Advice to Achieve Great Lakes Goals

Assessing Canadian and US Governments' Water Quality Progress

- **The International Joint Commission (IJC)** helps Canada and the United States prevent and resolve issues over shared waters on 5,525 miles of boundary, including the Great Lakes.
- Produced every three years, the ***Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) Report on Great Lakes Water Quality*** is the IJC's review of the progress that the governments of Canada and the United States have made toward achieving the objectives of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

An independent assessment of basinwide science and action

IJC offers findings and recommendations on Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement progress

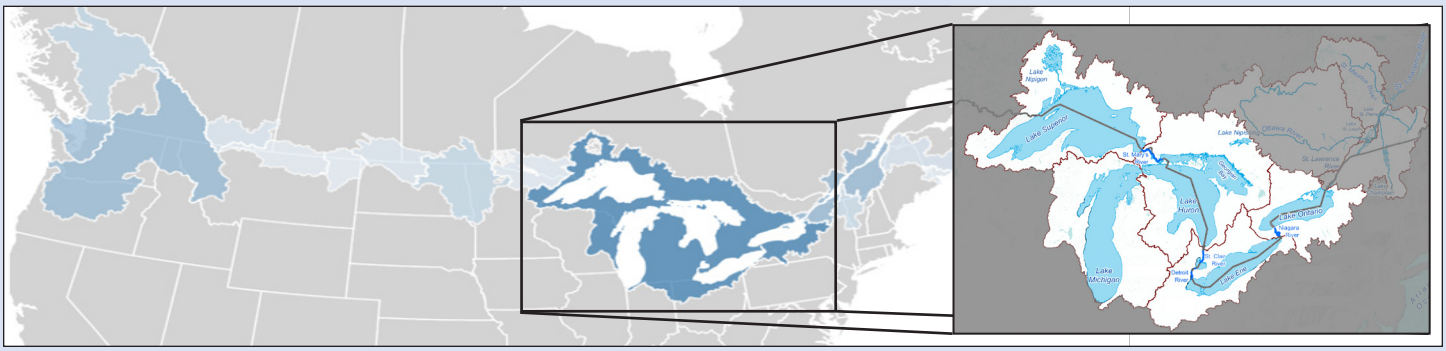
For more than 50 years, Canada and the United States have committed to work together to restore, protect and enhance Great Lakes water quality through the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. First signed in 1972 and updated most recently in 2012, the Agreement tasks the IJC with the responsibility to independently assess and report on Canadian and US governments' progress to achieve its goals. The IJC provides a ***Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) Report on Great Lakes Water Quality*** every three years.

The IJC's TAP reports include:

- Review and consideration of Canadian and US governments' most recent triennial *Progress Report of the Parties* and *State of the Great Lakes Reports,*
- Summary of public input,
- Assessment of the extent to which governments are achieving the Agreement's objectives, and
- Other advice and recommendations.

The IJC's past TAP reports published in 2017, 2020 and 2023. The next report is expected in 2026.

Where will this work impact?



Triennial Assessment of Progress Report
Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

Under the Agreement, the Canadian and US governments establish nine water quality objectives addressing:

- Drinking water
- Swimming and recreation
- Fish and wildlife
- Pollutants
- Habitats and species
- Nutrients and algal blooms
- Invasive species
- Groundwater
- Other substances, materials and conditions

Scan for more about the IJC's reporting under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

Government responses to the IJC TAP Reports

The IJC makes recommendations to Canada and United States, and it is up to the governments to determine if and how those recommendations might be implemented. The IJC is in regular communication with the governments and routinely follows up on plans to implement the recommendations.

The IJC's TAP report recommendations are typically directed at the Canadian and US federal governments, who are the signatory "Parties" to the Agreement. In past TAP reports, the IJC's findings, conclusions and recommendations also call for the cooperation of a range of governmental and nongovernmental entities to contribute to efforts toward implementing these IJC recommendations.

About the International Joint Commission

The IJC was established in 1909 under the Boundary Waters Treaty to help Canada and the United States prevent and resolve disputes over shared waters.

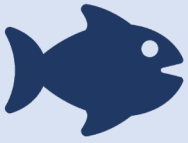
Contact the IJC for more information: TAP-ETP@ijc.org

The Great Lakes ...

contain roughly 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water

support a US$6 trillion (CAD$7.5 trillion) regional economy

are a source of drinking water for 36 million people



are home to 4,000 species of plants and animals