



CURBING INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE GREAT LAKES

www.blueaccounting.org

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES AND THE GREAT LAKES REGION

Aquatic invasive species are a major threat to the Great Lakes region. They cripple ecosystems, drive down property values, disrupt waterfront communities and industries, and more. **There are 188 non-native species established in the Great Lakes**, and about 31 percent of these are invasive—causing harm to the Great Lakes ecosystem, ecology and human health. The threat of new introductions continue.

U.S. and Canadian federal, state and provincial governments, as well as the private sector, **devote hundreds of millions of dollars each year to aquatic invasive species prevention and control**, making this a central concern for Great Lakes decision-makers. The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan, and numerous other local, state, provincial and federal plans and policies identify goals and strategies for preventing the establishment of new invasive species and minimizing the impact of those already here.

TRACKING PROGRESS WITH BLUE ACCOUNTING

Solving a cross-boundary problem requires a coordinated approach using the best available information. Guided by a binational working group of U.S. and Canadian state, provincial and federal representatives, Blue Accounting

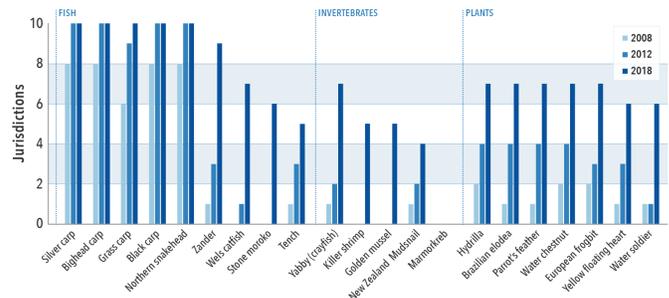


Zebra mussels. Photo © Jason Whalen.

tracks progress toward shared regional goals for invasive species prevention and control. **Blue Accounting provides regional data and information on efforts to:**

- Stop species introduction and spread through priority pathways including live trade and recreational boating;
- Implement a targeted, binational program to detect new species; and
- Control populations of harmful invasive species across the region.

With the support of Blue Accounting, decision-makers will understand how strategies and investments implemented by many organizations are collectively addressing goals identified in regional plans and agreements, and where critical gaps in investment remain.



Blue Accounting shows how the region is making progress on regional consistency in regulatory policies to restrict the sale, possession and transport of priority aquatic invasive species.

LEARN MORE

For more information on Blue Accounting's aquatic invasive species pilot, please reach out to Erika Jensen, Program Manager at the Great Lakes Commission, ejensen@glc.org.

If you are interested in learning more about other Blue Accounting projects, please visit www.blueaccounting.org.

WHO'S INVOLVED

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada • Indiana Department of Natural Resources • International Joint Commission • Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy • Michigan Department of Natural Resources • Minnesota Sea Grant • Minnesota Department of Natural Resources • National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration • New York Department of Environmental Conservation • Ohio Department of Natural Resources • Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry • Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection • Pennsylvania Sea Grant • Québec Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources • Wisconsin Sea Grant

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.

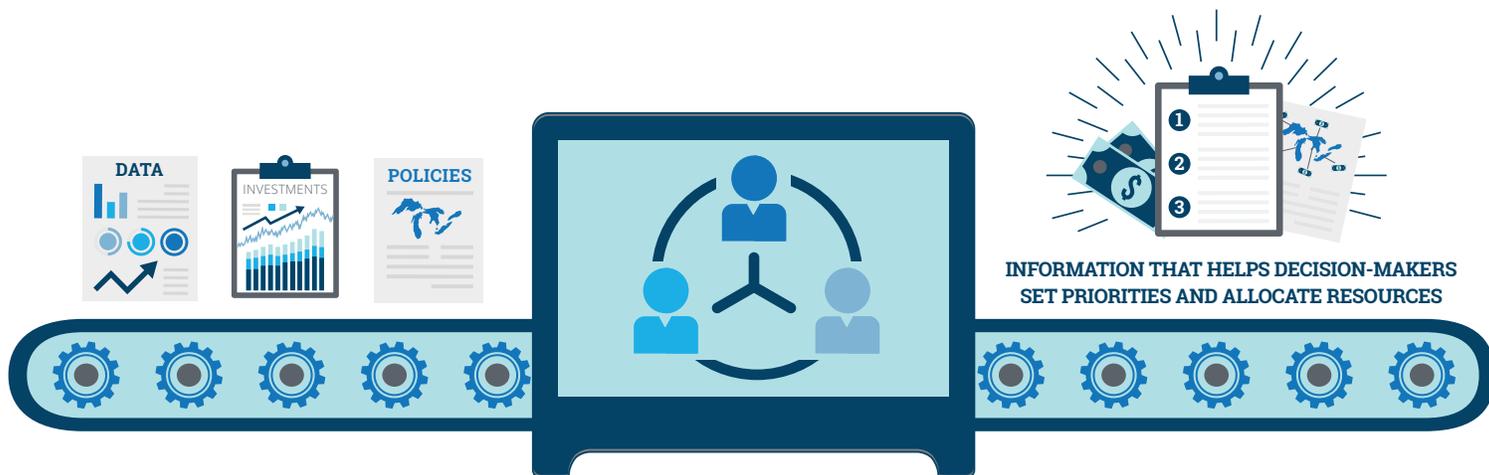


The government agencies of **TWO COUNTRIES, EIGHT STATES, TWO PROVINCES, AND 249 COUNTIES**, as well as hundreds of NGOs and private businesses, make decisions that affect the lakes. **WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO SUCCEED.**



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.