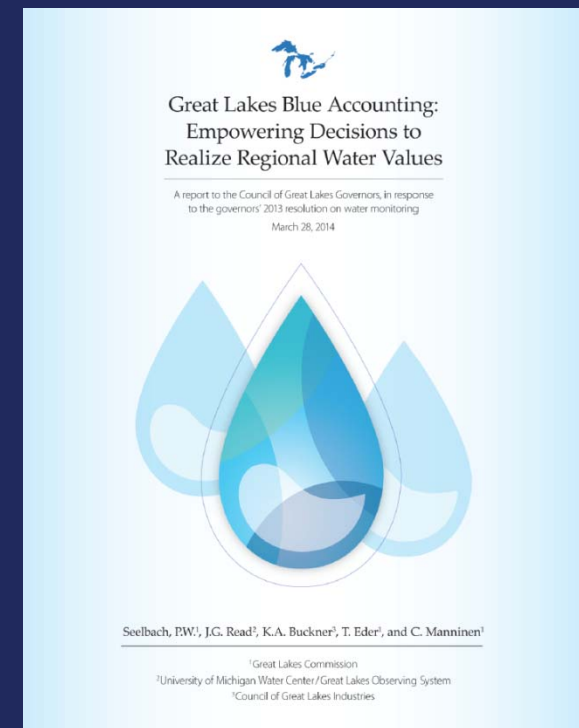# An Overview of Blue Accounting

Blue Accounting

Origins of Blue Accounting

- GLC's role as neutral, trusted provider of information

- Origins of Blue Accounting at the Governors and Premiers 2013 summit

- A strategic approach and supporting information system to measure progress towards our collective desired outcomes

- These desired outcomes are economic, environmental, social and cultural

Great Lakes Blue Accounting:
Empowering Decisions to
Realize Regional Water Values

A report to the Council of Great Lakes Governors, in response
to the governors' 2013 resolution on water monitoring
March 28, 2014

Seelbach, P.W.[1], J.G. Read[2], K.A. Buckner[3], T. Eder[1], and C. Manninen[1]

[1] Great Lakes Commission
[2] University of Michigan Water Center / Great Lakes Observing System
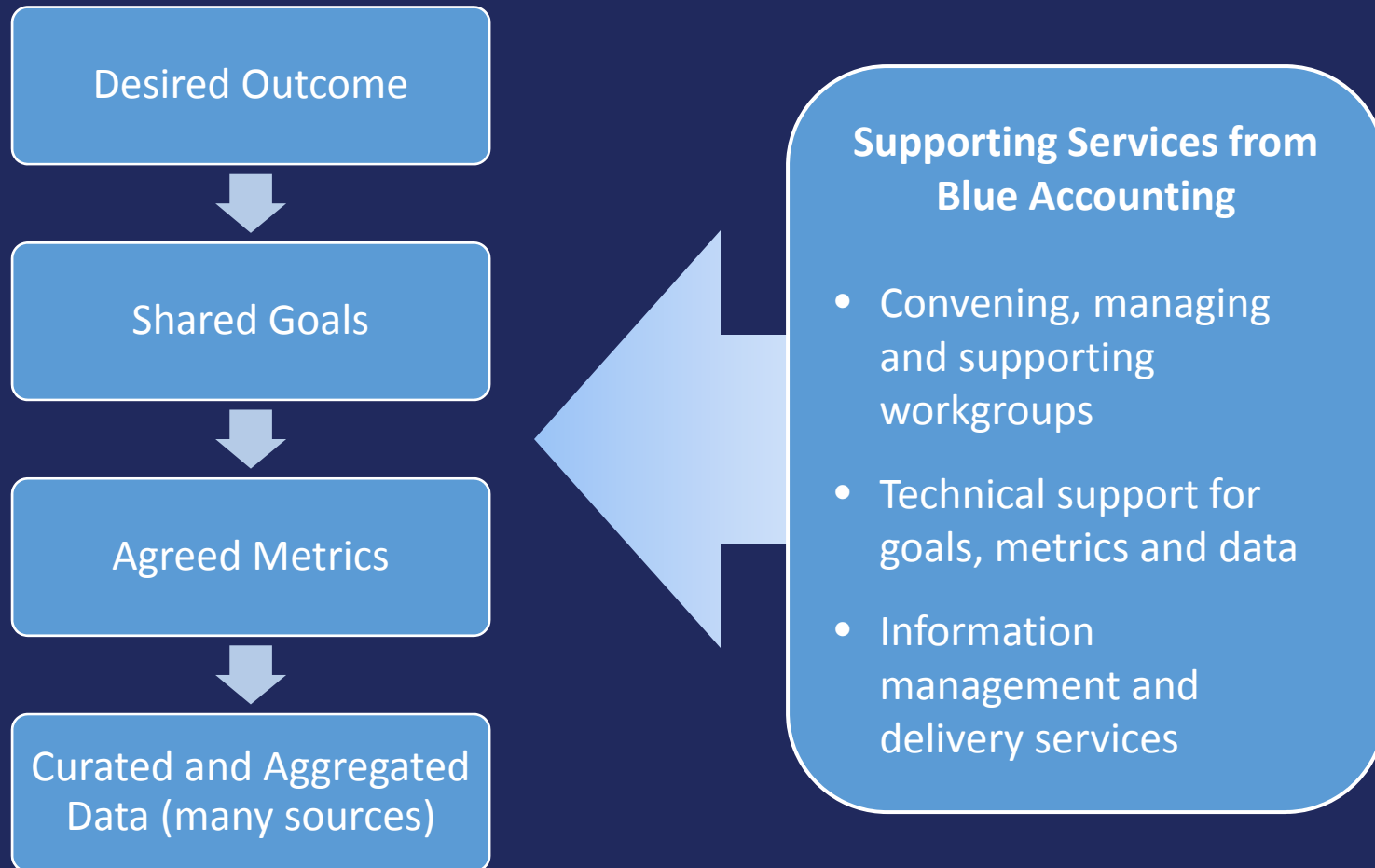[3] Council of Great Lakes Industries

Blue Accounting

Program Structure

- Partnership between the GLC and The Nature Conservancy

- Four pilot programs to demonstrate Blue Accounting principles

- A Blue Accounting information system
    - Based on GLC's Great Lakes Information Network and TNC's Great Lakes Inform

- Significant financial support from public and private sources

Blue Accounting

Issue-Specific Workgroups Establish Shared Goals and Metrics

Desired Outcome

↓

Shared Goals

↓

Agreed Metrics

↓

Curated and Aggregated Data (many sources)

Supporting Services from Blue Accounting

- Convening, managing and supporting workgroups

- Technical support for goals, metrics and data

- Information management and delivery services

Blue Accounting

Information Services for Great Lakes Leaders

- Report Cards
- Goals
- Metrics
- Context
- Forecasts

Services for Great Lakes Leaders

Great Lakes Leaders

Goals, Metrics, Context

Services for Collaboratives and Workgroups

Collaboratives & Workgroups

- Advise
- Facilitate
- Manage and Deliver Info.

Blue Accounting

Thank You!

CHARLES STEWART MOTT FOUNDATION®

The Joyce Foundation

Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation

Steve Cole
Chief Information Officer
Great Lakes Commission
scole@glc.org

http://BlueAccounting.org
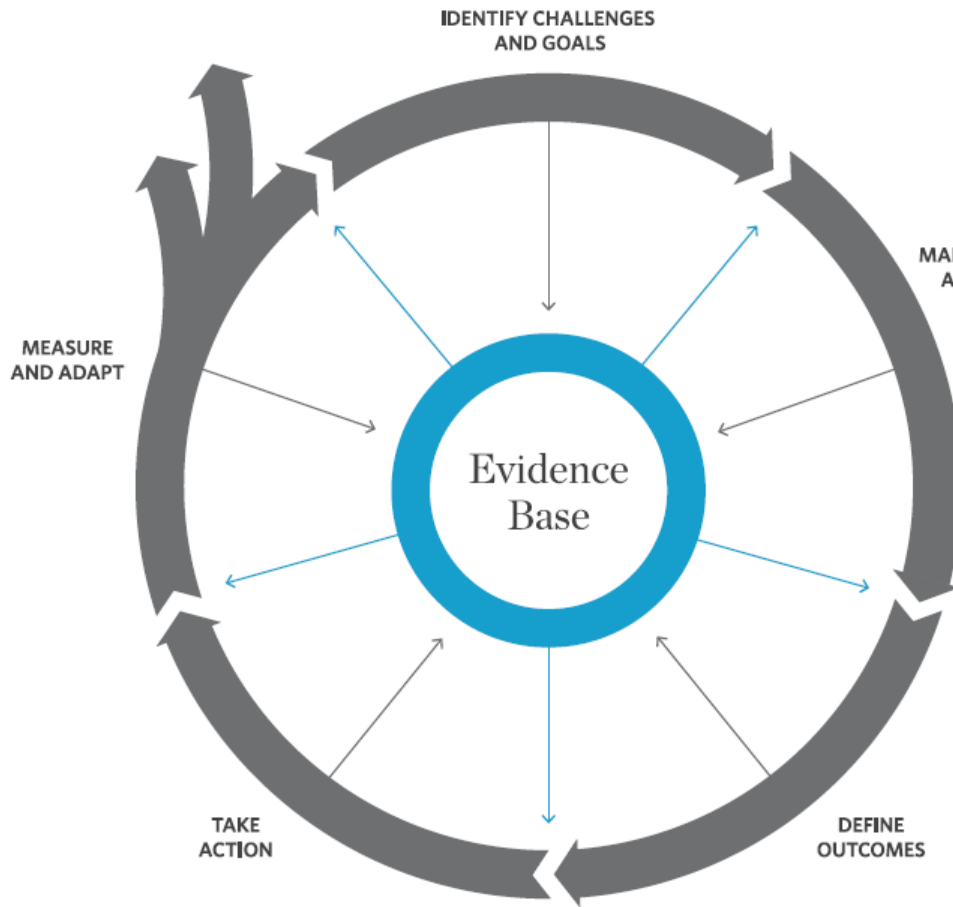
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State management plans, regional and binational plans, etc

Adaptive Management
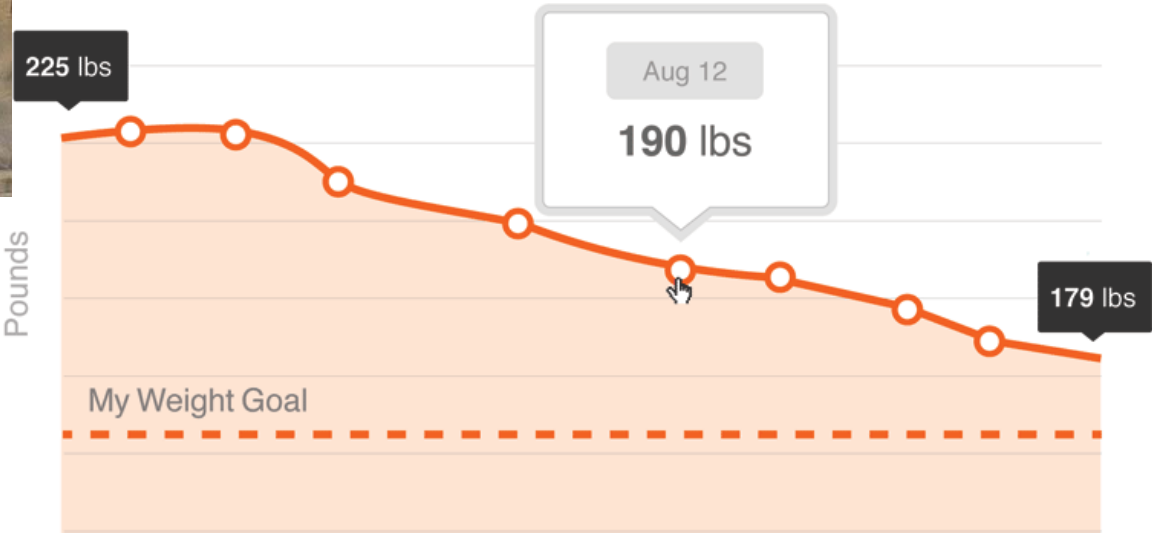
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Setting Goals

New years resolution

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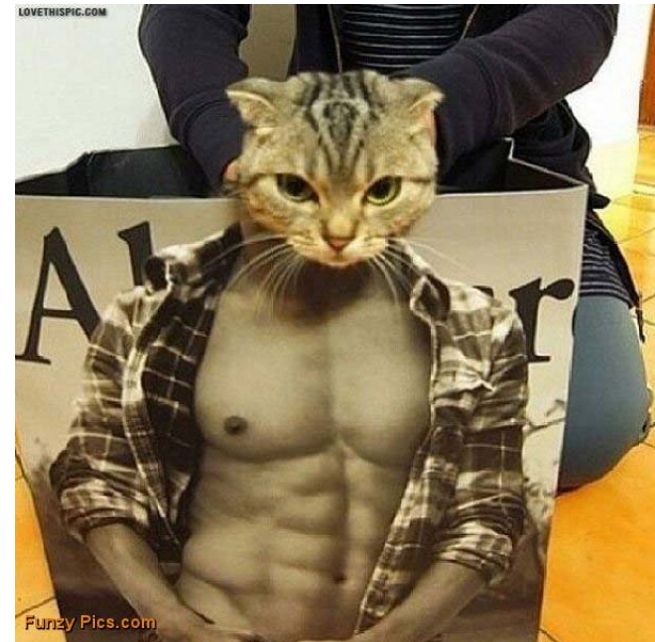
Tracking progress

Goal: loose weight and get active
Outcome: Loose 29 pounds and define abs

AIS Pilot

Aquatic Invasive Species – Current Status

- Information-sharing & collaboration: Support existing regional efforts
  - GLANSP
  - CGLSLGP AIS Task Force, GLWQA Annex 6, GL EDRR plan
  - Species specific (ACRCC, GLPC, IMC, Hydrilla…)
- Shared goals
  - GLRC / GLRI, GLWQA Annex 6
  - CGLSLGP AIS Task Force, ANS SMPs, Interstate Surveillance & Response Plan
- Data & information
  - Regulations
  - Species distribution (e.g. USGS NAS / GLANSIS, iMapInvasives, EDDMaps, MISIN)
  - Risk assessment – MOO and USFWS ERSS
  - Pathway – GLDIATR, NBIC
  - Management & control – GLPC, IMC, Hydrilla

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AIS Pilot

Aquatic Invasive Species – Missing elements

- Shared metrics & measurement system
  - No one is systematically collecting and reporting on data and information at a regional level to report on progress towards most AIS management goals (except the rate of invasion - GLANSIS data)
    - E.g. Management activity, policies, surveillance effort, species under management)
  - [NB: Different to ecological or species monitoring metrics being developed or produced by GLFC, IJC and SOLEC]
- Define outcomes – what does success look like
- Display and reporting platform (No "First" stop shop for AIS information)
  - Consistent with GLANSP mandate
  - Could be a role for a GLANSP Website - to complement and link to existing regional and national websites
  - Existing AIS web platforms are either data portals (GLANSIS, USGS NAS) or provide static information.

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AIS Pilot – GLANS Panel Proposal

Over the next year, GLP could serve as working group for BA AIS pilot, working with BA resources to support:

- **Risk assessment Ad hoc Committee**: BA could compile & synthesis progress towards agree regional risk assessment related goals (metrics TBD) (potentially partnering with GLANSIS - latter providing platform to share RA data).
- **Research Committee Gap Analysis**: BA resources could provide additional resource and capacity to GLC to complete assessment of how and where state, federal and private resource are allocated compared to GLP priorities / regional goals

……..

- Or something else?

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Blue Accounting is *NOT*....

- Duplicating existing efforts: BA measures focus on operational outcomes; should be complementary to ecological or species metrics (e.g., IJC)
  - Two efforts should eventually be combined
- Another data portal: BA will rely upon existing data portals or systems of record (e.g. GLANSIS)
- Advocacy: BA will not pass judgement, "grade," or advocate change; BA will track and report on progress
- Asking for GLP funding support: BA has 4 yrs of independent funding from private foundations

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AIS Pilot

***Long term the AIS Blue Accounting program seeks to:***

- Contribute to existing regional AIS collaborations
  - Provide technical and facilitation support to key existing regional AIS collaborations, based on an agreed set of established basin-wide goals and desired outcomes;
  - Identify a set of strategic actions and metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of investments and programs;
  - Determine the data necessary to support the metrics;
  - Make investments in regional information management and delivery infrastructure to effectively and efficiently track and report progress towards goals.

- How big or small is up to GLP
  - AIS issue is large – it will take collaboration

- Enhance activities of GLP – demonstrate what could be achieved if ANS panels were resourced properly

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Discussion and Questions
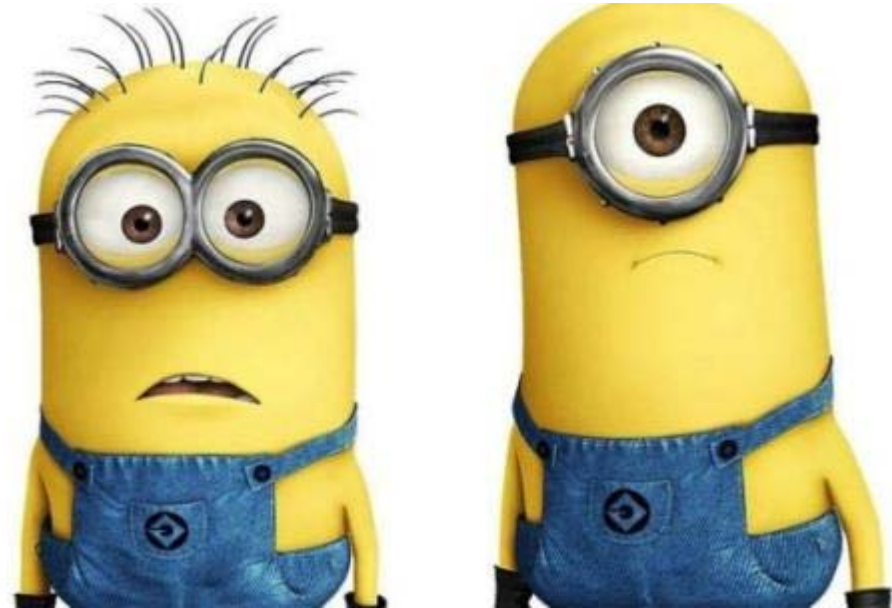
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GLP Decision

- Is GLP willing to serve as "sponsor" of the Great Lakes BA initiative AIS pilot?

  - Option 1 No, the GLP should not engage with BA.

  - Option 2 Yes, the GLP should engage with BA as proposed.

  - Option 3 Yes, the GLP should engage with BA, but in a different way than proposed (provide detail)
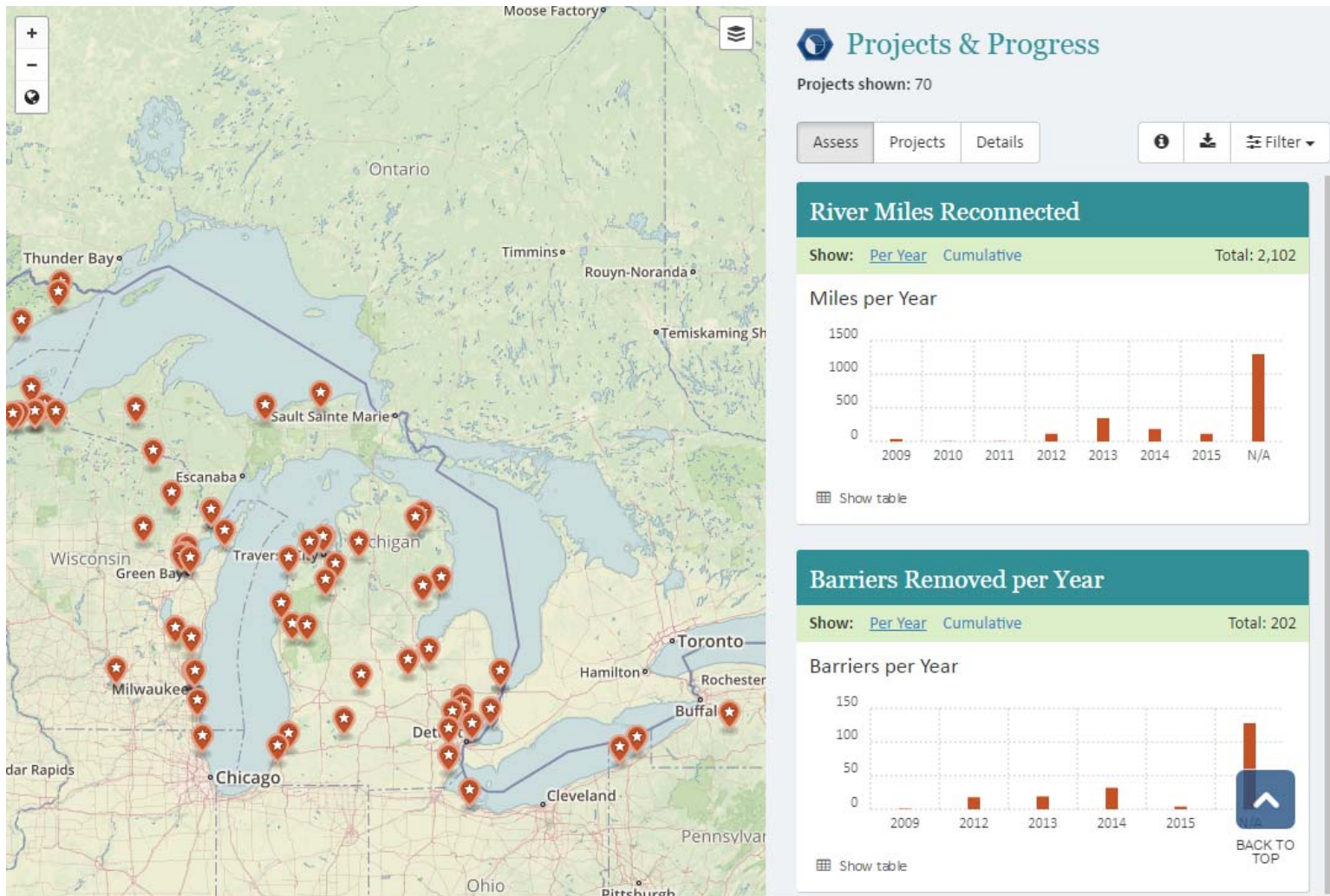
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Blue Accounting *IS*...

- Centered around concepts of:
  - Collaboration
  - Information-sharing
  - Measuring and reporting on progress towards shared regional goals

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Examples of Progress Tracker - Aquatic connectivity

Example: Policy tracking – with potential links to actual regulations for each state

Annual reporting for trailered boats:

- # of states/provinces mandating compliance with inspections

- # of states/provinces implementing mandatory programs

- # reliant on voluntary (courtesy) inspections, local organization

- # of state or provinces that have no regulation against transporting species
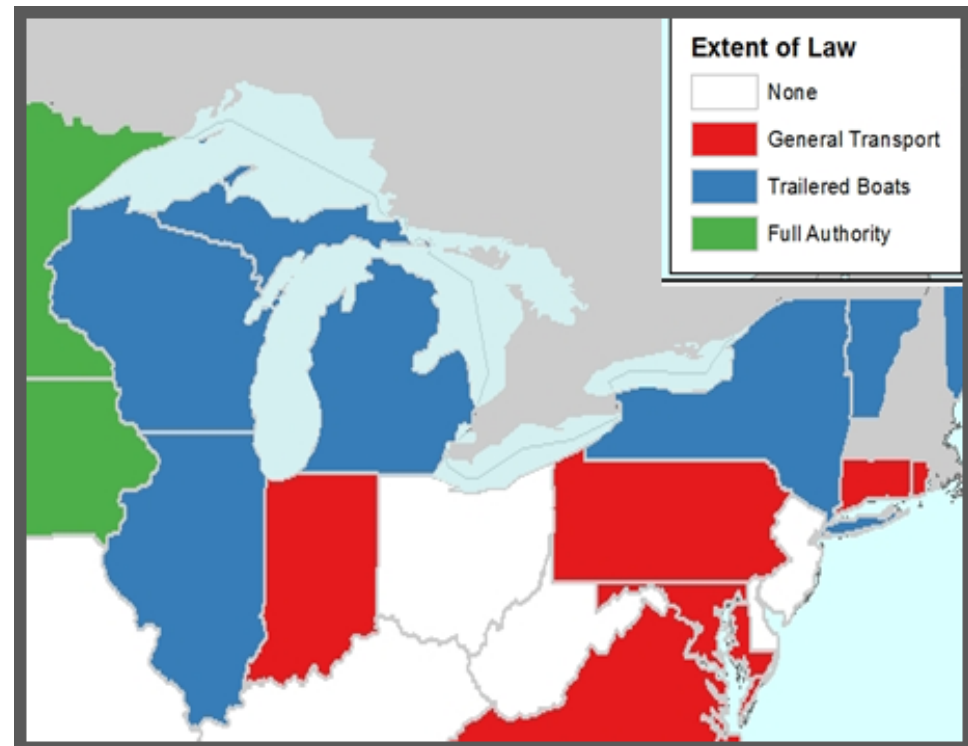
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Example: Policy tracking – with potential links to actual regulations for each state

Tracking efforts to harmonize regional live trades policies:

- Comparison of prohibited species lists – across states, provinces and federally – report average number of states a species is prohibited in, total numbers of species regulated, proportion of total regulated in majority of jurisdictions etc.

- Tracking progress in species risk assessment data

- Tracking what species are trade

- Tracking compliance effort
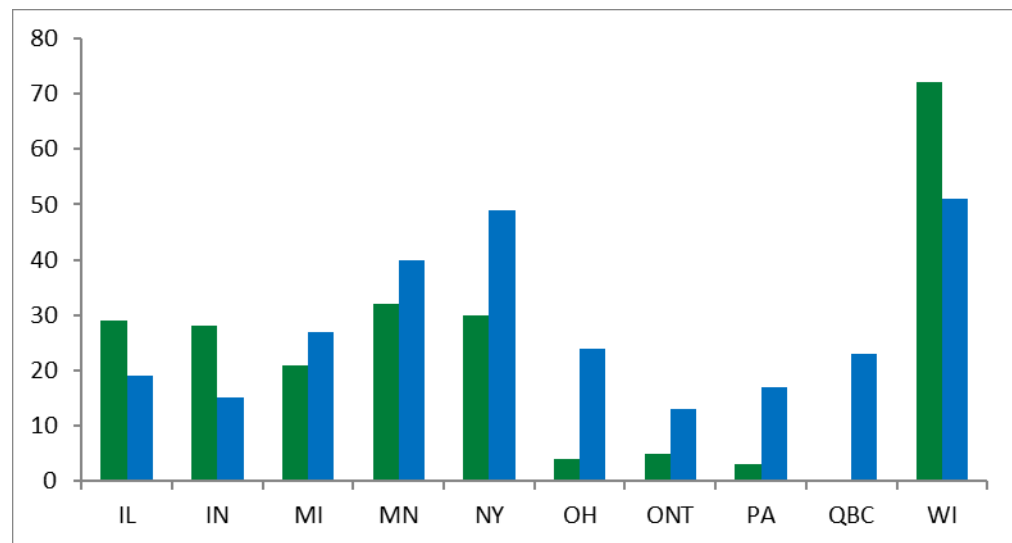
Number of species listed by state or province

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