



# COMPASS



A Report from the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers  
January 2016

## Chair's Letter

We enter 2016 as a region on the move. Following several years of work by our maritime transportation leaders, we have released the region's first strategy for improving our maritime system. We look forward to your comments and participation as we seek to strengthen this backbone of our regional economy.



Michigan Governor  
Rick Snyder

Separately, we have worked for many years to protect our Great Lakes and put in place effective policies and institutions to manage regional water use. We are now preparing to review the first water diversion proposal under our Great Lakes compact and agreement. Once the proposal is formally submitted for regional consideration, we expect a transparent process lasting several months. Your comments and participation will be important in our decision making process.

Our ongoing collaboration to grow our regional economy and connect our people and companies with the world also continues to flourish. New partners including Mall of America recently joined our Great Lakes USA tourism program, and the partnership is actively exploring new foreign markets to promote our region. Separately, in coming months we will be leading trade missions to the UK, Germany and China to connect our exporters with new customers.

Working together, we continue to strengthen our region's \$5 trillion economy and protect more than 20 percent of the world's surface fresh water. Thank you for your continued partnership.

—Rick Snyder  
Chair, Conference of Great Lakes and  
St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers  
Governor, State of Michigan

## Draft Regional Maritime Strategy Released



Photo courtesy of The Interlake Steamship Company

On January 4, the Governors and Premiers released the region's draft Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Maritime Transportation System Strategy for public comment. The draft Strategy is the first of its kind for the region and is available [HERE](#). Comments are welcomed and will be accepted until February 3.

The Strategy's primary objectives are to double maritime trade, shrink the environmental impact of the region's transportation network and support the region's industrial core. Toward this end, specific actions are organized around the following themes.

- Increasing Efficiency and Reducing Costs
- Building New Markets
- Growing Economic Activity around the Maritime System
- Delivering Results While Managing for the Future

This Strategy is being developed by the Governors' and Premiers' Regional Maritime Entity in partnership with industry, federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations. This effort builds on recent accomplishments including the first ever inventory of regional maritime assets, the development of maritime priorities, and ongoing State and Provincial actions including the Québec Maritime Strategy. Pending the review and incorporation of public comments on the draft, the final regional maritime Strategy is expected to be completed in summer 2016. Comments should be sent to [maritimecomments@cglslgp.org](mailto:maritimecomments@cglslgp.org).

# Regional Body and Compact Council Celebrate Successes, Prepare for Diversion Application

On December 3, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Water Resources Regional Body (Regional Body) and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Water Resources Council (Compact Council) met in Skokie, Illinois. In addition to its normal order of business, the attendees celebrated “Ten Years of Success” since the signing of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Agreement. Among the successes celebrated were the adoption of the first ever regional water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives, regional protocols for reporting water use information, and a first ever review of the cumulative impacts of water uses at the scale of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin. Additionally, Governor Kasich of Ohio was selected chair of both the Regional Body and Compact Council.

Separately, the Regional Body and Compact Council will be hosting a joint special meeting via conference call on Thursday, January 7 at 1:00 p.m. CST. This meeting will be open to the public and will include an opportunity for public comment. The focus of the meeting will be to approve a budget for the regional review of the City of Waukesha, Wisconsin’s diversion application, and will include a webinar briefing on the application. To participate in the conference call/webinar, please register [HERE](#). An agenda and materials to be discussed are available at <http://www.glsregionalbody.org> and <http://www.glscompactcouncil.org>. All materials posted to the websites will be subject to revision up to and through the meeting.

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## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

# Conference Leading Trade Mission to China

The Conference will lead a trade mission to China on May 9-14, 2016. The mission is open to all small and medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region that are looking to expand their global reach to this important market. The trade mission will include stops in Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou. The Conference’s China Trade Office will provide mission participants with a customized schedule to meet with potential agents, distributors and end users. Participants will also benefit from networking events and logistical support. More information is available [HERE](#).

For more information about the trade mission and the Chinese market, please join the Conference for a FREE “Doing Business in China Webinar” on Thursday, January 7 at 9:00 a.m. CST. To register for the webinar, click [HERE](#).

The Conference’s 2016-17 trade missions:

- Québec Maritime Mission:  
September 26-28, 2016
- Poland and Romania:  
November 7-11, 2016
- Indonesia and Vietnam:  
February 27-March 3, 2017
- Mexico:  
April 3-7, 2017



Guangzhou

# U.S. Moves Against “Least Wanted” AIS

In 2013, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers identified the region’s “least wanted” aquatic invasive species (AIS) that pose a particularly severe ecological risk to our waters. Since that time, the States and Provinces have worked aggressively to stop their entry into the region, and encouraged more federal action. Most recently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service took an important step by listing four of the Governors’ and Premiers’ “least wanted” species under the federal Lacey Act. This step means the species are generally banned from being imported or transported between States.

The species – Yabby, Stone Moroko (topmouth gudgeon), Zander, and Wels Catfish – pose an ecological risk to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. The more than 180 AIS that have already been introduced in the Lakes and River cost the U.S. and Canada billions of dollars in damages each year, are a burden on the economy, and strain State and Provincial budgets. Stopping these species is critical to protecting human health, avoiding ecological damage to native species, and supporting our region’s sport and commercial fisheries, tourism, recreation and industry.

The Great Lakes Governors encourage the USFWS to proactively list other “least wanted” animals under the Lacey Act such as killer shrimp, golden mussel and other AIS when risk assessment findings suggest they will jeopardize native fauna, habitats and economies. A unified approach between regional and federal actions is the most effective way to protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin from AIS, and the Governors and Premiers will continue to push bold action.

TOURISM

## Mall of America Joins Great Lakes USA Partnership

Mall of America joined Great Lakes USA as its newest Preferred Partner Member. “We believe that Great Lakes USA does an incredible job promoting travel to the region, and we will benefit greatly by being an active partner in these regional marketing efforts,” said Doug Killian, Senior Director International Tourism, Mall of America. Located in Bloomington, Minnesota, Mall of America receives over 35 million visitors each year.

Separately, in November, Great Lakes USA exhibited at WTM, the United Kingdom’s largest travel trade show. Participants included Detroit, Haimark Lines, Mall of America, and the States of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Also, during its German sales mission in October, Great Lakes USA met with DER Touristik, Germany’s largest tour operator. Mission participants included Detroit, Mall of America, and the States of Michigan and Minnesota.



The Great Lakes USA exhibit at WTM.



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Mark Dayton,  
Governor of  
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For more information, please visit [www.cglslgp.org](http://www.cglslgp.org) or call 312-407-0177.