

# Choosing Your Great Lakes Future

Inspiring action through an interactive exploration of potential scenarios

- The International Joint Commission (IJC) helps Canada and the United States prevent and resolve issues over shared waters on 5,525 miles of boundary, including the Great Lakes.
- The IJC Great Lakes Water Quality Board developed four scenarios describing potential conditions of the Great Lakes in the 2050s in its *On the Great Lakes Horizon* report.
- The board created an interactive scenario-based game, *Choosing Your Great Lakes Future*, to educate and inspire people to consider how today's actions will impact the future Great Lakes.

## Exploring the Great Lakes in the 2050s

### Choose policies and actions to achieve the best future scenario

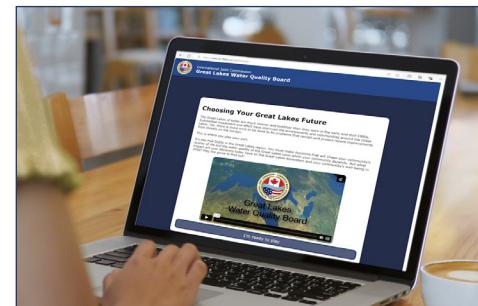
The Great Lakes Water Quality Board's *On the Great Lakes Horizon* report imagined four scenarios outlining different futures for the region.

The board transformed these scenarios into the free, interactive online game: *Choosing Your Great Lakes Future*. The board's goal is for individuals and decision-makers to engage with the game to:

- Learn about the four future scenarios,
- Foster an appreciation for how policy decisions can affect the scenario outcomes,
- Champion decisions that help achieve the most desirable future scenario, and
- Guide decisions and actions that aligns with the vision for the future.

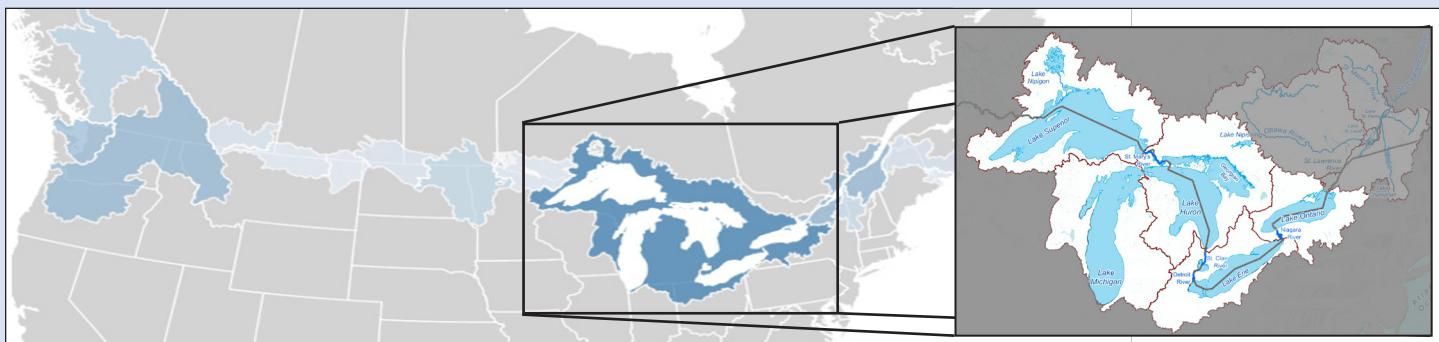
Contact the IJC about this project: [antonette.arvai@ijc.org](mailto:antonette.arvai@ijc.org)

Scan for more  
about this project!



Play *Choosing Your Great Lakes Future* at  
[ijc.org/horizon](http://ijc.org/horizon)

### Where will this work impact?



More than a century of cooperation protecting shared waters  
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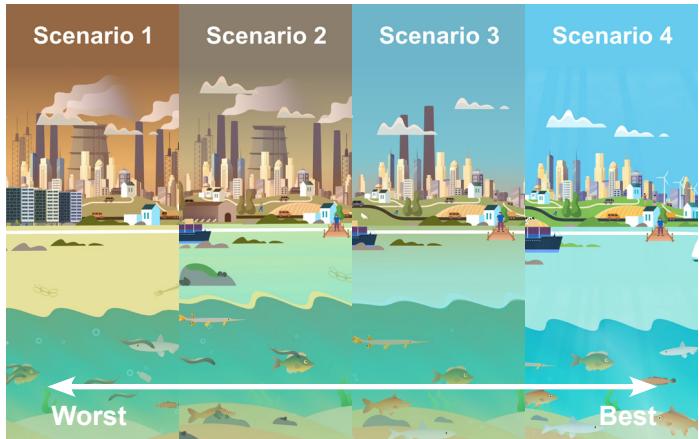


# Choosing Your Great Lakes Future

Great Lakes Water Quality Board

## About the Project

The board's *On the Great Lakes Horizon* report collected and analyzed ecological, economic, social, political, demographic, technological and cultural data to identify key drivers and trends expected to influence the Great Lakes region over the next 30 years. The report presents four scenarios outlining different possible futures for the Great Lakes region, from worst to best conditions, based on underlying drivers, trends and trajectories.



Four imagined scenarios for the Great Lakes region in the 2050s.

In 2024, the board created their interactive online game *Choosing Your Great Lakes Future*, which includes animated videos that explore the four scenarios. The game engages players to think about the future of the Great Lakes, what they want the Great Lakes to look like, and what can be done now so that decisions and actions ensure better water quality and human and environmental health in the future.

## The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement charges the Great Lakes Water Quality Board with assisting the IJC to identify emerging issues and recommending strategies and approaches for preventing and resolving complex challenges facing the Great Lakes.

## About the International Joint Commission

The IJC was established in 1909 under the Boundary Waters Treaty to help Canada and the United States prevent and resolve disputes over shared waters. The IJC's responsibilities include reporting on progress made by the governments under the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The Great Lakes Water Quality Board advises the IJC to support the achievement of the Agreement.

## The Great Lakes ...



contain roughly 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water



support a US\$6 trillion (CAD\$7.5 trillion) regional economy



are a source of drinking water for 36 million people



are home to 4,000 species of plants and animals



**More than a century of cooperation protecting shared waters**  
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