

## (March 6, 2007) Congressional panel hears testimony about Great Lakes pollution

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Congressional representatives and experts warn that the world's largest surface freshwater system is under siege from a variety of threats and preservation efforts need more federal support.

U-S Representatives Mark Kirk, Judy Biggert, Dan Lipinski and Peter Roskam of Illinois listened to testimony given by seven experts while critters in the Shedd Aquarium's invasive species exhibit lurked behind them.

Menaces to the lakes range from the stinky and obvious, such as sewage, to the more obscure, like a new invasive species called bloody red shrimp.

Panelists also expressed concern about the steady introduction of new species into the ecosystem -- often through ballast water.