



COMPASS

A Report from the Council of Great Lakes Governors

SEPTEMBER 2014

Co-Chair's Letter

Over the past several years, the Council of Great Lakes Governors has achieved many successes.



Illinois Governor
Pat Quinn

Each of these achievements has depended on partnerships, and connecting different leaders together to work toward a shared goal. Our recent work illustrates this approach.

At the Governors' and Premiers' executive meeting that I hosted in Chicago this April, we signed a first of its kind agreement to assist one another in combating

aquatic invasive species. Our colleagues have joined this partnership in recent months. Most recently, exercises on the water have proven how this agreement supports our individual efforts and better prepares us to collectively stop species like the Asian carp.

The Council's maritime task force has recently created an advisory committee of shippers, carriers, environmental groups, federal agencies and other partners. They are now all working together to create regional priorities, an inventory of maritime assets and a model for a future regional entity. This collaboration is critical to our long-term goal of improving our maritime system and its integration into our transportation networks.

In coming months, the Council will be leading trade missions to some of the world's most dynamic markets, beginning with Eastern Europe. These missions help connect our region's companies with foreign buyers--creating jobs and economic growth.

We look forward to building on all of these connections and continuing our important work together. Thank you for your partnership.

—Pat Quinn

Co-Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors
Governor, State of Illinois



*Aquatic invasive species specialists from Illinois and Indiana search for Eurasian ruffe in Chicago's Calumet Harbor.
Photo courtesy of Kevin Irons*

Mutual Aid Agreement Protects Region from Aquatic Invaders

In April, at the Council of Great Lakes Governors executive meeting, the Governors and Premiers announced a Mutual Aid Agreement that empowers the States and Provinces to work together to address a serious regional threat from aquatic invasive species (AIS). Already, eight States and Provinces have signed on, and are moving forward to implement this agreement.

On May 27-29, Illinois and Indiana led a joint exercise in Lake Michigan's Calumet Harbor. This exercise built capacity to respond to AIS outbreaks in the Great Lakes, with a specific focus on Eurasian ruffe. Participating agencies included the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and Council of Great Lakes Governors.

Similarly, on September 9-11, Michigan and Ohio will lead a joint exercise targeting grass carp in Lake Erie. The Mutual Aid Agreement is being utilized to coordinate this exercise, and Ontario, New York and Illinois are sending crews and boats to assist.

Council Recruiting for Trade Mission to Mexico

The Council is now accepting registrations for its March 1-6, 2015 trade mission to Mexico. This mission will visit Mexico City, Monterrey and Guadalajara during the week-long trip. Each participant will receive a customized one-on-one business meeting schedule in each city provided by the Council's Mexico Trade Office. The trade office will coordinate with each mission participant to tailor the market research and appointment schedule to their company's export goals. In addition, participants will benefit from networking events, a high-level country briefing, assistance with drivers and interpreters, logistics, hotels and group ground transportation.

Many Great Lakes States offer grant funding opportunities to qualifying companies to offset the trade mission fees and travel costs. For more information on the trade mission, visit <http://www.cglg.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/mexico-trade-mission-2015/>

The trade mission registration deadline is January 5, 2015 but companies are encouraged to sign up earlier so the Mexico Office has ample time to coordinate the market research and appointment schedule.

For more information on the Council's upcoming trade missions, visit <http://www.cglg.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/>



The Great Lakes region exported \$58 billion worth of products to Mexico in 2013. Key sectors include:

- Aerospace
- Chemicals
- Energy
- Food & Beverage
- Information Technology
- Medical equipment
- Packaging equipment
- Plastics

MARITIME

Maritime Initiative Picks Up Steam

At the Council's executive meeting in April, the Governors' and Premiers' Maritime Task Force delivered a set of recommendations and were charged with their implementation. Already, several actions have been announced, with further actions to be unveiled in the coming months:

- The Governors and Premiers have appointed a Maritime Coordinator for each State and Province.
- The Task Force created an advisory committee of shippers, carriers, environmental groups, federal agencies and other partners.
- Each State and Province is completing a maritime asset inventory. This will be the first such inventory to be completed on a regional basis.
- The Task Force is developing regional priorities and a regional entity model to guide future planning and management.

Additionally, in October, Task Force representatives will participate in a European mission. The itinerary tentatively includes stops in Zeebrugge and Brussels, Belgium and Duisburg, Germany. Mission participants will meet with officials to discuss common challenges and policy objectives.

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT OF THE GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE GOVERNORS AND PREMIERS

- The Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec will gather at the historic Château Frontenac in Québec City, Québec, from June 12-14, 2015
- The theme of this invitation-only meeting will be “Connecting Across Borders” and focus areas will include maritime commerce, tourism and the environment.



Council Launches New Website

The Council of Great Lakes Governors has launched its new website at www.cglg.org. In addition to a new look and structure, the website takes advantage of new technology in order to be more mobile friendly. “The public is increasingly accessing the web through mobile devices,” said David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council. “The new website is more visually appealing, better adapts to the mobile world we live in, and will allow those accessing our site from phones and tablets to better find the information they need.”

Information on the Council’s programs, meetings and other materials can be found at the Council’s new website at www.cglg.org.

WATER MANAGEMENT

Regional Body and Compact Council to Meet in Albany, New York

On December 9, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body (“Regional Body”) and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council (“Compact Council”) will meet at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation headquarters in Albany. The organizations will consider a number of resolutions including selecting their new leadership.



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