

# Ohio's RAP Program

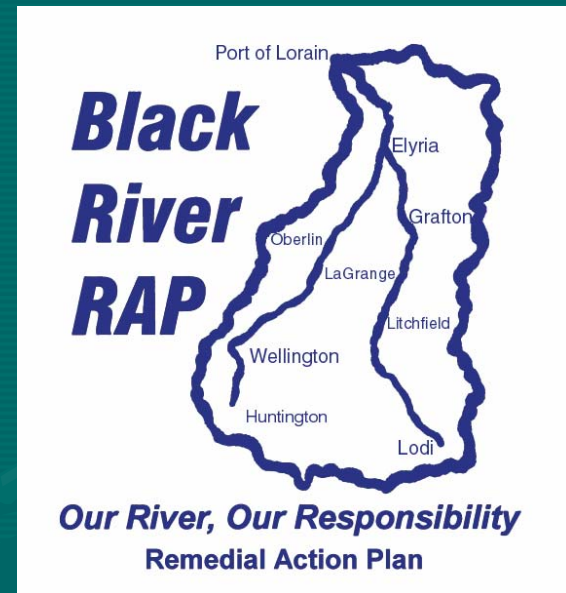
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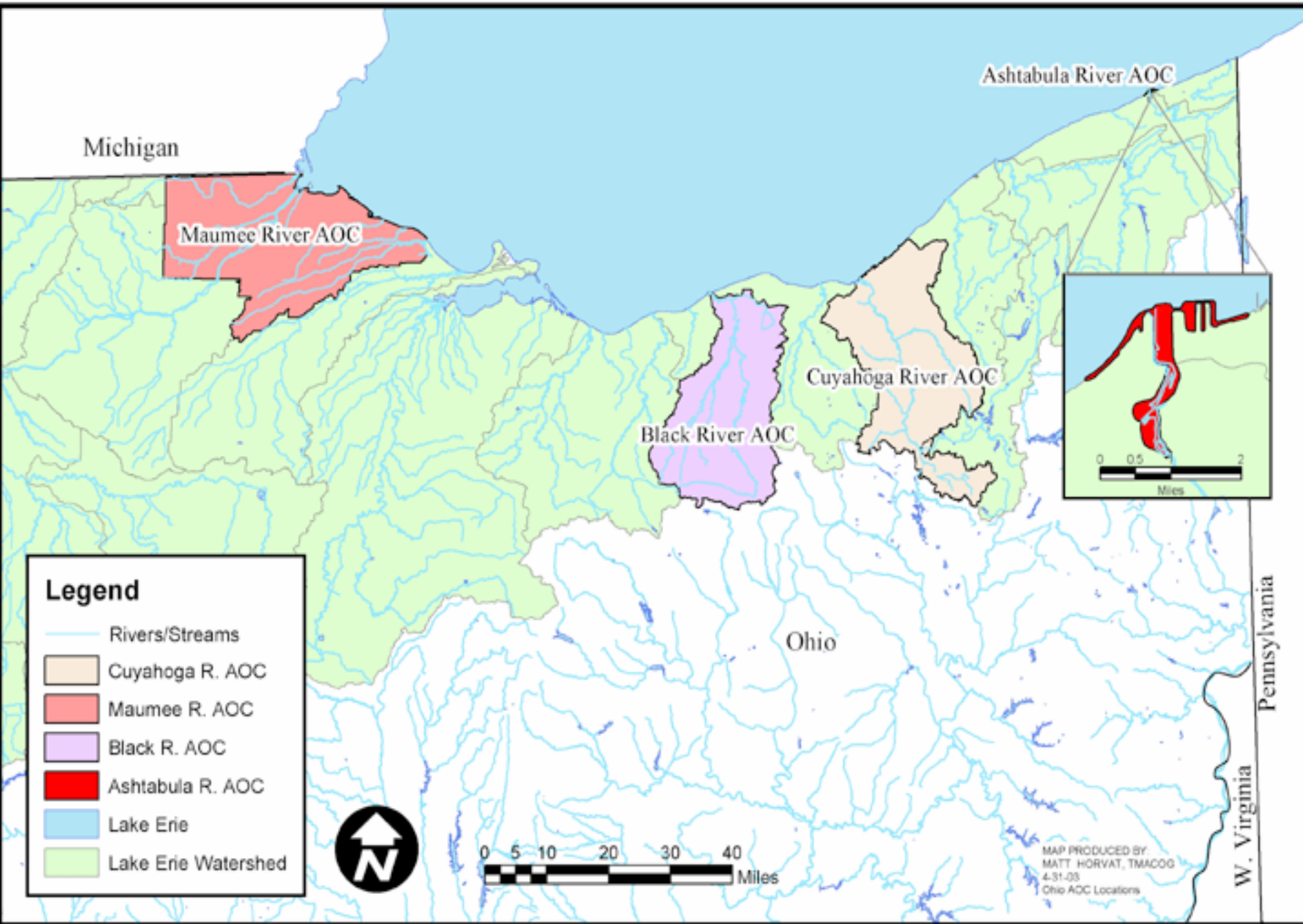
# Four Ohio Areas of Concern



Cuyahoga  
River RAP



# Location Map of Ohio Areas of Concern



# State Organization

- 4 Ohio EPA RAP Coordinators
- % time and funding varies annually
- 3.0 FTEs (90/10 fed/state)
- Technical support from others within the Ohio EPA

# Local Organization

- *Varies Depending on:*
  - *Issues*
  - *Availability of Resources*
  - *Public Interest*
  - *Size of AOC*

# Local Organization (cont.)

- Typically
  - Local chair
  - Local coordinator and/or staff
  - Local offices/staff funded independently from Ohio RAP program grants from USEPA

# Ohio RAP Approach

- Equal partners with local groups
- Share accountability
- Expect local organizations to actively participate in implementation/restoration
- Work with local groups to find funding sources, assist in grant writing, and setting up match
- Try to direct enforcement penalties, supplemental environmental projects, etc.



# December 2001

- Delisting Principles and Guidelines
- Allowed incremental delisting by AOC segment or by individual BUI
- Presented a new option to measure real progress

# Ohio Delisting Targets

- Develop common minimum state delisting targets and milestones
- Better align RAP requirements with those of other watershed programs (TMDL, 319 watershed, Ohio WQS, etc.)

# Status of Targets

- Wildlife Populations
- Wildlife Habitat
- Plankton
- Need to update and clarify

# Revised RAP Approach

- Reassess BUIs on subwatershed basis
- Compare to delisting targets
- Address unknowns (tainting, added costs, bird and animal deformities, others specific to one AOC)
- Re-designate/delist as needed

# Challenges

- Competing yet parallel programs
  - Watershed Action Plans
  - TMDLs
- Regional targets for wildlife populations and habitat
- Connection to Lake Erie

# Challenges (cont.)

- Monitoring to assess status or measure progress
- Funding for long term core support
- Focus not statewide
- Emphasis on local accountability took some responsibility away from State

# Challenges (cont.)

- Estimating date certain by which AOCs will be delisted
- Funding for high cost restoration projects and match
- Some AOCs may never be restored

# Successes

- Public outreach and education
- Ottawa River sediment remediation
- Habitat restoration projects
- Fish Tumor and Benthos in the Black
- Establishment of Subwatershed Stewardship
- Regulatory based improvements (WWTPs, CSO, landfill cleanups, NPDES, etc.)
- Great Lakes Legacy Act Projects