The Great Lakes provide nesting and migration habitat for migratory waterfowl important to Virginia.

The Great Lakes are the third most important source of mallards for Virginia waterfowl hunters, providing 19 percent of the mallards harvested.

Other waterfowl and wildlife important to Virginia use the Great Lakes as a key migration area.

Wildlife-associated outdoor recreation in Virginia is a $1.9 billion industry, with more than 3 million sportspersons and wildlife watchers enjoying Virginia wildlife each year.

**FACTS**

**Please Take Action!**

**THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO DEMONSTRATE YOUR INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT FOR GREAT LAKES RESTORATION:**

- **Sponsor the Great Lakes Collaboration and Implementation Act (H.R. 1350 or S. 791).**
  This comprehensive proposal would protect and restore the Great Lakes by protecting against exotic invasive species, conserving wetlands, improving coastal health and fostering sustainable development. Contact Joy Mulinex (Senator Levin), Matt Reifer (Rep. Ehlers) or Jon Hoganson (Rep. Emanuel) regarding these bills.

- **Endorse increased funding for the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (GLFWRA) and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA).**
  Administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, both programs provide on-the-ground benefits for habitat and wildlife. GLFWRA and NAWCA were unanimously reauthorized by Congress in 2006.

- **Support the conservation provisions of the 2007 Farm Bill, particularly reauthorization of the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).**
  Both programs help provide essential habitat along the Mississippi Flyway.

For more information, contact Ashlie Strackbein at Ducks Unlimited’s Governmental Affairs Office in Washington, D.C.: 202.347.1530 or astrackbein@ducks.org, or Gildo Tori at DU’s Great Lakes/Atlantic Regional Office: 734.623.2000 or gtori@ducks.org.
The Great Lakes—GREAT CONNECTION to Virginia

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE GREAT LAKES REGION TO THE MALLARD HARVEST IN YOUR STATE?

Colors/numbers indicate the importance of Great Lakes mallards to each state.

Percentages give the portion of the total mallard harvest coming from the Great Lakes.


For Virginia, Great Lakes mallards are the third most important source to the state, and make up 19 percent of Virginia’s mallard harvest.

Other Great Lakes Facts

The Great Lakes provide 37 million people with clean drinking water.
The Great Lakes are the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world, stretching more than 90,000 square miles.
The Great Lakes contain nearly one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water supply, and 95 percent of the U.S. supply—more than 6 quadrillion gallons!
If you spread the water from the Great Lakes evenly over the continental United States, the whole country would be under approximately 9.5 feet of water.
The Great Lakes are the crossroads of the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways, providing essential habitat for millions of migratory birds.
The Great Lakes drainage basin is home to an incredible diversity of plants and wildlife, including nearly 130 species and 50 natural communities that are considered imperiled or rare on a global scale.
An estimated 180 species of fish are native to the Great Lakes, including walleye, lake sturgeon and several varieties of trout, perch and bass.

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www.healthylakes.org