

DIVERSE & RESILIENT WETLANDS: PERCENT PROTECTED

Many of our coastal wetlands have been permanently lost. But how are we doing with protecting what we have? Reporting the percentage of Great Lakes coastal wetlands that are protected can help focus efforts to preserve them where they are most needed.

This metric shows the percentage of wetlands protected at a glance, to highlight progress to-date and where we can do more.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS?

Overall, roughly 38% of remaining coastal wetlands* in the Great Lakes Basin are under protection of some sort. However, this percentage varies significantly by location, even within smaller geographic areas. This does not include the historical extent of wetlands in the Great Lakes, which has been significantly diminished.

*Coastal Wetlands defined as connected to the Great Lakes and >2 ha (5 acres) in size.

Percent of Existing Coastal Wetlands* in Protected Status by Great Lake



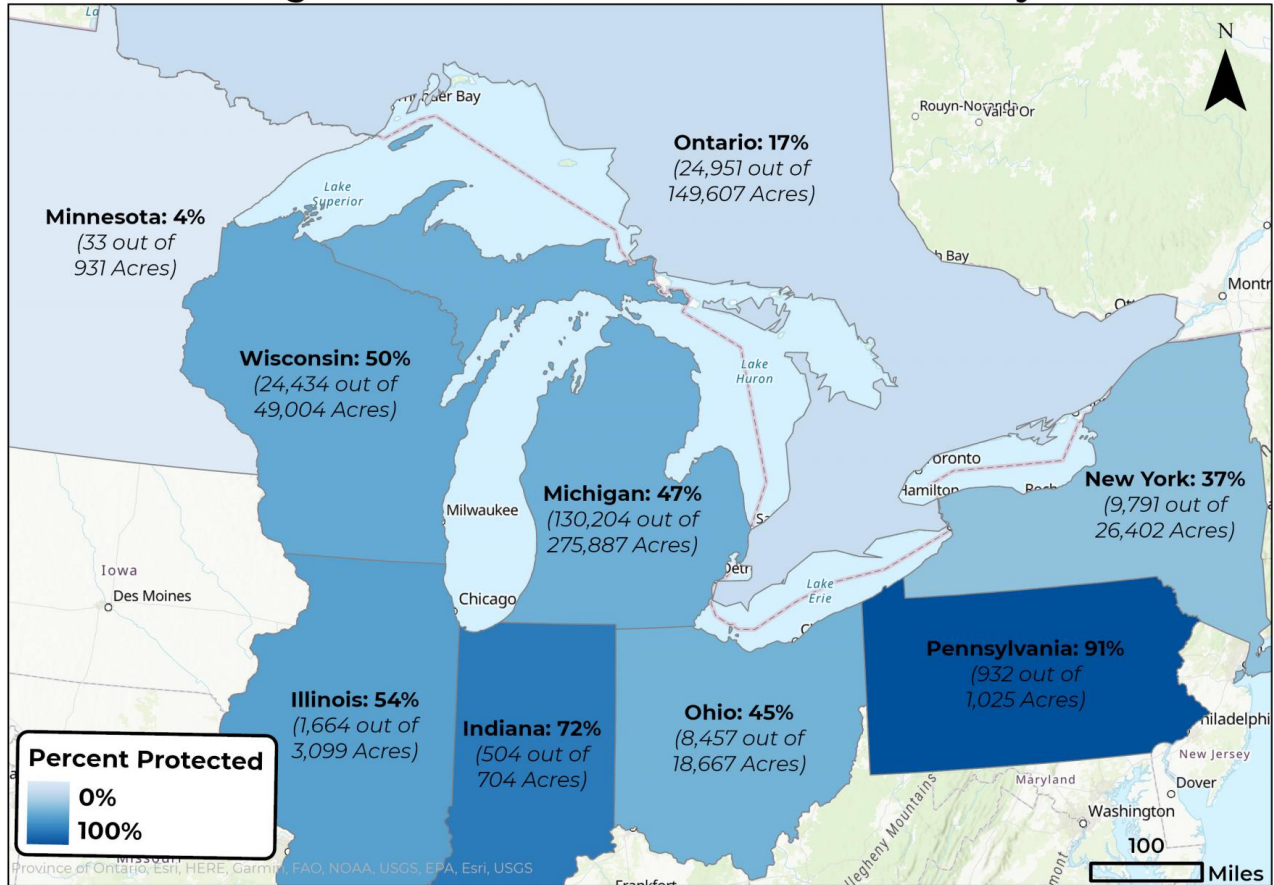
Coastal Wetlands* Data Source: 2004 Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium (wetlands that are ≥2ha and connected to the Great Lakes)

Protected Lands Data Sources: The Protected Areas Database of the United States 2018 (included CAP statuses 1-3), Ducks Unlimited Conservation and Recreation Lands 2017, Nature Conservancy of Canada: protected wetlands 2020, Commission for Environmental Cooperation: Canada Protected Terrestrial Areas 2012, Ontario GeoHub: Ontario Federal Protected Lands 2018 and Provincial Park Regulated 2020

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Figure 1. Percent of Coastal Wetlands that are protected, shown by Great Lake. The total number of coastal wetland acres and the number of protected acres are shown for each lake. This map provides a quick overview of lakewide status over the whole basin.

Percent of Existing Coastal Wetlands* in Protected Status by State/Province



Province of Ontario, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, Esri, USGS
Coastal Wetlands* Data Source: 2004 Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium (wetlands that are ≥2ha and connected to the Great Lakes)

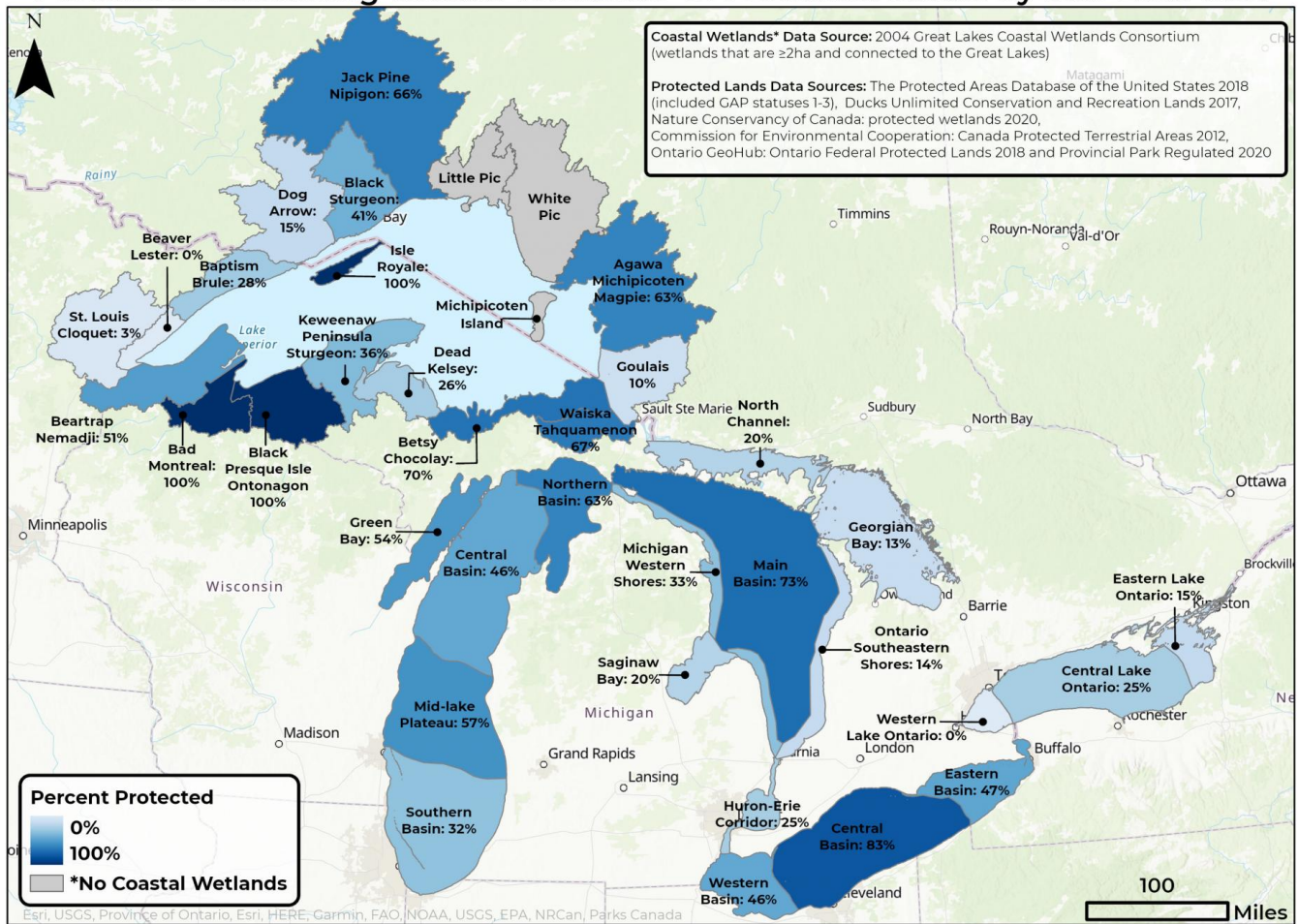
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Figure 2. Percent of Coastal Wetlands that are protected for each state or province in the Great Lakes Basin (except Québec, due to data limitations). The percentages vary from a high of 91% to a low of 4%, but the number of coastal wetland acres also varies widely. The five states with the highest total wetland acreage have protected between 37% and 54% of coastal wetlands, while Ontario has protected 17%.

Percent of Remaining Coastal Wetlands* in Protected Status by Sub-Lake Unit



By Stephanie Hickel, The Nature Conservancy

Figure 3. This map presents the percentage of existing wetlands that are in a protected status by sub-lake unit (reporting unit) for each Great Lake, as determined by the LAMPs for each lake. Lakes Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario report by sub-lake units. Lake Superior reports by watersheds. All values for the number of wetlands, total acres, protected acres and percent protected by sub-lake unit are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Data Values For All Sub-Lake Units. Can Be Sorted By Lake, Sub-Lake Unit, Number Of Wetlands, Total Acres, Protected Acres, And Percent Protected.

Sub-Lake Basin Data

Lake Basin	Sub-Lake Basin	Number	Total Acres	Protected Acres	Percent Protected
Erie	Huron-Erie Corridor	45	40,713	9,976	25

Erie Lake Basin	Western Basin Sub-Lake Basin Eastern Basin	81 Number 26	70,753 Total 20,955 Acres	14,123 Protected 3,905 Acres	46 Percent Protected
Erie	Central Basin	34	4,281	3,556	83
Huron	Georgian Bay	171	16,009	2,140	13
Huron	Ontario Southeastern Shores	109	9,515	1,373	14
Huron	North Channel	368	40,231	7,921	20
Huron	Saginaw Bay	57	54,860	11,213	20
Huron	Michigan Western Shores	108	24,914	8,266	33
Huron	Main Basin	148	29,917	21,817	73
Michigan	Southern Basin	69	8,579	2,779	32
Michigan	Central Basin	116	35,242	16,167	46
Michigan	Green Bay	162	42,381	22,830	54
Michigan	Mid-lake Plateau	23	10,643	6,039	57
Michigan	Northern Basin	153	20,571	12,909	63
Ontario	Western Lake Ontario	25	1,220	0	0
Ontario	Eastern Lake Ontario	456	42,422	6,473	15
Ontario	Central Lake Ontario	195	21,085	5,191	25
Superior	Beaver-Lester	2	26	0	0
Superior	St. Louis / Cloquet	28	1,383	46	3
Superior	Goulais	22	2,468	256	10
Superior	Dog / Arrow	15	2,111	325	15
Superior	Dead-Kelsey	28	5,003	1,294	26
Superior	Baptism-Brule	8	115	33	28
Superior	Keweenaw Peninsula / Sturgeon	63	21,231	7,713	36
Superior	Black Sturgeon	4	1,367	565	41
Superior	Beartrap-Nemadji	47	6,231	3,173	51
Superior	Agawa / Michipicoten-Magpie	1	30	19	63
Superior	Jack Pine / Nipigon	3	164	109	66
Superior	Waiska / Tahquamenon	18	6,478	4,345	67
Superior	Betsy-Chocolay	46	13,226	9,215	70
Superior	Black River	7	2,572	2,572	100

Superior Lake Basin	Bad-Montreal Sub-Lake Basin Isle Royale	Number	8,532 Total Acres	8,516 Protected Acres	100 Percent Protected
Superior	Black-Presque Isle / Ontonagon	1	8	8	100

HOW DOES THIS METRIC RELATE TO OUR GOAL OF DIVERSE & RESILIENT WETLANDS?

- This metric can help to focus efforts on areas where conservation is most needed
- The ability of wetlands to adapt (resiliency) is increased when they are protected from development or other permanent loss
- The native biodiversity of wetland species requires enough wetland area to support their populations

WHAT IS OUR OBJECTIVE?

Objective: *[Objectives for this metric are currently under development]*

Metric: Percentage of Great Lakes coastal wetlands that are under protection measures.

THIS OBJECTIVE ADDRESSES OUR GOAL BECAUSE...

Tracking the percentage of coastal wetlands in any given geographic unit illustrates most clearly where preservation and conservation efforts have been applied, and where ongoing efforts can be focused to improve the resiliency and diversity of remaining wetlands and benefit nearby coastal communities.

FURTHER DETAILS ON THIS GOAL

- How we picked the goal +
- Why we picked this metric +
- Methods for calculating metric status +
- Summary of the data +
- Caveats and Challenges +
- Information on the data sources +

DATE RANGE

January 4 2004- October 4 2020

TYPE

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ISSUE

[Coastal Wetlands](#)

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