



**International Association for Great Lakes Research**  
*Devoted to Research on Large Lakes of the World*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Great Lakes Stressed Out**

Ann Arbor, MI — The Great Lakes of the World span a diverse geography, climate, and evolutionary history that have resulted in a spectacular array of organisms occupying these systems. The social and economic histories of the peoples occupying the basins today have also been extremely divergent, ranging from the most affluent societies to some of the least economically developed.

"Despite all these differences, the lakes share many common issues: changing trophic status, invasive species, contamination, and overexploitation of fisheries", says Bob Hecky, a professor at the University of Waterloo where he holds the United Nations Research Chair on African Great Lakes and Rivers. "Their common future of continued ecological risk and change is assured now by anthropogenic climate warming which is now demonstrably affecting all the lakes from the tropics to the poles."

In his plenary address at the 50<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Great Lakes Research, Dr. Hecky will review the state of many of the Great Lakes of the World, illustrating how all of the systems are experiencing significant stress that may soon be irreversible. Relying on his more than 30 years of professional experience studying the Great Lakes of the World, Dr. Hecky will comment on what actions need to be taken, locally and globally, to stem declines in biodiversity, production, and overall health which are threatening the lakes, and the people that are so reliant on them.

Dr. Hecky will be speaking in the Presidents Hall 1 & 2, Penn Stater Conference Center between 1 and 2 p.m. on Wednesday May 30, 2007.

**Contacts**

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