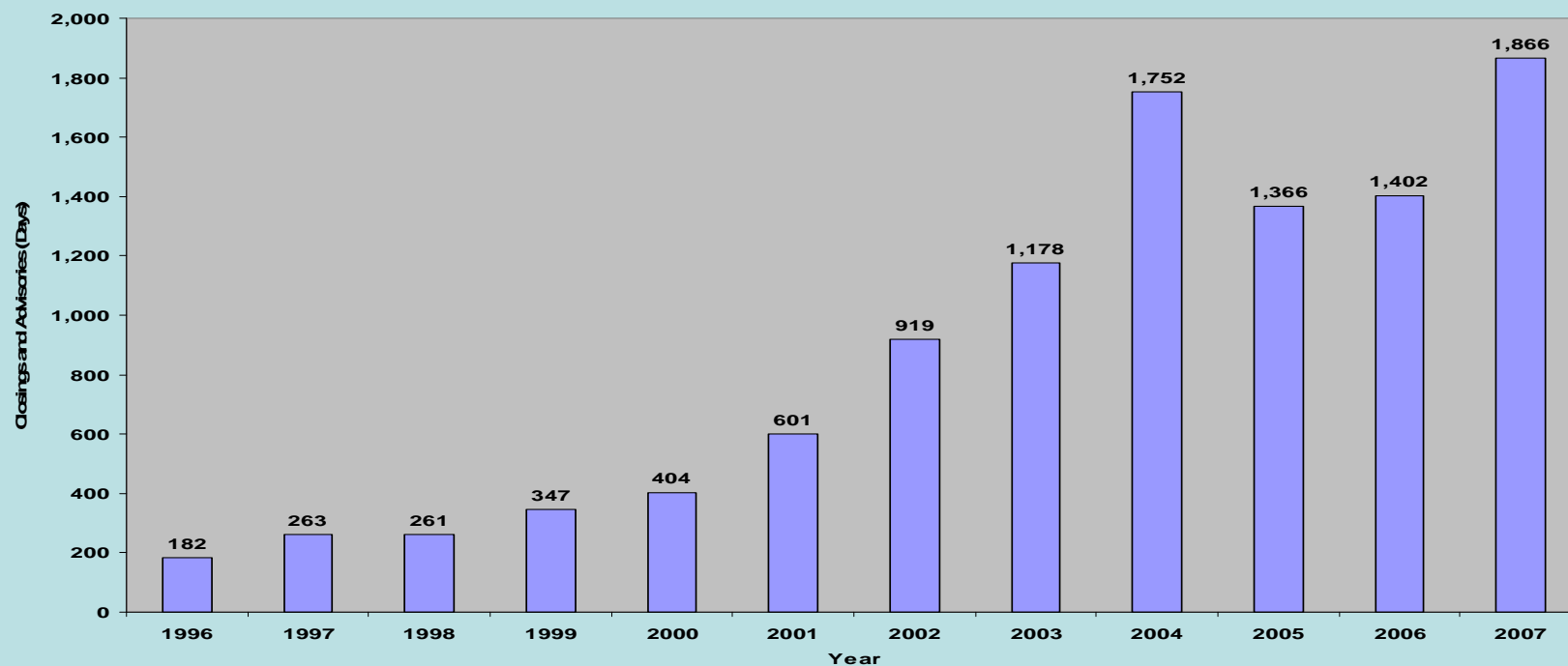
## Coastal Health

- 84 Great Lakes beaches closed or under advisory for 2 weeks or more in 2008
- CSOs are a part of the problem, but so are nonpoint, nutrient contamination, wildlife and other sources
- Problems, and solutions, tend to be local
- Solutions hampered by outdated science, equipment and communication



## Lake Michigan Beach Closings & Advisories

Lake Michigan Beach Closings and Advisories 1996-2007



Data collected by the Alliance and NRDC from beach reports to EPA



## Invasive Species







## Invasive Species

- Impair water quality
- Compete with native species
- >\$200 million in damage annually
- 70% arrive through shipping ballast water

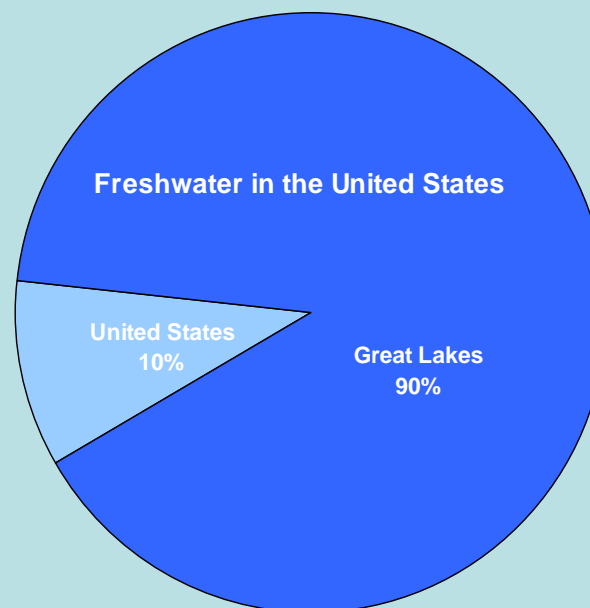
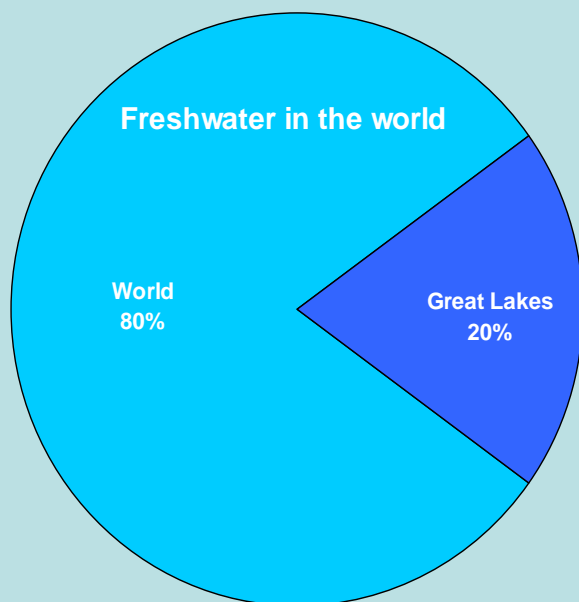


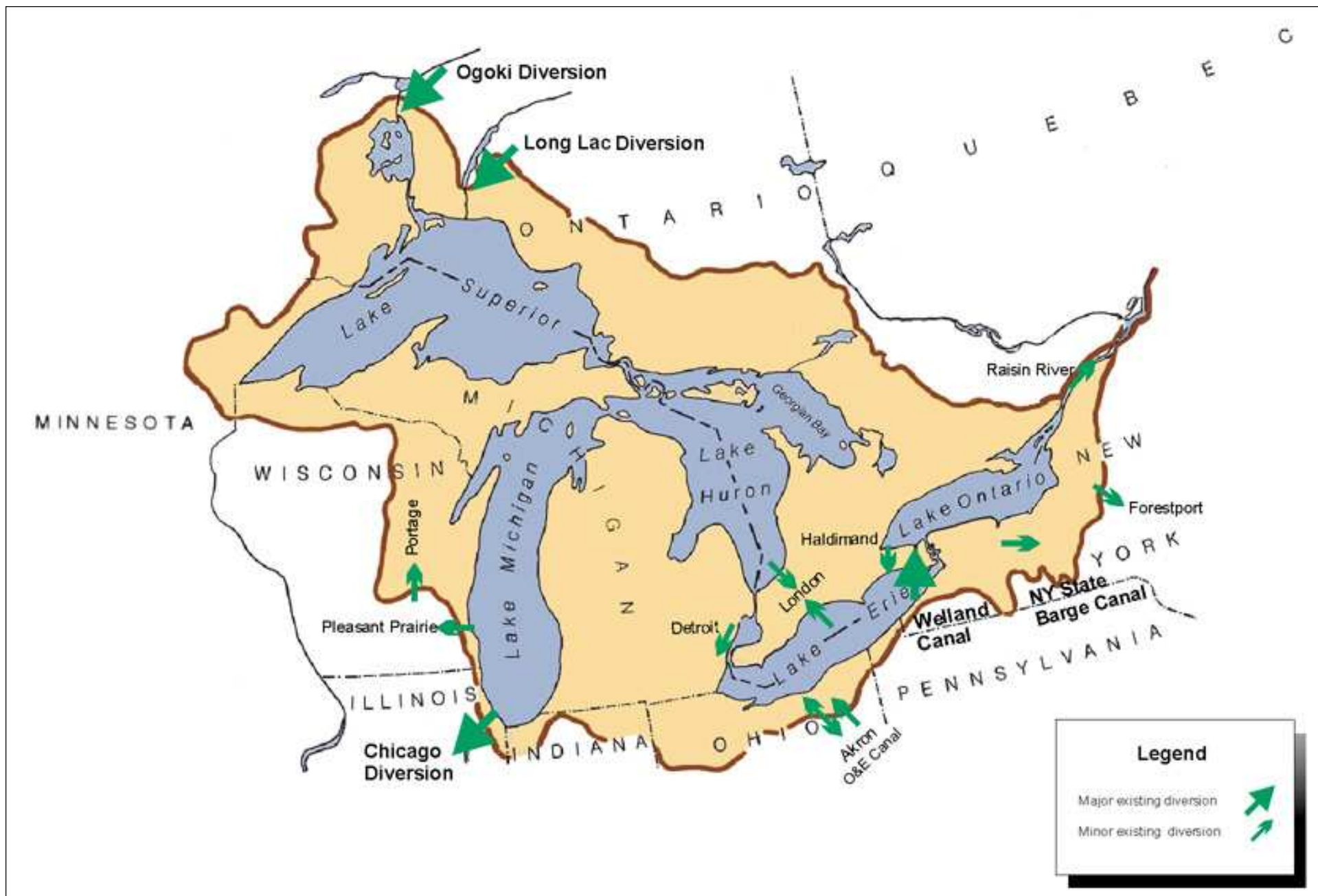


**183 species have invaded the Great Lakes since the 1800's. 1/3 of those species have been introduced since the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.**



**20% of World's Fresh Surface Water**  
**Over 90% U.S. Fresh Surface Water**  
**Only 1% renewable annually**









## **Great Lakes Water Resources Compact**

- Establishes regional control of water diversions
- Creates decision-making standard for in-state uses
- Requires water users to prioritize ecosystem protection and conservation
- Will be defensible in federal litigation



## How To Implement the Compact

- By December 8<sup>th</sup> of
  - 2009: Compile “baseline volumes” for many existing withdrawals
  - 2010: Establish, implement and promote water conservation measures
  - 2013: Be prepared to accept applications for new withdrawals and have a statewide management plan in place



## **Obama Campaign Pledge to Restore the Great Lakes**

- \$5 billion over 10 years
- Aggressive toxics reduction
- Zero tolerance for invasive species
- Implementation of the Great Lakes Compact
- Great Lakes “Czar”



## Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

- After the campaign
  - ARRA dollars
    - ✓ NOAA coastal restoration
    - ✓ Sediment removal
    - ✓ CWSRF and green infrastructure
  - White House proposed FY10 funding
    - ✓ Total investment of \$475 million
    - ✓ USEPA gets lion's share at \$234 million
    - ✓ Target at least \$1 billion *additional* CWSRF for Great Lakes states annually
    - ✓ Focus areas: contaminated sediments, coastal health, habitat restoration, monitoring, research and ACCOUNTABILITY
    - ✓ House: \$475 mil; Senate: \$400 mil





## The Ticker

- S. 878 / H.R. 2093 – Clean Coastal Environment and Public Health Act
  - Senate version would
    - ✓ Require rapid testing of beach contamination
    - ✓ Improve public notification of beach closings and advisories
    - ✓ Authorize dollars for remediation
    - ✓ Instruct U.S. EPA to propose actions for addressing nutrients



## The Ticker

- S. 787 – Clean Water Restoration Act
  - Clarify definition of “waters of the United States”
  - Provides key guidance to local governments, agriculture, extractive industries and other affected parties
  - Will minimize jurisdictional confusion
  - Reported out of Environment and Public Works Committee



## The Ticker

- S. 933 – Contaminated Sediment Remediation Reauthorization Act
  - Reauthorizes Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2002
  - Increases U.S. EPA authorization to \$150 million
  - Reported out of EPW



## **Regulatory – Invasive Species**

- U.S. EPA petitioned by multiple parties; intent to reconsider federal permit for ballast water under CWA
- U.S. Coast Guard to promulgate discharge standard
- States have attached aggressive conditions to federal permit
- Need to coordinate authorities among EPA, USCG and states with CWA in lead





## **Regulatory – Clean Water**

- “Increased transparency”
- Expect increased enforcement on toxics and CSOs
- More attention to open water nutrient issues



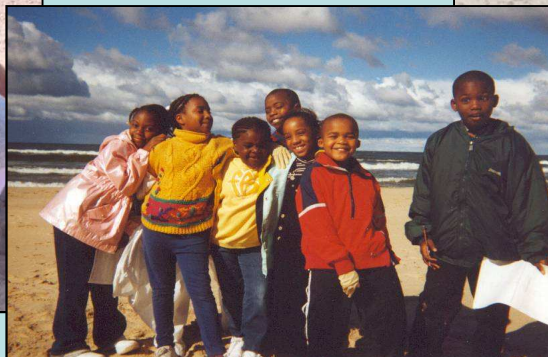
## **Regulatory and Funding – Climate Change**

- Finally, an incentive to actually conserve water!
- Impacts to water resources
  - Decreased availability for water-dependent industries and utilities
  - Less predictable, more intense stormwater load
  - Changing character of nearshore
- Agencies that adapt will thrive
  - Achieving integrated water resource management
  - Finding multiple benefits: costs, energy and water savings, impact reduction, habitat enhancement.
- What should carbon permit auctions fund? Adaptation.



## The Adopt-a-Beach™ Program

Today the program is a **year-round opportunity** for families, schools, businesses and community-based groups **to conduct litter monitoring and water quality testing** along the Great Lakes shorelines.





## How else can you help?

It's as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Become A Member
2. Become A Volunteer
3. Tell Your Friends & Family About Us

To learn more, find us at [www.greatlakes.org](http://www.greatlakes.org).





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