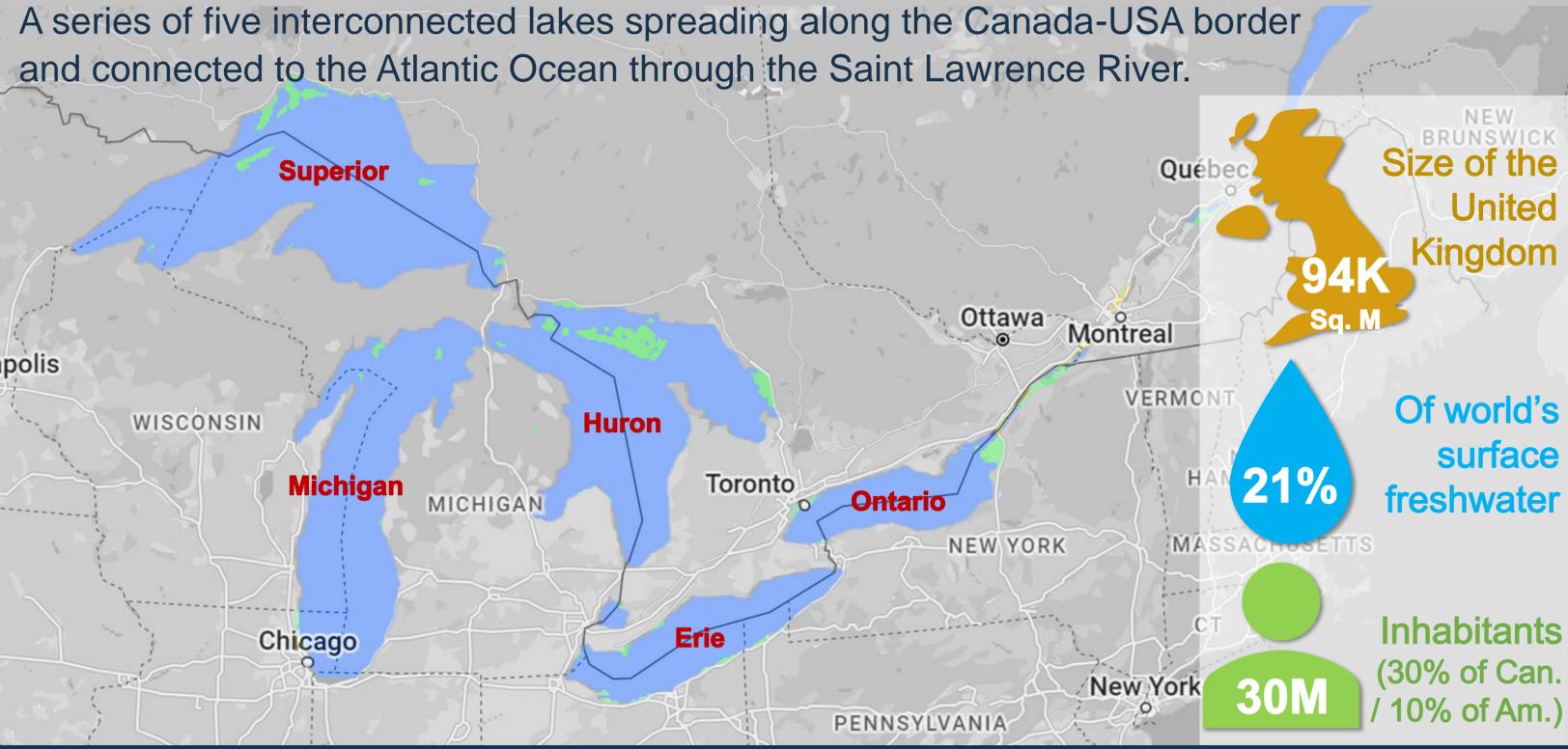


THE GREAT LAKES – A CLIMATE HAVEN?

What are the Great Lakes?

A series of five interconnected lakes spreading along the Canada-USA border and connected to the Atlantic Ocean through the Saint Lawrence River.



Importance of the Great Lakes

One of the most economically vibrant region in the US and Canada, crucial to both countries.



At first glance, a climate haven

A common assumption is that the Great Lakes are one of the safest regions to face climate change, a sort of haven where impacts will be limited and where the main impact will be to welcome climate refugees.

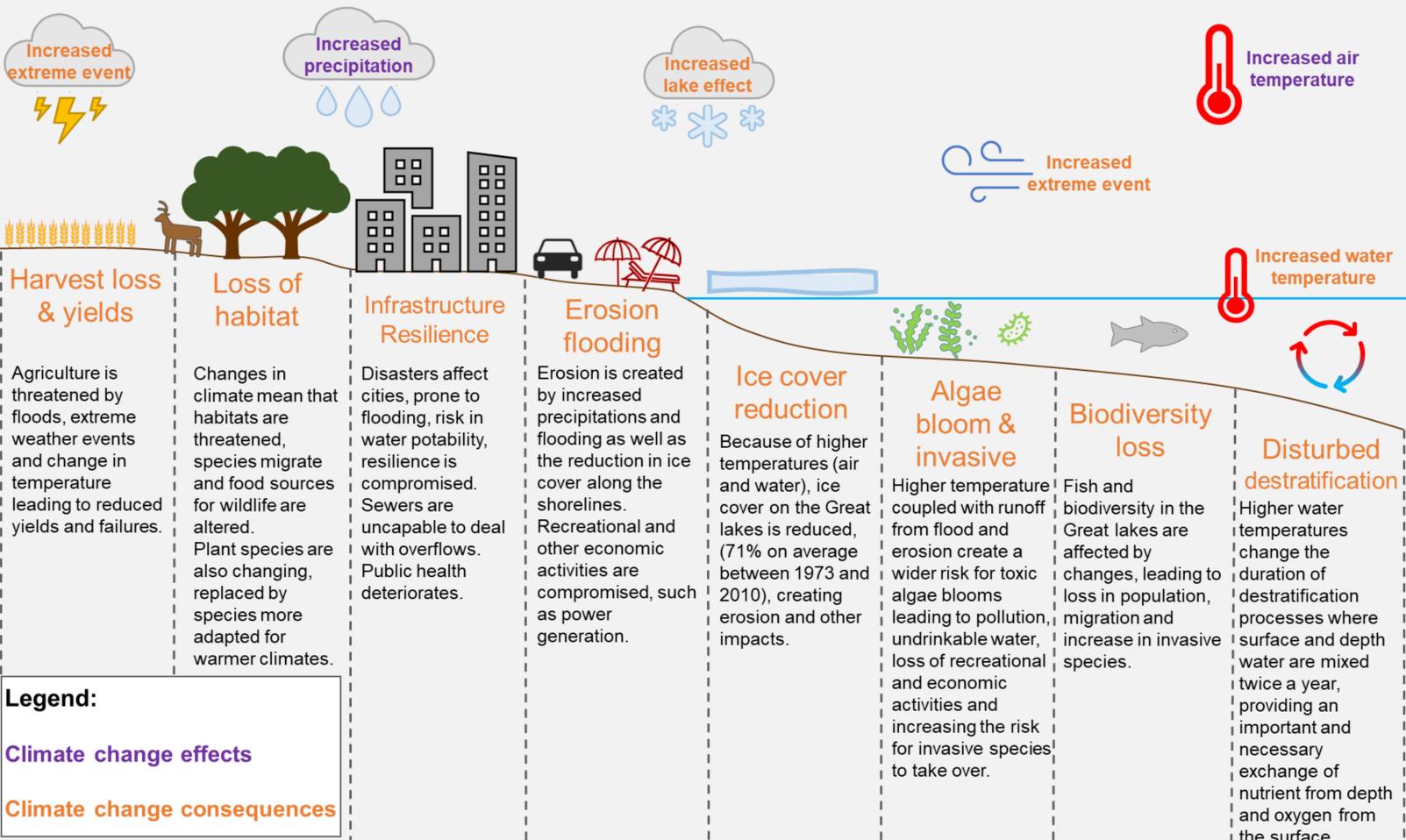
This assumption, mostly based on prejudices, relies on the fact that water is abundant, land is fertile, climate is more less temperate and a few degrees more might just be perfect for these winter storms and that sitting at 600 feet above sea level, there is no risk for it to disappear when sea level rise.

However, this is not true and the Great Lakes are actually very sensitive to climate change and its effects are already felt throughout.

Climate change in the Great Lakes

There are numerous studies showing the impacts of climate change on the Great Lakes region. The graphic below tries to summarize the principle causes and effects of climate change on the viability and resilience of the area.

The Great Lakes are a fragile ecosystem, subject to a strict balance, which if tipped off, can create ripple effects with devastating consequences for its inhabitants and biodiversity.



So now what?

Climate change is unlikely to spare any region in the world. Some might fare better but that is uncertain. Now that you understand the impact of climate change on the Great Lakes, continue advocating to preserve them. Get involved in conservation, fight against unbridled urban sprawl and never take what we have for granted. Stay vigilant and never lose hope.