



Workshop Announcement:

*Restoring Fish and Wildlife in
Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern:
Establishing a Pathway for Action*

July 21, 2004 - Monroe, Michigan!

Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to invite you to an important upcoming workshop that will advance our efforts to restore fish and wildlife in Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern designated under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The workshop, titled *Restoring Fish and Wildlife in Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern: Establishing a Pathway for Action*, will be held on **Wednesday, July 21** at the Holiday Inn - Express in Monroe, Michigan, in the heart of the River Raisin Area of Concern. Please reserve this date, spread the word, and plan to attend!

The workshop will outline a process for developing – and advancing progress toward achieving – restoration goals for fish and wildlife impairments in Michigan's 14 Areas of Concern. Karen Rodriguez from U.S. EPA's Great Lakes National Program office will review the status of fish and wildlife restoration efforts in Great Lakes Areas of Concern and provide a recommended “pathway” for establishing measurable targets in this area. In addition, Keith Bowers, chair of the Society for Ecological Restoration, will discuss the field of ecosystem restoration and outline practical actions that local groups can take at the watershed level.

The workshop will review specific programs and methodologies for establishing measurable restoration targets for fish and wildlife habitat, populations, and benthic communities. This will include innovative new indices of biological integrity developed to assess the health of coastal wetlands, rivers and streams, and riparian habitat. Finally, we will discuss critical components in the restoration process for fish and wildlife, followed by case studies from Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern.

The workshop will provide important tools and guidance on developing science-based restoration goals for Michigan's Areas of Concern. With passage of the Great Lakes Legacy Act and accelerated efforts to restore and “delist” Great Lakes Areas of Concern, it is vital that we clearly identify our restoration goals and establish credible mechanisms for measuring progress in achieving them. In brief, we need to know where we are going and how we will know when we get there!

Following the workshop we have arranged an optional field trip to remediation sites on the River Raisin and a picnic dinner at Sterling State Park on Lake Erie.

The workshop registration deadline is Friday, July 16. There is a \$30 registration fee for the workshop, and a \$20 charge for the optional field trip and picnic. Additional logistical details, including overnight lodging and a map with directions, is provided on the back of this letter, and the workshop agenda and registration form are enclosed. These materials are also available online at www.glc.org/spac/.

We hope your summer is off to a good start and look forward to seeing you next month in the River Raisin Area of Concern. If you have questions about the workshop, please contact Matt Doss at the Great Lakes Commission at 734-971-9135, mdoss@glc.org.

Sincerely,

Kathy Evans, Chair
Statewide Public Advisory Council

Dan Stefanski, Chair
River Raisin Public Advisory Council