



Blue Accounting Maritime Transportation

EXPANDING MARITIME TRADE WHILE SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT

www.blueaccounting.org

AN ECONOMIC ENGINE FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River maritime transportation system links more than **100 U.S. and Canadian ports** to the world economy, moves approximately **200 million metric tons of cargo** annually, supports **more than 325,000 jobs** and generates **\$45 billion in economic activity** in the U.S. and Canada, supporting industries such as **manufacturing, steel production, agriculture and power generation.**

The system is vital for the U.S. and Canadian national economies, with nearly all the iron ore needed for U.S. steel production passing through the Soo Locks, which connect Lake Superior to the other four Great Lakes and the world economy.

In June 2016, the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers released their *Strategy for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Maritime Transportation System*, which established shared priorities and recommended policies, programs and projects to rejuvenate the regional maritime system. Blue Accounting is building on this effort by tracking progress toward the strategy's goals to help regional leaders better understand how our actions are strengthening the economic and environmental performance of the maritime transportation system.



Above: the Manitowoc unloads at the Port of Erie, Erie, Pennsylvania, ©Jeff Thoreson, Erie Shipping News, erishopnews.com. Top of page: Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal on Lake Michigan, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, ©flickr/Jim Brekke.

TRACKING PROGRESS WITH BLUE ACCOUNTING

For the first time, Blue Accounting is synthesizing U.S., Canadian and private sector data to provide elected leaders and managers with a big-picture view of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River maritime transportation system. Blue Accounting's information hub (www.blueaccounting.org) makes the data and information open and accessible to decision-makers and stakeholders across the Basin.

With guidance from a work group of U.S. and Canadian maritime leaders, Blue Accounting is tracking progress toward three goals with six key economic and environmental metrics:

Goal 1: Increase Maritime Traffic and Trade

- Cargo tonnage
- Growth in cruise tourism
- Cargo Value
- Container cargo volume

Goal 2: Increase the system's efficiency and performance

- Reliability of navigation locks

Goal 3: Improve the system's environmental performance

- Continue improving the environmental performance of the system

In addition to the metrics, Blue Accounting will present a comprehensive summary of strategies for strengthening the maritime transportation system and associated investments from federal and state/provincial agencies and the private sector. This context will help decisionmakers understand the "how" and "why" behind progress in the system. An additional suite of metrics has been identified to develop in the next phase of the project.

LEARN MORE

For more information on Blue Accounting's maritime transportation project, contact Matt Doss, Policy Director at the Great Lakes Commission, mdoss@glc.org.

WHO'S INVOLVED

Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers • American Great Lakes Ports Association
 Lake Carriers Association • U.S. and Canadian Seaway Authorities • Transport Canada • Fednav
 Chamber of Marine Commerce • Army Corps of Engineers • Association of Canadian Port Authorities
 Shipping Federation of Canada • St. Lawrence Economic Development Council • Green Marine



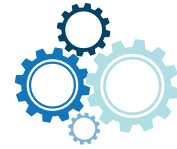
The Great Lakes Commission convenes Blue Accounting for the Great Lakes Basin, in partnership with federal, state, provincial, local and private sector organizations. Blue Accounting was initially co-led with The Nature Conservancy and receives funding support from Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, and the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation.

BLUE ACCOUNTING AND THE GREAT LAKES

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH FOR A COMPLEX SYSTEM



The Great Lakes provide **DRINKING WATER FOR 48 MILLION PEOPLE**, fuel a **\$5 TRILLION REGIONAL ECONOMY**, and create **AN INVALUABLE SENSE OF HOME AND COMMUNITY** for the basin via their scenic beauty and recreation.



The government agencies of **TWO COUNTRIES, EIGHT STATES, TWO PROVINCES, AND 249 COUNTIES**, as well as hundreds of NGOs and private businesses, make decisions that affect the lakes. **WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO SUCCEED.**



Blue Accounting

Blue Accounting, an initiative supported by an online information platform, provides decision-makers with a big picture view of critical Great Lakes issues.



INFORMATION THAT HELPS DECISION-MAKERS SET PRIORITIES AND ALLOCATE RESOURCES

Initially, Blue Accounting is supporting five complex issues:



AQUATIC
INVASIVE SPECIES



SOURCE
WATER



PHOSPHORUS
CONTROL



COASTAL
WETLANDS



MARITIME
TRANSPORTATION

Working together, we can improve the decisions we make to ensure the Great Lakes will always be the backbone of our region, supplying fresh water and natural beauty and serving as a powerful economic engine.