

## **The Lake Erie-Lake Winnipeg Exotic Connection**

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Of the 10 largest freshwater lakes of the world, Erie and Winnipeg are morphologically and biologically most similar. Both are comparatively shallow (8 – 24 m mean depth) and have similar water renewal times (2.6 – 4.3 yr) but Winnipeg has a significantly larger watershed-surface area ratio (40:1) than Erie (3:1). Biological community composition and structure exhibit close correspondence for vertebrate and invertebrate groups likely stemming from linkages during the post-glacial period. The zooplankton communities of lakes Erie and Winnipeg display closer resemblance than any other North American great lakes pair. Temporal trends in both lakes include similar adjustments to eutrophication by primary and secondary producer communities. The recent invasion of Lake Winnipeg by *Eubosmina coregoni*, originally from Europe and now entrenched in Lake Erie, and appearance of *Cyclostephanos dubius* reinforce the similarities and connections between these two large water bodies.