

Great Lakes Ecosystems Information Node



The Great Lakes Ecosystems Information Node provides a gateway to biological data in the Great Lakes region.

About the Region

The Great Lakes region contains the largest fresh surface water system on earth. The Great Lakes region covers more than 94,000 square miles and drains more than twice as much land.

Approximately one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water supply and nine-tenths of the U.S. supply is found in this region.



The Great Lakes region. Photo courtesy of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The Great Lakes region also contains forests and wilderness areas, rich agricultural land, hundreds of tributaries and thousands of smaller lakes, and extensive mineral deposits. The region's sand dunes, coastal marshes, rocky shorelines, lakeplain prairies, savannas, forests, fens, wetlands, and other landscapes contain features that are unique or best represented within the Great Lakes basin.

The environment supports a world-class fishery and a variety of wildlife, such as white-tailed deer, beaver, muskrat, weasel, fox, black bear, bobcat, moose, and other furbearing animals. Bird populations thrive on the various terrains, some migrating south in the winter, others making

permanent homes. An estimated 180 species of fish are native to the Great Lakes.



Assessment trawl catch from Lake Erie. Photo courtesy of GLSC-USGS

Objectives

The Great Lakes Ecosystems Information Node aims to be a gateway to biological information and data for the Great Lakes region. The data will be accessible to a variety of audiences including natural resource managers, researchers, educators, students, and other private citizens. This goal will be reached by forming partnerships with federal, state, and non-government agencies. The Great Lakes Ecosystems Information Node was established in 2005.

Current Offerings

The Great Lakes Ecosystems Information Node currently offers links to various agencies operating in the Great Lakes region. Government, educational, and private interest groups are included in the list.

The Fish Spawning Atlas is an internet map server created using ArcIMS that provides access to spawning site location, stocking data, and catch data for three fish species found in the Great Lakes. Additional species and data sets will be added to the atlas in the near future. The Spawning Atlas IMS shows users known historic spawning locations of several species and allows users to investigate these locations in the context of recent stocking numbers and catch rates of the same species.

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The genetic sample atlas provides access to species and sample sites collected by the Great Lakes Science Center-USGS and partner agencies. These collections have been used in various genetic analyses performed at the Great Lakes Science Center.



Lake Trout. Photo courtesy of the Shedd Aquarium.

Current Partners

The [Institute for Fisheries Research](#) and the [University of Michigan SNRE](#) have partnered with us to develop an interactive fish spawning atlas for the Great Lakes. Future partners will include federal, state, local groups, and other universities. Interested groups should feel welcome to contact us for more information.

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Find us on the web at:

<http://glein.er.usgs.gov/>.



Black Pond on eastern Lake Ontario.
Photo courtesy of GLSC-USGS.