



Bathymetry of Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair

Bathymetry is the science of measuring (soundings) and mapping (bathymetric maps) the depths of a water body (oceans, seas, lakes) to delineate the topography of their basins. Bathymetric maps are two-dimensional representations of the 3-dimensional shape of these basins. Large amounts of sounding data were obtained during geophysical surveys of the Great Lakes dating back to the mid-1800s. However, no bathymetric maps approaching the full resolution allowed by these data were produced until this collaborative project was established in the mid-1990s between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Canadian Hydrographic Service. The historic sounding databases from both the United States and Canada were used to create as complete and accurate a representation of Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair bathymetry as presently possible. A full color poster measuring 26x50 inches depicting the bathymetric contours of Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair is available (NGDC Report MGG-13). The map has a contour interval of 1 m and includes sidebar call-outs identifying key physiographic features of the lake bottoms. Color diffracting glasses are included with the poster for viewing with a slight 3-D effect. The full bathymetric data set is also available on CD-ROM. For information about availability and cost of these and other presently available Great Lakes bathymetry products (Lake Michigan, Lake Ontario), visit the NOAA National Geophysical Data Center website at:

<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/greatlakes/greatlakes.html>