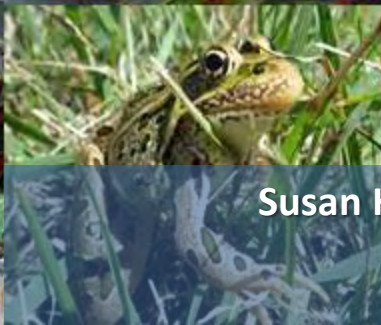




Protecting and Restoring Native Species and Their Habitats

Great Lakes Public Forum
October 5, 2016



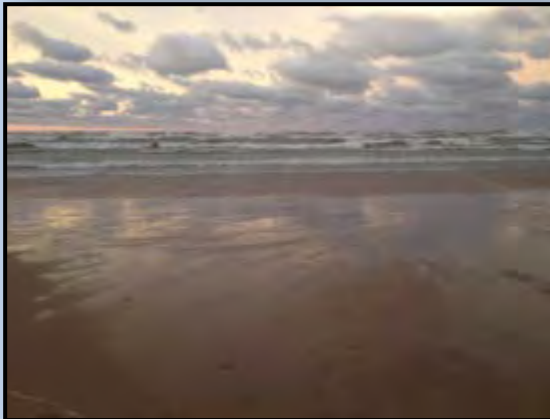
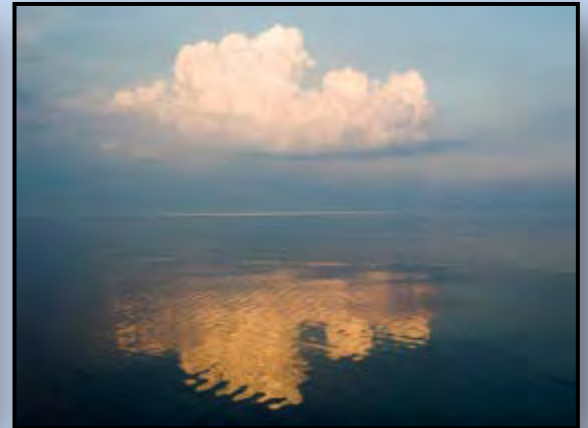
Susan Humphrey- Environment and Climate Change Canada
Lori Nordstrom – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

What's the purpose of the Habitat and Species Annex?

- *“...to contribute to the achievement of the General and Specific objectives of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement by conserving, protecting, maintaining, restoring and enhancing the resilience of native species and their habitat, as well as by supporting essential ecosystem services.”*



Great Lakes Habitat: Vast and Varied



Great Lakes Habitat: A Home to a diversity of Species



Muskrat



Piping plover



Spotted gar



Five-lined skink



American eel

Great Lakes Habitat: Provides Multiple Ecosystem Services

- Spiritual connection
- Recreational benefits
- Water for 40 million people, and hundreds of thousands of businesses
- The largest freshwater coastal wetland system on Earth



Great Lakes Habitat: A Changing Region, Changing Habitat

Large historic changes in biodiversity and habitat from:

- Unsustainable use of natural resources
- Habitat modification
- Habitat degradation from pollution
- Invasive species

Great Lakes Habitat: Growing Risks to Native Species

*Current threats to native
species from changes to:*

Habitat

Food web

Water chemistry

Water levels

Physical processes

**Industrial and Urban
Development**

Changing Climate

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement: Providing a Basinwide Perspective on Habitat Activities



Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

A Timely Addition

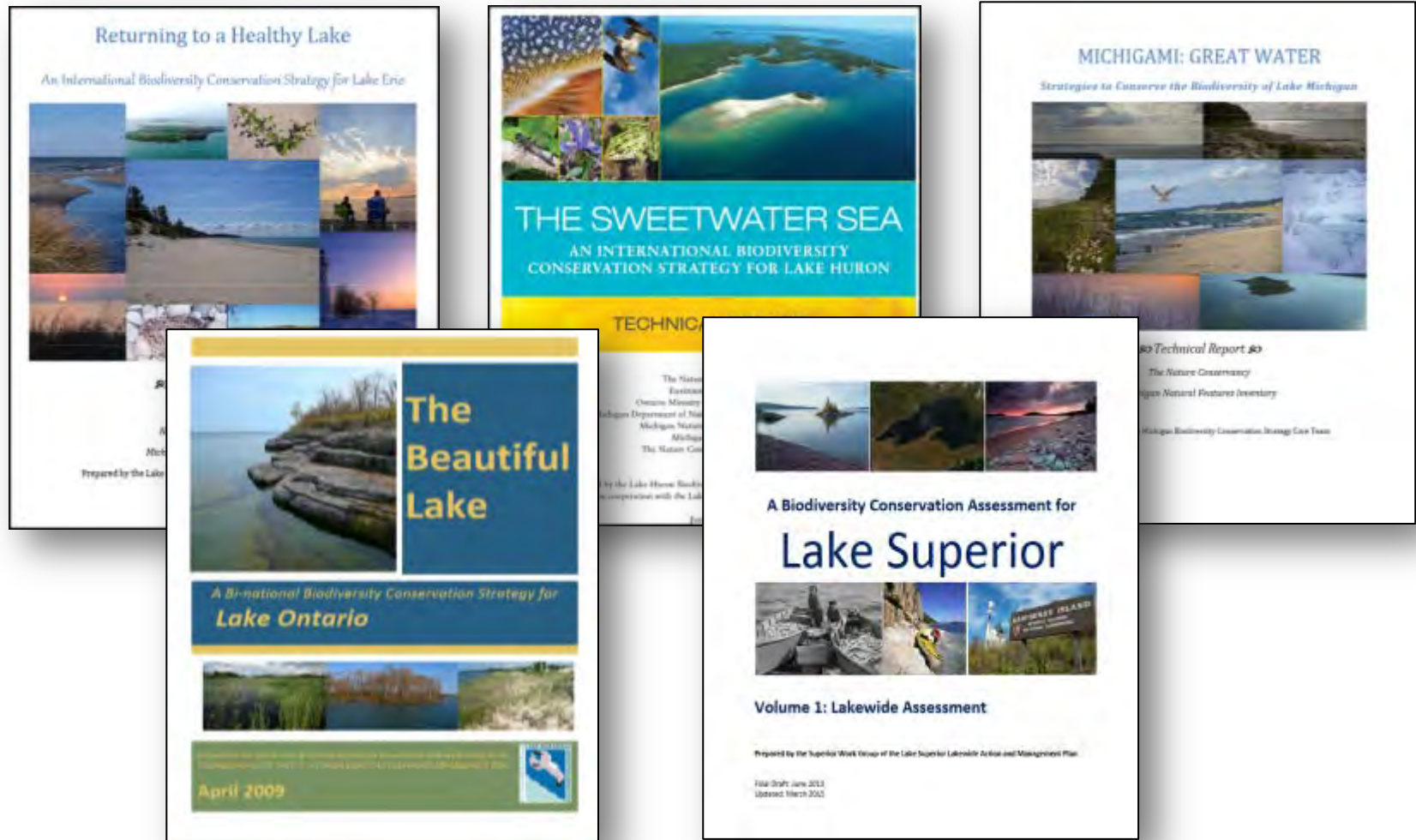


The 2012 amendment was expanded to include greater attention to habitat with specific commitments focused on habitat and species.

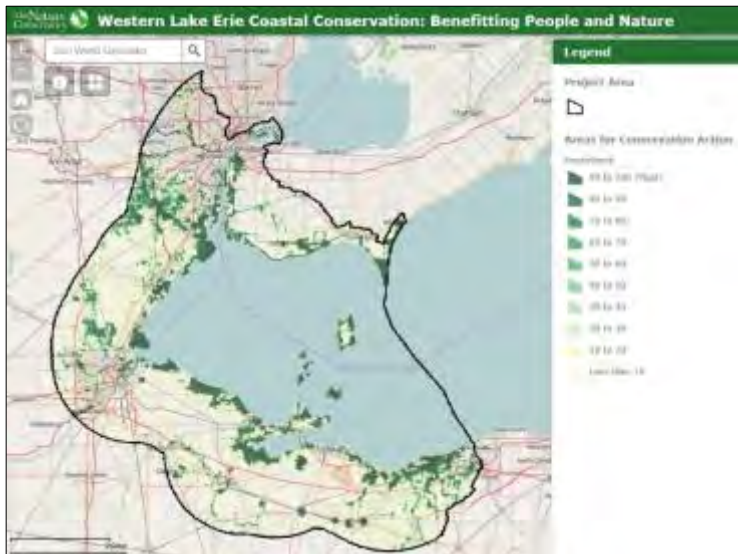
EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson (R), and Canadian Environment Minister Peter Kent (L)



Biodiversity Conservation Strategies: Communities Plan to Conserve Habitat and Species



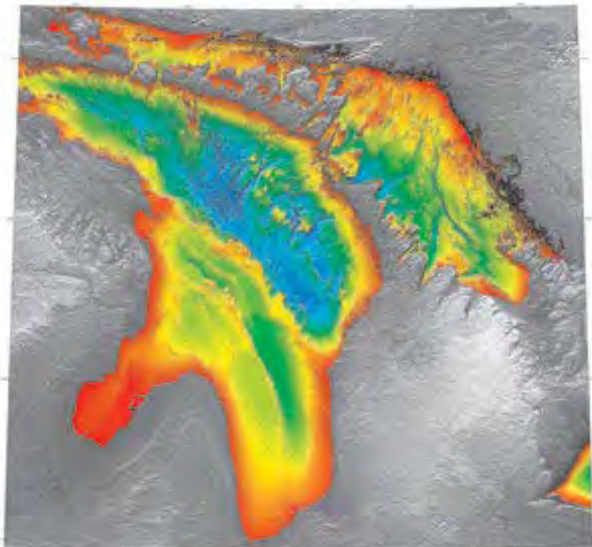
Biodiversity Conservation Strategies: Plans lead to Action



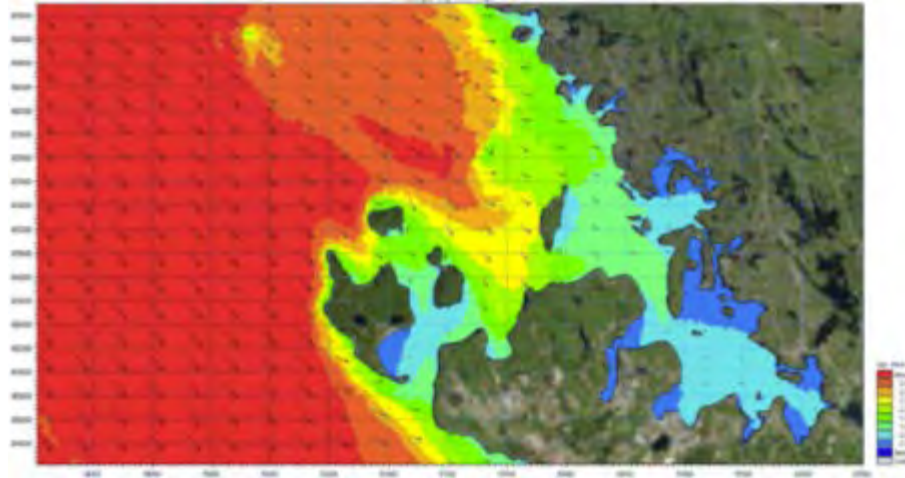
Net Habitat Gain: Expanding Habitat Extent & Improving Condition



Net Habitat Gain: The Baseline Habitat Survey



Lake Huron Bathymetry



Georgian Bay Wave Energy



Lake Erie Chlorophyll a levels



Lake Erie Secchi Depth

Net Habitat Gain: Linking Habitat to Species



Local Actions Making a Difference



Priorities for the next 3 years: Starting the Survey and Aligning Programs

Priority for Action:

- Review gaps and priorities identified by existing strategic plans
- Develop a binational framework for prioritizing activities to conserve native species and habitat

Priority for Science:

- Pilot and testing of the Baseline Habitat Survey on a regional scale



A scenic photograph of a sandy path leading towards the ocean. The path is flanked by tall, green and yellow dune grass. The ocean is a vibrant blue-green color with white-capped waves breaking. The sky is filled with large, white and grey clouds, with a hint of a rainbow visible on the left side. The text "Thank you" is overlaid in the center in a large, black, sans-serif font.

Thank you