

Restoring Fish and Wildlife in Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern:

Establishing a Pathway for Action

Wednesday, July 21, 2004
Holiday Inn Express - Monroe
1225 Dixie Highway
Monroe, Michigan

OVERVIEW

This workshop will outline a process for achieving restoration goals and delisting fish and wildlife impairments in Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern. Workshop presentations will assess the status of restoration efforts for fish and wildlife in the Areas of Concern and provide a recommended "pathway" for establishing measurable targets for fish and wildlife habitat, populations, and benthic communities. The program will showcase successful local efforts; highlight opportunities to integrate habitat restoration into other remediation activities; and identify follow-up actions to assist public advisory councils and their partners in developing restoration plans for their Areas of Concern.

(For additional details, see the attached invitation and registration form, visit www.glc.org/spac/, or contact Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission, 734-971-9135, mdoss@glc.org.)

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. **Welcome, Introductions and Review of Agenda**

9:00 a.m. **Ecosystem Restoration: Guiding Principles and Practical Actions for Watershed Stewards**
Keith Bowers, Chair, Society for Ecological Restoration and President, Biohabitats, Inc.

This opening presentation will provide an introduction to the field of ecosystem restoration and outline practical actions that local groups can take at the watershed level.

9:30 a.m. **Restoration Planning for Fish and Wildlife in Michigan's Areas of Concern: A Preliminary Assessment and Guidance for Action**
Karen Rodriguez, Jamie Schardt, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO)

This session will illustrate the linkage between ecosystem restoration and Area of Concern delisting; present the findings of GLNPO's assessment of fish and wildlife restoration planning in Michigan's Areas of Concern; highlight common gaps and needs; and outline a recommended pathway for Remedial Action Plan groups to follow in developing fish and wildlife restoration plans and targets.

10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:30 a.m. **Programs and Methodologies for Establishing Restoration Targets for Fisheries and Benthic Communities**

Building on River Assessments for Michigan's Rivers

Liz Hay-Chmielewski, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division

Managing and Monitoring Wildlife Habitat and Populations in Michigan

Lori Sargent and Michael Bailey, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division

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Sponsors:



Programs and Methodologies for Establishing Restoration Targets for Fisheries and Benthic Communities *(continued)*

Assessing and Setting Targets for Benthic Communities
Reuben Goforth, Michigan Natural Features Inventory

Using Indices of Biological Integrity to Assess River, Wetland and Habitat Health
J. David Allan, University of Michigan
Kelly Wessell, Michigan State University
Don Uzarski, Annis Water Resources Institute, Grand Valley State University

Pulling it all Together: Establishing Baseline Statewide Delisting Targets for Beneficial Use Impairments in Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern
Sharon Baker, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

11:30 a.m. **Open Discussion**

12:00 Noon **Lunch**

A National Survey of Stream Restoration
J. David Allan, University of Michigan

Prof. Allan is an aquatic ecologist who specializes in the study and rivers within their watersheds. He is the author the widely used textbook, *Stream Ecology*.

1:15 p.m. **Practical Steps in Restoration Planning and Target Setting for Fish and Wildlife**

This session will discuss critical components in the planning/target setting process for fish and wildlife restoration. For each component, Keith Bowers will review how the activity fits into the ecosystem restoration process, technical requirements, costs, and other considerations. This will be followed by case studies of how the component has been applied to the ecosystem restoration process in Michigan's Areas of Concern.

Moderator: Keith Bowers

Vision, Goals and Objectives
Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Canadian Side of the Detroit River
Matthew Child, Essex Region Conservation Authority

Inventories and Assessments
Habitat Assessments for Muskegon Lake and White Lake
Mark Luttenton, Annis Water Resources Institute, Grand Valley State University

Project Design
Habitat Restoration in the Saginaw River/Bay Area of Concern
Lisa Williams, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Implementation
Implementing Marsh and Prairie Restoration in Sterling State Park in the River Raisin Area of Concern
Ray Fahlsing, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Monitoring and Indicators
Marsh Monitoring in Great Lakes Areas of Concern
Steve Timmermans, Bird Studies Canada

4:00 p.m. **An Integrated Approach to Developing Restoration Targets in the Muskegon Lake and White Lake Areas of Concern**

Richard Rediske, Annis Water Resources Institute, Grand Valley State University

4:30 p.m. **Open Discussion and Next Steps**

5:00 p.m. **Adjournment**

5:30 p.m. **Field trip to remediation sites on the River Raisin and picnic at Sterling State Park** *(optional)*

This optional field trip will include narrated visits to remediation sites on the River Raisin followed by a picnic dinner at Sterling State Park. Buses will depart from the hotel lobby at 5:30 p.m. and return by approximately 9:00 p.m. This event is open to workshop participants and their guests. There is a \$20 charge for the field trip and picnic and advance registration is required.