

• 2024 • Annual Report



International Association for Great Lakes Research

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(2024–2025)

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Dear IAGLR members and friends,

Over the past year, our association has continued to fulfill its mission of advancing and sharing Great Lakes science—both regionally and globally—through our flagship programs and expanded collaborations.



With 750 members, more than 800 participants at our annual conference, and a journal with growing impact, IAGLR remains a recognized leader in Great Lakes research. Our influence continues to extend beyond the region, as evidenced by increasing engagement from international aquatic science societies and media outlets seeking expert commentary on critical issues.

This past year, IAGLR contributed to global conversations on environmental crimes through the European Space Agency and advanced the role of Earth observation in water quality monitoring with the World Water Quality Alliance. Our members were also invited to share their expertise in webinars on important topics such as DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility) and Indigenous Knowledge.

Our *Lakes Letter* magazine continues to gain visibility, helping us reach a broader and more diverse audience while highlighting the importance and relevance of Great Lakes science.

On behalf of the entire IAGLR team, I extend heartfelt thanks to the organizations and individuals who generously contributed financially or volunteered their time. Your support ensures that IAGLR remains both relevant and impactful.

Looking ahead, I am hopeful that our programs will continue to strengthen the global science-policy ecosystem surrounding the Great Lakes and position IAGLR as a trusted source of evidence-based insight. I also want to express my deepest gratitude to the IAGLR Board of Directors for their guidance and to our small but mighty staff team for their expertise, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our mission.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Warm regards,

Jérôme Marty
IAGLR Executive Director

Reflections on a year of growth and collaboration

In uncertain times, when challenges seem ever present, the strength of our communities becomes more important than ever. Navigating these complexities requires trust, collaboration, and a shared commitment to supporting one another. IAGLR exemplifies this spirit of resilience and connection. It is an organization built on mutual support—where knowledge is shared, partnerships are formed, and collective efforts drive meaningful change.

Serving on the IAGLR executive over the past three years has been a privilege, offering a firsthand view of the dedication and vision that guide our association. This commitment is mirrored in our outstanding staff, whose hard work behind the scenes ensures that IAGLR thrives, providing invaluable support for our members and advancing our mission. And, of course, it is the membership—scientists, policymakers, students, and partners—who make IAGLR the dynamic and welcoming community that it is. From top to bottom, IAGLR reflects the very best of what people can achieve when they work together.

This collaborative spirit was especially evident in May of 2024 at our annual conference in Windsor, Ontario. Together, scientists, policymakers, and Indigenous knowledge holders shared insights and strengthened partnerships. A major milestone was the continuation of IAGLR's efforts to broaden participation, with registration waivers enabling more than 40 Indigenous scholars to take part. We also expanded our global reach through collaboration with the African Center for Aquatic Research and Education, welcoming over 100 members from Africa. These initiatives have strengthened the association by bringing in diverse perspectives and expertise.

In addition to the conference, this year saw transitions in leadership and continued growth of the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*. The journal remains a cornerstone of IAGLR, featuring studies that deepen our understanding and inform better stewardship of the world's great lakes. We welcomed Dr. Margaret Docker as the new lead editor, reinforcing our commitment to advancing large lake research. While Bob Hecky and Stephanie Guildford will be missed, Margaret brings an abundance of experience and knowledge to the position. I have no doubt that she will lead the journal with an unwavering hand.

IAGLR also honored numerous individuals for their contributions to freshwater science. From Lifetime Achievement Award to student scholarships, we recognized the dedication and ingenuity of our community. These awards celebrate the commitment to discovery and the knowledge-sharing that builds our community and strengthens our field.

Neil Rooney

IAGLR Past President, 2024–25



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Awards & Scholarships

We continued our tradition of recognizing excellence and service by presenting 69 awards and scholarships in 2024.

Professional Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award

Stephanie Guildford and **Robert Hecky**, Professors emeriti, Biology Department and Large Lakes Observatory, University of Minnesota Duluth



Stephanie Guildford and Robert Hecky after receiving their award at the annual conference.

Anderson-Everett Award

Mary Ginnebaugh, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (retired)

Large Lake Champion Award

Jennifer Boehme, Great Lakes Observing System

John Hartig, University of Windsor

Henry Lickers, Haudenosaunee citizen of the Seneca Nation, Turtle Clan; Former Canadian Commissioner, International Joint Commission; Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Department of the Environment (retired)

Journal & Editor Awards

Chandler-Misener Award

Thomas Binder, Michigan State University;
Christopher Holbrook, U.S. Geological Survey;
Charles Bronte, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
Ji He, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and **Charles Krueger**, Michigan State University

Elsevier Early Career Scientist Award

Elaine Ho-Tassone, NORDIK Institute/Algoma University

Elsevier Student Author Award

Alexander Duncan, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, Fisheries Assessment Program

Best Associate Editor in 2023 Award

Marlene Evans, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Best Reviewer in 2023 Award

Bernard Crimmins, Clarkson University

Associate Editor Appreciation Award

Ronald Hites, Indiana University

Associate Editor Appreciation Award

Robert McLaughlin, University of Guelph



Student scholarship and award winners Ruth Duncan, Alex Duncan, Nusrat Khan, Janvière Tuyisenge, Christine Atuhaire, and Zach Jones.

Appreciation Awards

Board of Directors Appreciation Award

Alfred Achieng, University of Toronto

Jean Adams, U.S. Geological Survey (retired) (Past President)

Susan Daniel, Great Lakes Center, Buffalo State University

Rene Sabha Shamohamadloo, University of Guelph

Les Warren, Purdue University

Committee Chair Appreciation Award

Jennifer Boehme, Investment Committee Co-Chair

Paul Sibley, Communications & Outreach Committee Co-Chair

Michael Twiss, Investment Committee Co-Chair

Conference Appreciation Awards

Catherine Febria, University of Windsor (2024 Program Co-Chair)

Mike McKay, University of Windsor (2024 Site Chair)

Carol Miller, Wayne State University (2024 Program Co-Chair)

Editor Appreciation Award

Stephanie Guildford, University of Minnesota Duluth

Robert Hecky, University of Minnesota Duluth

Scholarships

Norman S. Baldwin Fishery Science Scholarship

Justin Hubbard, University of Toronto

Zach Jones, University of Windsor

David M. Dolan Scholarship

Nusrat Khan, Arizona State University

IAGLR Scholarship

Sarah Peterson, University of Wisconsin

IAGLR Student Travel Awards

Supported 34 students attending the 67th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research

IDEA+ Presenter Scholarship

Ruth Duncan, Trent University

IDEA+ Research Scholarship

Christine Atuhaire, Makerere University, Uganda

International Travel Award

Janvière Tuyisenge, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

IAGLR 2023 Outstanding Student Paper Award

Sam Francis Sage, The Ohio State University

IAGLR 2023 Outstanding Student Poster Award

Amanda Welsbacher, Penn State Behrend

Conference on Great Lakes Research

More than 800 people from 17 countries attended our 67th annual conference in May.



Researchers, practitioners, and others from around the world gathered in Windsor, Ontario, for the 67th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research—the fifth time we’ve gathered in this central location along the Detroit River, or Waawiyaataanong Ziibi (“where the river bends”) in Anishnaabemowin. Attendees explored the theme *Shared Lakes: One Water, One Health* via three engaging plenaries and 600+ presentations across 48 sessions, including 117 student presentations entered for student awards.

More than 800 people registered for either in-person or virtual attendance, and more than 22 percent were students. Hosted by the University of Windsor, the conference was well-received according to survey feedback, with attendees particularly valuing networking opportunities, the inclusive and diverse environment, and the organization of the event.

Attendees had high praise

“The variety of topics in the talks! I got to hear a lot of talks that are out of my area of expertise.”

“For me as a young career African woman, interacting with and learning from great scientists of North America was fulfilling. Also, the fact that the scientists were welcoming and easily shared about their work was good.”

“I super appreciate the recognition given to Indigenous Peoples and their roles in the Great Lakes. IAGLR is truly a leader in this space.”

“Being able to meet up with people/networking in person. Virtual events just can’t replicate that experience. In this case I was local enough to split time virtual and in-person which was very helpful.”



Members of Parliament visited with IAGLR Board of Directors

Terry Duguid, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and Special Advisor for Water (fourth from right) and Irek Kusmierczyk, Member of Parliament for Windsor–Tecumseh (at left) visited with the IAGLR Board of Directors to share about Canadian federal freshwater initiatives and offer advice on connecting science with Great Lakes decision making. In addition, both MPs addressed conference attendees.



Survey says

97%

said IAGLR 2024 was
beneficial to their
career

90%

gained knowledge in
areas outside their
expertise

89%

ranked conference
as excellent or good
overall

87%

gained knowledge in
their area of expertise

Journal of Great Lakes Research

In 2024 we celebrated the 50th anniversary of IAGLR's flagship publication. We also welcomed a new editor to kick off our next 50 years.

Since 1975 the *Journal of Great Lakes Research* has published thousands of peer-reviewed articles in 243 issues on a wide range of topics relating to the natural and social sciences of large lakes and their watersheds. Journal articles are widely cited, as evidenced by an impact factor of 2.4. The high-quality science published in the journal is a community effort. Our editorial team, associate editors, and IAGLR's Publications Committee oversee the journal. Guest editors for special sections and hundreds of reviewers support this effort. In 2024, these people collectively ensured that IAGLR continued to publish high-quality research findings to advance understanding of the world's large lake ecosystems.

New lead editor took the helm

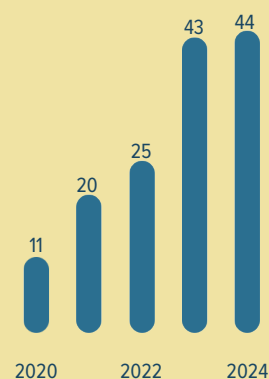
Dr. Margaret Docker was announced as the next lead editor of the *Journal of Great Lakes Research* at IAGLR's annual conference in May. A professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Manitoba, Docker started in November for a transition phase working with outgoing editors Robert Hecky and Stephanie Guildford and assumed the full role in January 2025. Since 2012, Hecky and Guildford have worked tirelessly to broaden the reach of the journal, both internationally and topically. They are noted for cultivating a journal with a community feel while maintaining the robustness of science published.



Open-access continued to grow

Authors are welcome to publish in the *Journal of Great Lakes Research* free of charge. For a fee, they also can choose the open-access option, where their articles are freely available to readers without a subscription. As shown in the graph below, a growing percentage of authors continued to select this open-access option.

Percentage of Open-Access Articles per Year





The IAGLR 2024 Editors' Reception. Seated: Stephanie Guildford (outgoing assistant editor), Robert Hecky (outgoing lead editor), and Margaret Docker (incoming lead editor). Standing, middle row: Erin Dunlop, Leon Boegman, Jessica Ives (technical editor), Craig Stow, Mary Anne Evans, Lyubov Burlakova, Chuck Bronte, Mark Gaden, Val Klump, and Jim Bence (Publications Committee chair). Back row: Jérôme Marty (IAGLR executive director), Chris Wilson, Jay Austin, Michael Twiss, and Mike McKay. All associate editors are listed on page 13.

Two special sections published

The *Journal of Great Lakes Research* publishes special sections to highlight important research topics on large lakes and attract new authors and readers. In 2024, we published two special sections.

The first—**Species in Ancient Lakes**—grew out of a conference held in Kigoma, United Republic of Tanzania, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. This special section contributed to documenting patterns of diversity within ancient lakes, with an emphasis on comparison, and identifying ways to conserve the systems and their organisms. The second special section—**Aquatic Resources and Blue Economy**—stemmed from a conference held in Kisumu, Kenya, on Lake Victoria. It focused on environmental issues and sustainable solutions in African large lakes, building on conference discussions among researchers, resource managers, and other stakeholders.



A fishing village on Lake Tanganyika.

115

Articles
published

39

Associate
Editors

552

Reviewers

51

Open-Access
Articles

Communication & Outreach

We continued to share compelling science stories, connect our members, and represent Great Lakes science.

Science-Policy Connections

IAGLR continued to represent Great Lakes research on the national and global stages. In September, Executive Director Jérôme Marty shared the importance of Earth observation in monitoring stressors on the Great Lakes in a workshop on environmental crimes hosted by the European Space Agency. In October, in response to a U.S. government memo on public access policies for federally funded research results and data, IAGLR joined with the Consortium of Aquatic Science Societies in a letter highlighting the value of open access publishing while raising concerns over unintended consequences for nonprofit societies and their publications. Learn more about our [policy actions](#) online.

Webinars

IAGLR co-hosted webinars in 2024 on several topics, including Indigenous People's perspectives on Earth observations and data sovereignty, and another on making aquatic science spaces more welcoming to all. [Recordings](#) are available online.



Lakes Letter

2024 saw the sixth year of publication for our [quarterly magazine](#), where we shared compelling stories about scientists and their work in four issues on human health and large lakes, water on the move, remote sensing, and oil spill science.



Partnering For Impact

Collaboration is at the core of what we do, making our events and publications possible. Below are other notable partnerships that increased our impact in 2024.

Several successful partnerships continued In 2024, including our membership in the Consortium of Aquatic Science Societies ([CASS](#)). The 10 associations that make up CASS share best practices and work to cohesively present the best available science surrounding aquatic resources. In 2024, IAGLR volunteered to take over management of the consortium's financial recordkeeping.

IAGLR also continued to participate in a community of practice run by the Alliance to Catalyze Change for Equity in STEM Success ([ACCESS+](#)). This NSF-funded initiative aims to accelerate the awareness, adoption, and adaptation of evidence-based, gender-related, diversity, equity, and inclusion policies, practices, and programs within and across STEM professional societies.

We also continued to work with the [African Center for Aquatic Research and Education](#) to enhance engagement with researchers from the African Great Lakes.

Fellowship for early career scientists

Through our involvement in CASS, we were able to offer to three IAGLR members the opportunity to participate in a new six-month science communication training program. Scientists Promoting Policy, Access, Research, and Knowledge ([SP²ARK](#)) aims to build a diverse network of skilled science communicators among early career aquatic scientists. The program kicked off in November 2024 with a cohort of 30 scientists from the 10 organizations making up CASS.

IAGLR, ASLO received ACCESS+ minigrant

IAGLR and the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography received a minigrant from ACCESS+ for the project “Conferencing better: A collaborative approach to inclusive aquatic science conferences.” The facilitated project is intended to produce a set of guiding principles and a shared code of conduct for conducting inclusive conferences.



Thank You Supporters

We are grateful to the ongoing support of organizations and individuals who collectively gave of their time and treasure to support IAGLR and Great Lakes science.

DONORS

ORGANIZATIONS

\$15,000+

NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory

\$10,000+

Great Lakes Fishery Commission
International Joint Commission

\$7,500+

WSP in Canada

\$5,000+

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission
Windsor Utilities Commission

\$3,500+

Environment and Climate Change Canada
University of Windsor Faculty of Science
Women in Engineering ProActive Network ACCESS+

\$2,500+

Algoma University
Great Lakes Commission
Great Lakes Observing System
Great Lakes Water Authority

University of Windsor Research and Innovation

Wayne State University

\$1,000+

Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management Society
BIRD Canada
Consulate General of Canada
Elsevier
Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor
Halltech Aquatic Research Inc.
International Fisheries Section
IISD Experimental Lakes Area

\$500+

Grand Valley State University, Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute
Ontario Genomics

INDIVIDUALS

Martin and Nancy Auer
James Bence
Valerie Brady
Susan Daniel
Miriam Diamond
Dan Dufour
Randy Eshenroder
Wendy Foster
Kenneth Gibbons
Mary Ginnebaugh
John Hartig
Donna Kashian
Andrea Kirkwood
Margaret Lansing, *in memory of Brian Eadie*
Barry Lesht
Stuart Ludsins
Jérôme Marty
Paula McIntyre
Robert Michael McKay
Andrew Scott McNaught
Ryan Newton
Trevor Pitcher
Jeffrey Reutter
Neil Rooney
Kimberly Schulz
Paul Sibley
Ryan Sorichetti
Michael Twiss
Xing Zhou
& our anonymous donors



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 Jay Austin (AE, C)
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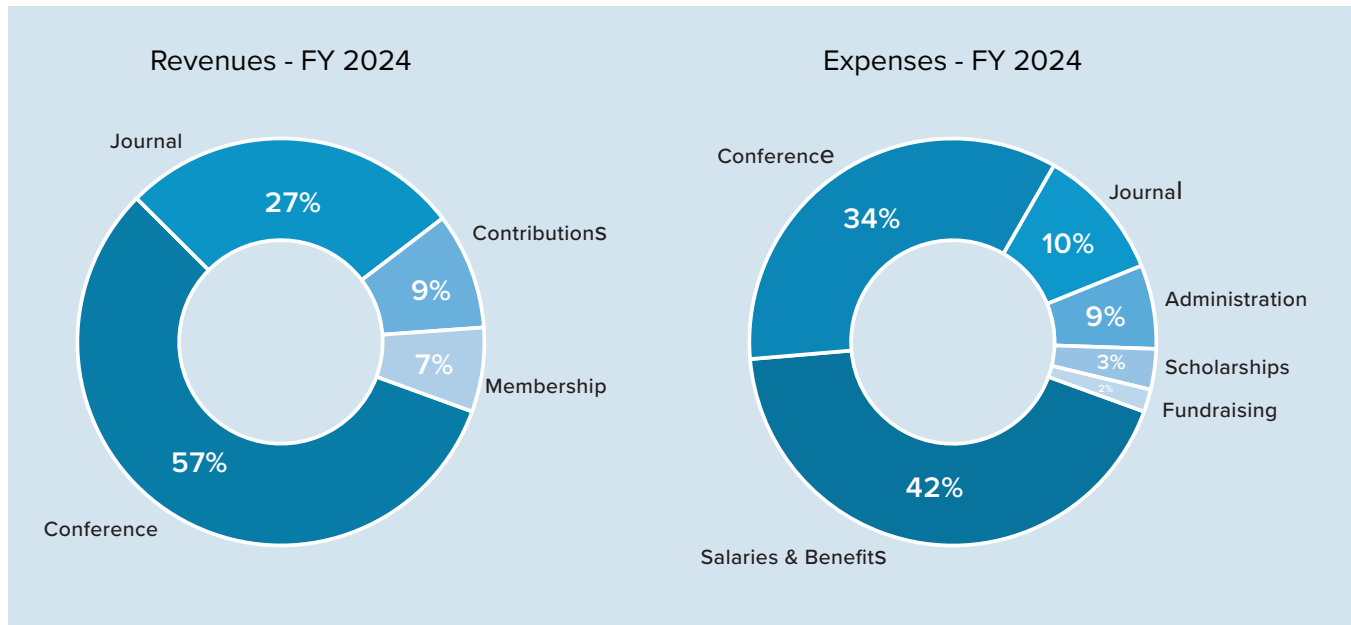
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 Jess Owen (C)
 Scott Parker (C)
 Rucha Patel (CV)
 Judith Perlinger (C)
 Trevor Pitcher (C)
 Gabriella Presti (CV)
 Sabina Rakhimbekova (B)
 Kaia Reaume (CV)
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 Zanko Zandsalimi (B, CC)
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 Yingming Zhao (C)

IAGLR board members are indicated by a B after their names, with officers designated by an asterisk. Associate editors of the *Journal of Great Lakes Research* are designated by an AE, committee members a C, committee chairs a CC, and other conference volunteers a CV.

Financials

IAGLR reported a balanced budget at the end of FY 2024 (September 30, 2024).



Revenues	FY 2024		FY 2023	
Conference	\$461,990	57	\$476,405	61
Journal	220,451	27	208,944	27
Contributions	75,162	9	48,874	6
Membership	54,297	7	52,945	7
Total Revenues	\$811,900	100%	\$787,168	100%

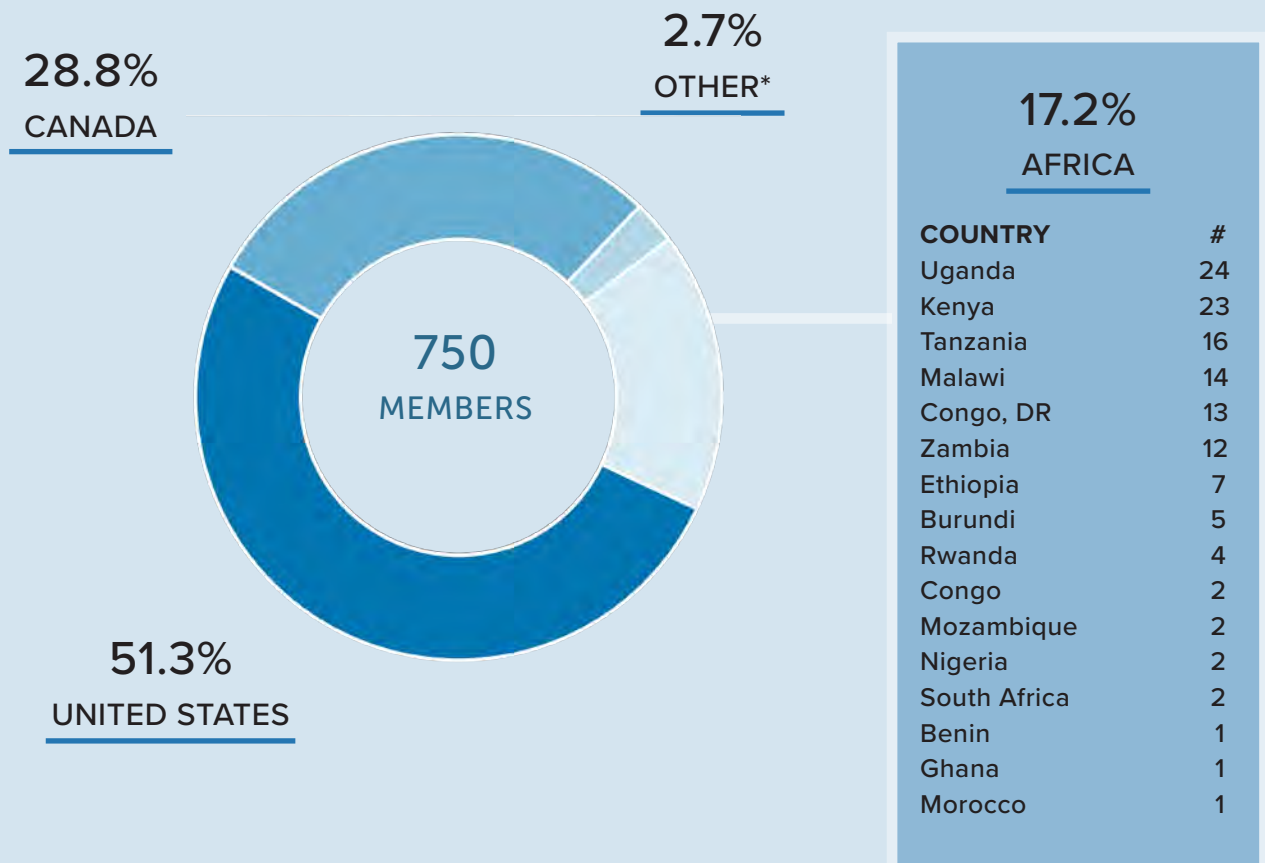
Expenses	FY 2024		FY 2023	
Salaries and benefits	\$341,393	42	\$299,744	38
Conference	274,241	34	333,487	42
Journal	83,891	10	\$63,187	8
Administration	71,110	9	54,323	7
Scholarships	25,547	3	24,686	3
Fundraising	14,171	2	11,252	1
Total Expenses	\$810,353	100%	\$786,679	100%

Numbers are final and reported in the annual Form 990s online via our [Financial Information](#) page.

Membership

In 2024, 750 members joined the association. That number included a 13% increase in professionals and students from Africa over the previous year. The figure below shows a geographic view of our membership, including the African countries represented.

A geographic look at 2024 membership



* Other includes members from Asia and Europe.

IAGLR's mission is to advance understanding of the world's great lake ecosystems.

Acknowledgment

Although our offices are located in Ann Arbor, Michigan—the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabeg (the Three Fire Confederacy of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations) as well as the Wyandot Nation—we acknowledge that we work, live, play in, and care about all large lake watersheds throughout the world.

We acknowledge Indigenous peoples as these watersheds' original caretakers and knowledge keepers and recognize their contributions to the stewardship and governance of the world's largest systems of freshwater. These lands and waters also remember the histories of those who arrived as migrants—both in this generation and generations past—as well as those who arrived involuntarily as refugees or a result of slavery.

We recognize our responsibility to involve the full diversity of these voices in achieving our vision of a peaceful world in which large lake ecosystems are valued and healthy; where these ecosystems inspire curiosity, awe, love and respect, and stewardship in all people. It is an ongoing journey with mistakes and learning along the way. We invite your comments to ensure healthy relationships and a welcoming space within the IAGLR community.

Contact Us

Looking to connect with IAGLR? Reach out to Jérôme Marty, our executive director, at jmarty@iaglr.org. Address any correspondence to the following:

International Association for Great Lakes Research
4840 South State Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108

Visit us online at iaglr.org.

IAGLR is a U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Our Values

COLLABORATION—We value working together across disciplines, knowledge systems, and domains of expertise by sharing knowledge, building partnerships, and cooperating internationally. Just as ecological health depends on complex and interconnected relationships, our success depends on collaboration with others.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION—We believe in co-creating a just, equitable, and inclusive culture that removes barriers to participation in our activities and embraces people from diverse identities, perspectives, and experiences.

EXCELLENCE—We value promoting excellence in large lake research by sharing contemporary findings that meet professional standards in our programs. Further, we aspire to create an environment where we elevate and inspire one another in the pursuit of excellence.

LEARNING—We embrace learning to inform adaptive decision making regarding the world's large lake ecosystems. We reflect this learning in our practices and programs. This learning encompasses basic and applied research, seeks to understand varied perspectives, and supports current and future scientists.

STEWARDSHIP—We believe in promoting stewardship of large lake ecosystems by sharing research findings and offering trusted evidence to support informed decisions in the pursuit of sustainable, healthy ecosystems. We seek to empower scientists and practitioners to carry on this work.