

Smart Great Lakes 2.0

February 18 & 19, 2026

Burlington, Ontario

[Canada Centre for Inland Waters](#)



AGENDA

Wednesday, February 18

- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast and registration
- 10:00 a.m. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement
SGLi Co-Chairs Jennifer Boehme and Mary-Claire Buell
- 10:15 a.m. Purpose + Vision Refresh for SGLi 2.0
SGLi Co-Chairs Jennifer Boehme and Mary-Claire Buell
- 10:45 a.m. ML/AI as a Design Partner for the Great Lakes Observing System
Dani Jones, Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research
- 11:25 a.m. Beyond the Net: Holography as the Future of Great Lakes Zooplankton Monitoring
Ashley Ferns, University of Waterloo
- Noon Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Responsible AI in Environmental Agencies
Moderator: Paul Bzonek, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Jacob Brownscombe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Peter Lewis, Ontario Tech University
Graham Taylor, University of Guelph
- 2:00 p.m. Technology Advances for Informed Decision Making
Moderator: Max Herzog, Cleveland Water Alliance
Warren Currie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Nathalie Kuria, Trent University
Derek Niles, Orange Force Marine
Maggie Xenopoulos, Trent University
- 3:00 p.m. Break

- 3:15 p.m. Evolving Great Lakes Data Ecosystems
Moderator: Cindy Chu, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Kat Kavanagh, Water Rangers
Jacob Soter, SwimSmart Technology
Rick Wilson, Conservation Ontario
- 4:15 p.m. Day 1 Closing

Thursday, February 19

- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast and registration
- 9:30 a.m. Brief recap from Day 1
SGLi Co-Chairs Jennifer Boehme and Mary-Claire Buell
- 9:45 a.m. Strategy Adjustment Workshop
Katie Rousseau, Great Lakes Observing System
- Breakout Groups I:
- *Observations & Data Infrastructure*
 - *New Approaches to Data Sharing Challenges*
- Report Out From Breakout Groups
- 11:00 a.m. Break
- 11:15 a.m. Breakout Groups II
- *Data Science and AI Integration*
 - *Data User Communities and Services*
- Report Out From Breakout Groups
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Identification Session: What moves forward into SGLi 2.0?
SGLi Co-Chairs Jennifer Boehme and Mary-Claire Buell
- 3:00 p.m. Next Steps
SGLi Co-Chairs Jennifer Boehme and Mary-Claire Buell
- 3:30 p.m. Workshop Closing