

Report outlines growing climate change-related threats to Great Lakes region

March 25 2019, by Diana Yates



A new assessment makes grim predictions about the effects of climate change in the Great Lakes region. Credit: Photo by SeaWiFS Project, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center and ORBIMAGE

A team of Midwestern climate scientists has released a new report with

grim predictions about the impact of climate change on the Great Lakes region. The report foresees a growing trend of wetter winters and springs, with increases in heavy rain events leading to flooding, particularly in urban areas with hard surfaces that cannot absorb the excess water. Rural areas will likely see more erosion, and unpredictable cycles of heat and rainfall could undermine agriculture.

"An assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Great Lakes" was compiled by scientists and experts from universities and other institutions in the Great Lakes region and published by the Environmental Law & Policy Center, based in Chicago. University of Illinois atmospheric sciences professor Donald Wuebbles led the assessment.

"I hope that policymakers and the public will read this report with the understanding that these changes are already beginning and will likely continue to disrupt the economic and environmental health and well-being of people living in the Great Lakes region," Wuebbles said. "It is vitally important that we take action now to protect our natural resources from further harm."

More information: The Impacts of Climate Change on the Great Lakes: elpc.org/glclimatechange/

Provided by University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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