

Connecting across research and outreach networks to serve Great Lakes coastal communities

Great Lakes Sea Grant Network/GLERL Liaison

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) and the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network established a liaison position in 2001 to facilitate the transfer of information between Sea Grant specialists and GLERL staff. More recently, this role has been re-envisioned to broaden engagement across the region, including coordination with NOAA's Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Team and the eight Sea Grant programs in the Great Lakes on shared priorities.

Meet Chiara Zuccarino-Crowe, Great Lakes Sea Grant Network/GLERL Liaison



Housed within the Michigan Sea Grant Extension Program, Chiara forges and

enhances partnerships around the Great Lakes. She assists in the development of collaborative extension, communications, and outreach programs that leverage the partners' work to efficiently meet the needs of Great Lakes communities. This includes seeking new ways to integrate NOAA products and services into extension programs across the region, while also informing GLERL on Sea Grant stakeholder needs and research priorities.

The Great Lakes — Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario, and their connecting channels — form the largest surface fresh water system on earth. They house about one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water and nine-tenths of the U.S.'s fresh surface water.



MODIS image of the Great Lakes looking eastward. Credit: NASA

NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) and its partners conduct innovative research on the dynamic environments and ecosystems of the Great Lakes and coastal regions to provide information for resource use and management decisions that lead to safe and sustainable ecosystems, ecosystem services, and human communities. Michigan Sea Grant — a cooperative program of Michigan State University and the University of Michigan that is part of NOAA's National Sea Grant network — further supports these goals through research, education, and outreach dedicated to the protection and sustainable use of Great Lakes and coastal resources.

Cross-cutting Priorities

This cross-program integration catalyzes special projects serving needs across the region while enhancing network cohesiveness. These span regional extension network priority areas including coastal community resiliency, green stormwater infrastructure, aquatic invasive species, fisheries & aquaculture, harmful algal blooms & nutrient run-off, crude oil transport, marine debris, Great Lakes literacy, and weather & water safety.

A developing area is focused on evaluating and enhancing the **Great Lakes Blue Economy**. Both NOAA and Sea Grant make significant contributions to Blue Economy efforts in the region and will continue to play a key role in socioeconomics program coordination.

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