



International Joint Commission  
News Release  
May 29, 2007

**Great Science – The Key to Great Lakes Restoration  
International Joint Commission to Honor Dr. Gerald J. Niemi with the  
2007 Biennial Award for Great Lakes Science**

*Windsor, Ontario* – To publicly recognize that great science is key to the successful restoration of the Great Lakes, the International Joint Commission (IJC) today



announced that Dr. Gerald J. Niemi is the 2007 recipient of the IJC's *Biennial Award for Great Lakes Science*. Dr. Niemi, Director of the Center for Water and the Environment at the University of Minnesota-Duluth's Natural Resources Institute, will receive the Biennial Award along with \$5,000 during the IJC's June 6-8, 2007 Great Lakes Biennial Meeting and Conference on the campus of

the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Niemi will be given the award and deliver a talk entitled "Are the Great Lakes Coastal Zones in Trouble?" at 1:30 p.m., June 7, at the University's Student Center East, 750 S. Halsted, Chicago.

"The key to accelerating the clean up of the Great Lakes is understanding what to measure, how to measure it, and knowing when the job is done. Dr. Niemi's work developing indicators of lake health will be invaluable as the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement is reviewed and a new framework with a focus on accountability is adopted," said Dennis Schornack, the U.S. Co-Chair of the IJC.

Nominated by scientists and policymakers, the IJC chose to present the award to Dr. Niemi because of his exceptional contributions to Great Lakes science

through his vision and leadership in the successful development and completion of the Great Lakes Environmental Indicators Project (GLEI).

Under Dr. Niemi's direction, GLEI was funded for \$5 million over five years by the U.S. EPA's *Science to Achieve Results* (STAR) program. With additional funds from U.S. EPA and NOAA, nearly \$6.4 million was dedicated to developing environmental indicators that will be used to assess the condition of the coastal nearshore of all five Great Lakes. Dr. Niemi brought together and led a diverse team of 27 researchers from ten academic institutions as well as scientists at the EPA's Mid-Continent Ecology Division.

### **About the Biennial Meeting and Conference**



The 2007 IJC Great Lakes Biennial Meeting and Conference will be held June 6 - 8, 2007 on the campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago. A series of workshops and other events will focus on "Sustainable Cities, Healthy Watersheds," exploring the latest science and policy initiatives to protect and improve human and ecosystem health. Topics include invasive species, deteriorating wastewater treatment infrastructure, effective urban policy, protecting human health in urban environments, green building, and more. In plenary sessions, citizens can also learn about and comment on progress under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, which is currently under public review for possible amendment or replacement with a new Agreement (see [www.agreementreview.net](http://www.agreementreview.net)). Several leading Great Lakes mayors will be featured

in a plenary session highlighting municipal sustainability initiatives. All events are open to the public, but registration is required by Thursday, May 31. Activities and events at the Biennial Meeting on Wednesday and Thursday are free of charge; there is a \$100 fee for Great Lakes Conference workshops on Friday. Citizens can register at [www.ijc.org/rel/2007biennial](http://www.ijc.org/rel/2007biennial), or by calling Jill Horist at (773) 596-5599.

The IJC was created by the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 to prevent and resolve disputes over the use of the boundary waters shared by Canada and the United States. The role of the IJC is to pursue the common good of both countries as an independent and objective advisor to the two nations.

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