



# COMPASS

A Report from the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers  
October 2015

## Chair's Letter

The threat of Asian Carp and the devastation they could wreak in the Great Lakes is well known. Asian Carp, however, aren't the only species that threaten to invade and harm our lakes. Fortunately, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers are hard at work fighting against the potential destruction of these critical natural resources and our \$7 billion dollar fishery. For example:



Michigan Governor  
Rick Snyder

- We signed a groundbreaking Mutual Aid Agreement that commits us to

assist each other in fighting incursions of aquatic invasive species.

- We have begun to put this Agreement into practice through multi-State and Provincial exercises to track down and eliminate these species.
- We identified a list of least wanted aquatic invasive species and each State and Province is taking action to strengthen their protective measures against them.
- At June's Leadership Summit, I joined my colleagues from Ohio and Ontario in committing to harmonize our regulatory protections against aquatic invasive species. We have made significant progress, but we must further bolster our defenses.

Beyond our collaboration against invasive species, we are forging new partnerships to protect our shared environment against other threats. My colleagues from Ohio and Ontario recently joined me in committing to a 40% reduction in nutrient inputs to Lake Erie. Achieving this goal will not be easy, but we can and will get it done as it's critical to accelerating progress and continuing to strengthen water quality.

The threats to our region demand bold actions, and we cannot afford half-measures. We are strongest when we stand together and I am proud of the steps that the Governors and Premiers have taken. We look forward to continuing our work together, and with all of you, to protect our Great Lakes.

—Rick Snyder

## Governors and Premiers Ramp Up AIS Fight



Asian Carp

Photo courtesy of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission

The movement of aquatic plants and animals does not stop at political boundaries. Therefore, efforts to stop aquatic invaders must be regional in scope. To bolster our regional defenses, Michigan, Ohio and Ontario are hard at work harmonizing their regulations to stop potential invaders. These three jurisdictions represent the geographic center of the region, and together account for over 80 percent of Great Lakes shoreline.

Following through on commitments made this summer by their Governors and their Premier, Michigan, Ohio and Ontario are piloting an innovative collaboration focused on risk assessment, early detection and response actions. Ontario recently completed a comprehensive scan of aquatic invasive species policies and regulations across the region. The scan identifies a series of common challenges, approaches and starting points to be used in the harmonization pilot with Michigan and Ohio.

While the three jurisdictions are making significant progress together, important broader efforts continue through the Governors' and Premiers' aquatic invasive species task force. For example, ongoing work centers on combating the 16 "least wanted" species that pose a serious threat to the region including the Asian carp.

# Conference Spearheads Development of Regional Economic Clusters

In August, the Conference released the region's first-ever analysis of regional economic clusters, available [HERE](#). The report was authored by Dr. Christian Ketels, a member of the Harvard Business School faculty and one of the world's foremost experts in spurring cluster-based growth.

Dr. Ketels's research reveals an erosion of our region's historical strength in "traded industries" such as core manufacturing that compete internationally and concentrate in specific clusters. However, the region remains strong in clusters focused on automotive and manufacturing oriented industries. Dr. Ketels also found bright spots in growing clusters such as information technology and analytical instruments, where regional market share is building. He concludes that many of these strong clusters are linked, creating opportunities for future growth across the region.

In coming months, the Conference plans to further integrate cluster-based actions into its regional work to create jobs and boost economic growth.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

## Conference Opens European Trade Offices, Recruiting for Trade Mission to Germany and the U.K.

On April 1, the Conference opened two new trade offices to boost exports from the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region to Europe. The offices, located in Berlin and London, will promote exports from the region, and assist companies to find customers and business opportunities throughout Europe. Building on the long-term success of the Conference's eight other international trade offices, the European offices provide the States and Provinces with a strategic foothold in two of the world's most important commercial hubs.



Frankfurt, Germany

To capitalize on the new trade offices, the Conference will lead a trade mission to the region on March 1-9, 2016. Destinations include London and Frankfurt. The Europe trade offices will provide each mission participant with a customized appointment schedule to meet with interested agents, distributors and end users. Participants will also benefit from logistical support and networking events.

To learn more about the trade mission and export opportunities available for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region companies, please join us for a FREE "Doing Business in Germany and the United Kingdom" webinar on October 15 at 9:00 a.m. CDT. To register for the webinar, please click [HERE](#).

Many of the Conference's member States have grant opportunities to offset the trade mission costs. For further information on the trade mission please click [HERE](#).

### Why export to Germany and the United Kingdom?

- Germany is the United States' largest European trading partner and the sixth-largest market for U. S. exports.
- Germany's location and trade volume provide a base for U.S. firms to build their European and global expansion strategies.
- The U.K. market is the second largest in Europe and the second largest market for U.S. service exports.
- U.S. exports to the U.K. totaled nearly \$105 billion in 2013.

# Regional Body and Compact Council Announce December Meetings

On December 3, 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 in Skokie, Illinois at 9:00 a.m. CST. These meetings will be open to the public and will include opportunities for public comments. Further information including an agenda, materials to be discussed and call-in information will be available at <http://www.glsregionalbody.org/> and <http://www.gslcompactcouncil.org/>



#### MEMBERS

Rick Snyder,  
Chair,  
Governor of Michigan

Philippe Couillard,  
Premier of Québec

Andrew Cuomo,  
Governor of New York

Mark Dayton,  
Governor of  
Minnesota

John Kasich,  
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Mike Pence,  
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Bruce Rauner,  
Governor of Illinois

Scott Walker,  
Governor of Wisconsin

Tom Wolf,  
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Kathleen Wynne,  
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For more information, please  
visit [www.gslsgp.org](http://www.gslsgp.org) or call  
312-407-0177.

## TOURISM

# Duluth Joins Great Lakes USA Partnership

Visit Duluth has joined Great Lakes USA as its newest preferred partner member. The Minnesota city played host to GLUSA's recent annual meeting from July 13-14, and this new partnership will help boost its marketing to the United Kingdom and German-speaking countries through GLUSA.

For more information about partnership opportunities, please contact L. Anthony “Toby” McCarrick, GLUSA's Executive Director.



Great Lakes USA Executive Director Toby McCarrick, Thomas Vogler of TravelMarketing Romberg, and Yolanda Fletcher of Cellet Marketing stand in front of Duluth's famous Aerial Lift Bridge.