

North America's Inland Seas: The Great Lakes and Marine Science

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ABSTRACT

So vast that their shores have been called "the fifth coast of North America," the Great Lakes are the largest reservoir of fresh water in the world. True inland seas, the Great Lakes have been and continue to be of enormous political, economic, social, and scientific importance on both a continental and international level, yet they are largely "aqua incognita" to all but those fortunate or unfortunate enough to live and work on their margins. This paper considers some of the more surprising aspects of the Great Lakes, and where the study of the Lakes fits in the context of the marine science establishment. It also examines a number of information sources specific to the lakes, and speculates upon future possibilities in this area.

Paper not available at time of printing. For additional information contact the author.