



Governors and Premiers Look to the Future of Maritime Transportation

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence region is creating the maritime transportation system of the future. Today, at their Leadership Summit in Milwaukee, the Governors and Premiers took steps to boost global connections and trade, grow the region's cruise industry, and showcase cutting-edge technologies. Specific actions include:

- Releasing an action plan with the Port of Antwerp (Belgium) to double maritime trade with Western Europe. Antwerp is the gateway to Europe, the main overseas trading partner of Great Lakes St. Lawrence ports.
- Announcing the "Cruise the Great Lakes" brand and marketing campaign to accelerate the growth of regional cruising.
- Showcasing cutting-edge maritime technologies with an autonomous research ship demonstration in Milwaukee harbor. The region's first smart ship test was previously held at the Marine Autonomy Research Site in Houghton, Michigan--the world's first freshwater test site for smart ship technologies.
- Signing a memorandum with the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) focused on governance and best practices. CCNR is the world's oldest international organization and a model for maritime coordination.

These strategic actions are designed to help achieve the Governors' and Premiers' goals to double maritime trade, shrink the environmental impact of our transportation network, and support the region's industrial core. Aggressive follow-through is planned with regional and global partners in coming months and years.

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence maritime system is a backbone of the region's \$6 trillion economy. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River form the longest deep-draft inland navigation system in the world, stretching 2,300 miles into the North American heartland. It links more than 100 U.S. and Canadian ports to the world economy, generates more than 225,000 jobs and \$34 billion in business revenue, and supports industries such as manufacturing, steel production, and agriculture.