



ALLIANCE FOR THE GREAT LAKES

ENSURING A LIVING RESOURCE FOR ALL GENERATIONS

**STATEMENT ON GOV. ROD BLAGOJEVICH'S PROPOSED MERCURY
RULE FOR THE STATE OF ILLINOIS**

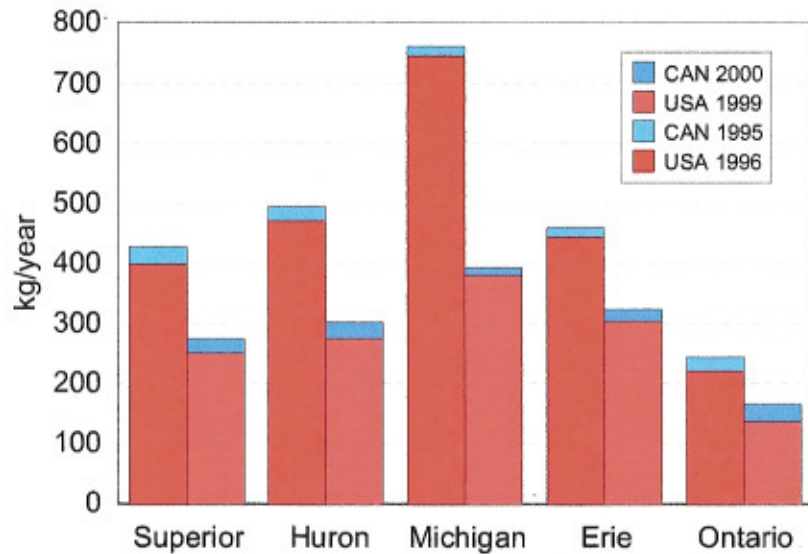
The Alliance for the Great Lakes (formerly the Lake Michigan Federation) today commended Gov. Rod Blagojevich for announcing his proposed rule for reducing mercury emissions from Illinois sources.

“Mercury is a poison that hits the most sensitive among us the hardest—children, women, and subsistence anglers—from fish consumption in Lake Michigan and other state waters,” said Cameron Davis, executive director of the Alliance. “We commend Gov. Blagojevich for his stand in recognizing that Lake Michigan and the public health dependent on it too important to leave unprotected by weak federal measures.”

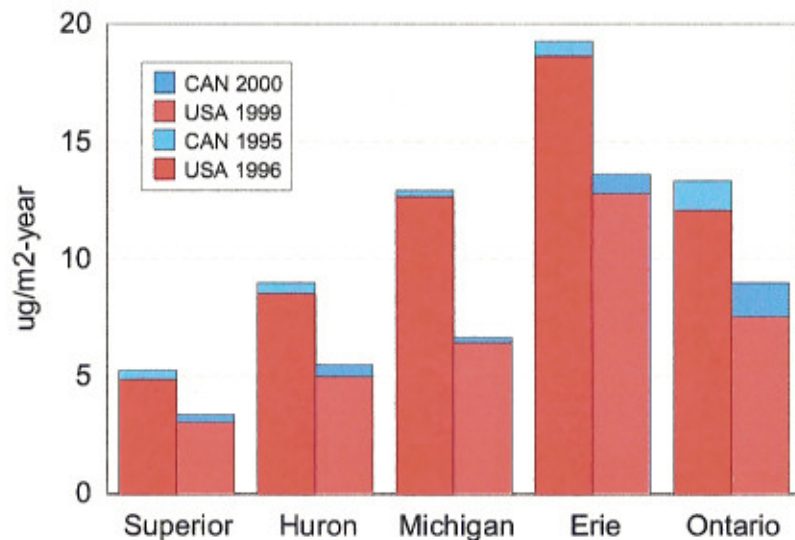
A recent study by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) confirms Lake Michigan receives the most mercury deposition of any one of the Great Lakes (relevant graph attached). Atmospheric methylated mercury can move through the food chain, increasing in concentration as it ascends from fish to people. Mercury can cause neurological and other harm to children and other sensitive populations.

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Formed in 1970, the Alliance for the Great Lakes (formerly the Lake Michigan Federation) is the oldest independent citizens' Great Lakes organization in North America. Its mission is to conserve and restore the world's largest freshwater resource using policy, education and local efforts, ensuring a healthy Great Lakes and clean water for generations of people and wildlife. More about the Alliance for the Great Lakes is online at www.greatlakes.org.



Modeled mercury deposition (kg/year) to the Great Lakes (1995-1996 vs. 1999-2000), arising from anthropogenic mercury air emissions sources in the U.S. and Canada



Modeled mercury flux (ug/m²-yr) to the Great Lakes (1995-1996 vs. 1999-2000), arising from anthropogenic mercury air emissions sources in the U.S. and Canada

Model results for atmospheric deposition show that:

- **U.S. contributes much more than Canada**
- **Significant decrease between 1996 and 1999 (primarily due to decreased emissions from waste incineration)**