HOW WE WORK

Blue Accounting uses metrics and relevant data to measure progress toward shared goals. For ErieStat, key water quality metrics were selected to track progress toward the shared phosphorus reduction goal. These metrics were selected to allow tracking of both total and dissolved phosphorus contributions from tributary rivers and streams to the lake. Water quality metrics are a starting point; additional metrics are anticipated in the future to measure progress of phosphorus control efforts in Lake Erie and on the surrounding landscape.

ErieStat will also showcase strategies and investments contained within the governments’ Domestic Action Plans developed under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. For more about the Domestic Action Plans, check out our Strategies page or download plans from the Resource page by searching for “plans.”

WHY LAKE ERIE MATTERS

SUMMER FUN

Estimates indicate that algal blooms could cost the Canadian Lake Erie basin economy $272 million annually. In the U.S., the economic impact of the 2011 bloom resulted in an estimated cost of $71 million (IJC).

Summer Fun, Ashtabula, Ohio (Dee Riley)

CLEVELAND
Major cities depend on Lake Erie for drinking water, recreation and commerce.

*Cleveland, Ohio Aerial Landscape (©Pedro Gutierrez/Shutterstock)*

**CATCHING FISH**

Lake Erie supports a $1.5 billion sport fishery and is considered the most valuable freshwater commercial fishery in the world (Ohio Sea Grant).

*Fisherman with freshly caught walleye in Lake Erie (©Ohio Sea Grant)*

**WLEB WHEAT**
Agriculture represents approximately 70 percent of the land use in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) on both the U.S. and Canadian sides. Agriculture is also a key element of the WLEB economy, with nearly $3 billion in sales in the U.S. alone, according to the 2007 U.S. Census of Agriculture (NRCS 2016).

*Wheat field in the WLEB, northwest Ohio © Randall L. Schieber*

**WHO’S HELPING**

Convened by the Great Lakes Commission, representatives from federal, state, and provincial government agencies, as well as leading academic institutions, are contributing to the development of ErieStat.
Lake Erie is the shallowest, warmest, and most productive of the five Great Lakes. The lake is divided into three sub-basins: western, central, and eastern.

Lake Erie basin, Environment Canada

PRIORITY WATERSHEDS FOR PHOSPHORUS CONTROL
Federal, state and provincial government representatives are working together under the binational Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to develop strategies for controlling phosphorus contributions to Lake Erie. As part of that work, 14 priority tributaries have been identified for focused efforts toward controlling phosphorus.

**PHOSPHORUS ON THE LANDSCAPE**
Phosphorus enters Lake Erie and its tributary rivers and streams from a variety of sources. Over time, the ErieStat team will work together to report on the results of phosphorus control efforts taking place on the land in both urban and rural areas. Results will also be shared for the priority tributaries/watersheds and the lake itself.