

ABSTRACT

Overview of Lake St. Clair Canadian Management Plan Issues and Recommendations

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The Lake St. Clair Canadian Watershed Coordination Council approach to identifying issues and developing recommendations required the completion of a technical report followed by an extensive stakeholder consultation process to obtain input into the development of the Canadian watershed recommendations. The consultation with stakeholders and the development of the recommendations was completed in December 2006. The final product is a Lake St. Clair Canadian Watershed Management Plan that complements efforts in the United States portion of the Lake St. Clair watershed.

Many of the recommendations presented are not new, but reflect support for ongoing programs and/or policies whose implementation also benefits the Lake St. Clair watershed. By including recommendations that encompass programs/policies already being implemented, the Council hoped to show that the implementation of these programs/policies will also address the management issues identified through the Lake St. Clair Canadian Watershed Technical Report, even if they were not originally designed or imagined to do so. It is the hope of the Council that by demonstrating these added benefits support for the continuation of these programs will be increased.

The recommendations are organized using the same categories as the technical report (Land Use Management, Commercial Navigation and Recreational Boating, Sources and Loads, Human Health, Habitat Biodiversity, Fishing and Hunting, Monitoring, Scientific Studies and Data Management) with the addition of a Governance category for those recommendations that relate to coordination, communication, government funding, and enforcement of regulations. This arbitrary approach was chosen as it provides a continuum from the technical report to the management plan. Some of the management recommendations apply to more than one category and some are common to all categories. This reflects the inter-connectedness of both the Lake St. Clair watershed and our human impact on it; the implementation of one recommendation can affect many different issues within the Lake St. Clair system.