



Guidance for Delisting Michigan Areas of Concern

Michigan Department of
Environmental Quality



Why statewide Guidance?

- Initially no specific criteria for listing/delisting
- Some AOCs and IJC developed water use goals/general guidelines
 - not specific enough
 - sought DEQ input on what's acceptable



What is the Guidance document?

Two parts to the Guidance:

1. Process for tracking restoration progress, removing beneficial use impairments (BUIs), and formally recommending delisting
2. Individual restoration criteria for each of the 14 BUIs



Process (continued)

Tracking:

- Statewide or approved local criteria apply to all designated BUIs in an AOC
- MDEQ will do RAP Updates every 2 years
 - Different from historical updates
 - Brief summaries of remedial actions and assessments during the previous 2 years



Process (continued)

Removing BUIs:

- Assessment indicates restoration criteria has been met
- Review of data/documentation by technical team, PAC, and public
- MDEQ, with PAC, request concurrence from EPA



Process (continued)

Delisting:

- After all BUIs removed, preparation of a draft Final RAP Report
- Steps from the USPC Delisting Guidance – tailored to Michigan AOC program



Process (continued)

Special Considerations

- Binational/shared jurisdiction AOCs
- Time of restoration recovery
- Removal of BUIs for entire AOC
- Boundaries



Restoration Criteria

Criteria for each BUI have 4 main parts:

- Significance in Michigan AOCs
- Restoration Criteria and Assessment
- Rationale
- State Programs and Authorities for Assessing Criteria



Restoration Criteria (continued)

Goal was to have criteria which are:

- Specific and measurable
- Based on water quality standards as much as possible
- Able to address variation in AOCs and types of BUIs



Restoration Criteria (continued)

How will it work?

- For 12 BUIs – have met these goals
- Criteria for these 12 BUIs is ready today for assessing restoration success in MI's AOCs



Restoration Criteria (continued)

For the 2 fish and wildlife BUIs – state's criteria is a process for setting local targets

- Lays out necessary steps for restoration plans
- Local PACs will make decisions on what and where restoration will occur



Role of Monitoring & Assessment

- Assessment is a key component of the restoration criteria
- No new monitoring required to assess BUIs
 - ongoing state monitoring and grant programs will provide necessary resources



Next Steps

- Road Show
- PAC decisions on adoption of statewide criteria for non-fish and wildlife BUIs
- Development of local fish and wildlife criteria



Next Steps (continued)

Road Show

- Overview of the Guidance and answer specific questions/issues
- Work with PAC on decisions for adopting criteria
- Work on plans for developing fish and wildlife criteria
- Final input on boundary maps



Next Steps (continued)

PAC Decisions:

- Adoption of state criteria or development of local criteria
- Breakout session this afternoon to discuss this



Next Steps (continued)

Development of Fish and Wildlife Criteria

- 12 of MI's AOCs need to develop local fish and wildlife restoration plans
- This will be a big focus of activity in the coming year
- Will need other agencies/stakeholders to bring technical expertise, resources, etc.