

Economic Importance of the Great Lakes

About the Great Lakes:

- The Great Lakes hold 20% of the world's fresh water.
- 10% of the United States population and 25% of the Canadian population live within the Great Lakes basin.
- The lakes drive the economies of eight states and two provinces.

Specifically, the Great Lakes:

- Provide fishing opportunities for trout, salmon, walleye, smallmouth bass, perch and muskellunge.
- Create an angling-related economy of \$5 billion per year.
- Provide an economical value of \$44.5 million in commercial fish harvests.
- Boast 11 million anglers spending 25 million angling days annually.

- Support countless recreational, commercial, tourism, agricultural, industrial and cultural interests.

One-third of the nation's watercraft (3.7 million) are registered in Great Lakes states!

The Service helps by:

- Supplying the majority of lake trout stocked (4+ million) into the Great Lakes.
- Implementing sea lamprey control in U.S. waters.
- Providing fisheries expertise to states, tribes and public.
- Offering guidance and funding for habitat restoration that benefits anglers.
- Conducting surveys to measure the health of the Great Lakes fisheries.



Boating Excursions



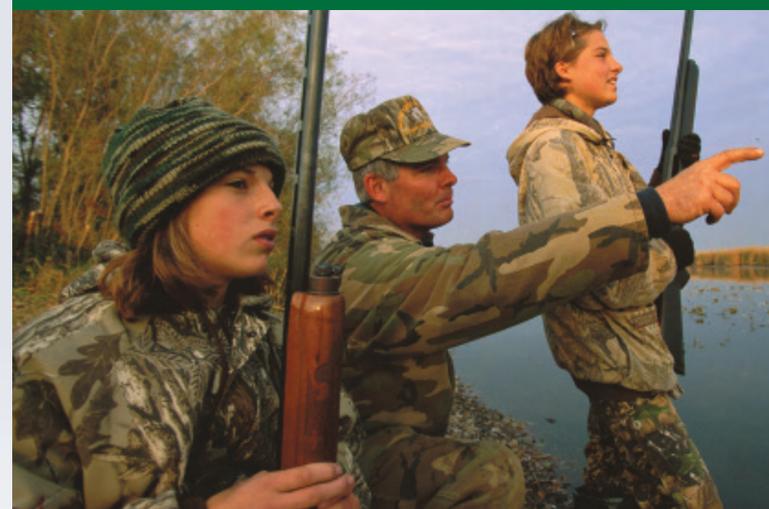
People go to the Great Lakes and surrounding areas for activities such as boating, swimming, camping, hunting, hiking, fishing and excursion cruises.

Wildlife Watching



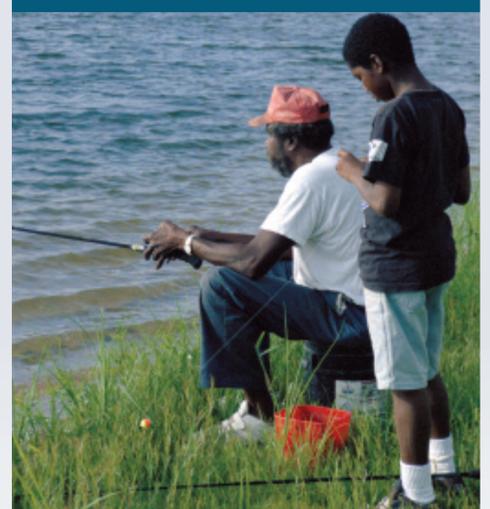
Viewers and photographers spend millions of dollars in the Great Lakes region each year to see species such as this northern pintail.

Hunting



Waterfowl hunting is popular in the Great Lakes region. The large lakes feature excellent hunting for diving ducks (scaup, buffleheads, goldeneye). Puddle duck (mallard, wood duck) hunting takes place in smaller lakes, rivers and marshes.

Shoreline Solitude



You don't have to own a boat to fish the Great Lakes! Many people cast off docks and piers or drop a line along the shore.