

Poll of Attendees at Wisconsin Wetlands Association Wetland Science Forum
January 26-27 2005

MY DEFINITION OF A GREAT LAKES COASTAL WETLAND IS:

- 1) Same criteria of vegetation, soils, hydrology, but it has to include language about “influenced hydrologically (splash, erosion-ridge swales, etc.) by the Great Lakes”. It has to include some language to address wetlands on sandstone slopes, cobble beaches, etc., that may not meet the soils or vegetation criteria. Therein lies the problem. Good luck.
- 2) Hydrology of wetland directly connected to Great Lakes hydrology.
- 3) Swamps, sloughs or other places where water meets land.
- 4) Hydrology influenced by fluctuating water levels of the Great Lakes. Vegetation specific (or indicative of) coastal wetlands.
- 5) A wetland that is biotically and hydrologically contiguous with the subject great lake. This definition is based upon functionality and therefore applicable to the entire set of environmental conditions.
- 6) Any wetland within a watershed that drains into the Great Lakes and is affected by lake water levels.
- 7) Wetlands which are hydrologically connected to a Great Lake and therefore directly influence or are influenced by lake levels, fish populations, nutrient levels and water flow.
- 8) Wetlands influenced by large lake processes.
- 9) Any area of land that has direct connection with a larger body of water and is influenced by natural fluctuations in hydrology.
- 10) Land that is irrigated by water from Great Lakes a least part of the year.
- 11) Wetland & proximity or abutting Great Lakes and/or with significant impact on coastal habitat (ie: a watershed abutting a Great Lake).
- 12) Located where the land meets the Great Lakes water and this has an important role in shaping their environment. They have hydric soils, hydrophytic species and have water for a time during the growing season.
- 13) A wetland whose water is directly connected (not necessarily on the coast) to the Great lakes. The wetlands water level changes in coordination with a response to changes in the Great Lakes water levels.
- 14) Any wetland within the watershed of the Great Lake which meets the definition used by USDA-NRCS & ACE to define “wetland” (soils, hydrology, vegetation).
- 15) A wetland that has a water system directly connected to a Great Lake.
- 16) A wetland or wetland complex that is connected, adjacent or hydrologically connected to one of the lakes <or> one of the river/lake confluences.
- 17) A wetland that at least seasonally has a direct, two-way exchange of water and organisms with the adjacent Great Lake, or is capable of being restored to this state (in the case of diked wetlands).
- 18) Wetlands at the Great Lakes shores or impacted by the Great Lakes levels (and adjacent wetlands).
- 19) Wetland community within the watershed of the Great Lakes or within ½ (distance a discussion point) of lake shore.
- 20) Wetlands with a direct hydrologic connection to lake levels.

- 21) A wetland directly adjacent to, or contiguous of, one of the Great Lakes, or directly influenced by the hydrology of one of the lakes on its connecting waters (major river).
- 22) Wetlands linked to the Great Lakes dynamic processes.
- 23) The area around the lake shore that can be clearly identified as past or present “shoreland” which has been inhabited by aquatic/semi-aquatic vegetation, invertebrates and other animals.
- 24) Any lowland area characterized by: 1. Wetland-dependent vegetation; 2. is hydrologically connected via surface or sub-surface exchange to waters of the Great Lakes.
- 25) A wetland that is influenced by the associated lake’s hydrological fluctuations.
- 26) Those wetlands that are hydrologically connected (back water effect) by surface or ground waters to a Great Lake and those perched wetlands that are supplied by lake effect precipitation.
- 27) Be careful. One definition for a subject this large will be tough to agree upon. Shouldn’t be too restrictive, needs to incorporate temporal factors, connectivity via rivers.
- 28) A wetland that has current or periodic hydrologic connection to the lake and therefore is influenced by coastal processes.
- 29) There are many different types of wetlands. Any type of wetland that would be in a reasonable distance to a coast would fit this definition. I would weigh direct hydrological connections higher than other factors.
- 30) a) Bordering a great lake. b) Functionally? Hydrologically? Influenced by a great lake (by lake levels, seiches, fish runs) so follow wetland upstream as far as influence exists.