



***Developing a
Comprehensive Management Plan
for Lake St. Clair
and the
St. Clair River***

**Presentation Prepared by
the Great Lakes Commission**
August, 2002

Presentation Overview

- **Resource Overview**
- **Environmental Issues**
- **Existing Management Initiatives**
- **Project Authorization**
- **Study Goals**
- **Methods**
- **Management Plan Focus Area**
- **Management Plan Chapters and Format**
- **Schedule**
- **Progress Report**
- **Contacts**



Resource Overview

- **Binational resource**
- **Important recreational and commercial uses**
 - recreational boating
 - angling
 - commercial navigation link to upper Great Lakes
- **Important ecological and biodiversity values**
 - fishery resources
 - migrating waterfowl
 - wetlands and habitat (St. Clair River delta)

Environmental Issues

- Beach closures/human health threats from bacterial contamination
- Water quality and fish and wildlife contamination from tainted sediments
- Nonpoint source pollution
- Buildup of aquatic vegetation
- Exotic species
- Loss of wetlands and habitat
- Lack of environmental monitoring

Existing Management Initiatives

- **St. Clair, Clinton River Remedial Action Plans (RAPs)**
- **Lakewide Management Plans for Lake Huron and Lake Erie**
- **Four Party Letter of Commitment for the Binational AOCs and Lake St. Clair**
- **Binational Lake St. Clair management initiative**
- **“State of the Lake” conferences**
- **Local initiatives**

Project Authorization

- **Section 426 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999**
- **Calls for a comprehensive management plan for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River**
- **Plan is to identify sources and causes of environmental degradation, monitoring of contamination levels and dissemination of information to public authorities and others**
- **Plan is to be developed in coordination with state and local governments and appropriate federal and provincial authorities of Canada**

Study Goals

- **Synthesize existing studies, plans and recommendations**
- **Generate consensus on priorities**
- **Outline a cohesive management framework**
- **Identify implementation responsibilities**
- **Identify implementation costs and resource needs**
- **Focus local activism**
- **Contribute to a binational Lake St. Clair management initiative**

Methods

- **Cooperative, binational approach**
- **Leverage expertise from U.S. and Canadian agencies and other parties**
- ***Project coordination* by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Great Lakes Commission**
- ***Project Management Team* with federal, state/provincial and local agencies and tribal authorities**
- ***Advisory Committee* for stakeholder involvement**
- ***Technical Workgroups* to draft management plan chapters**
- **“State of Lake” conference for public presentation on draft management plan**

Management Plan Focus Area

The Lake St. Clair/St. Clair River management plan is taking an ecosystem approach that considers the full range of issues affecting the lake and river. The plan will assess impacts resulting from conditions in the Lake St. Clair/St. Clair River watershed, as illustrated in the map in the next slide. The plan's primary focus, however, will be on the lake and river and immediate coastal areas. The management plan will address the tributary watersheds where feasible, while recognizing that they are, or will be, the subject of more detailed watershed management plans.

Management Plan Focus Area



Management Plan Chapters

- 3. State of Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River**
- 4. A Vision for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River**
- 5. Sources and Causes of Environmental Degradation**
- 6. Habitat and Biodiversity**
- 7. Human Health, Beach Closures and Drinking Water**
- 8. Land Use and Coastal Management**
- 9. Recreational Boating and Commercial Navigation**
- 10. Monitoring and Data Management**
- 11. Economic Benefits and Impacts**
- 12. Achieving our Vision**

Chapters 3 - 8 will include:

- An overview of current status and trends**
- A brief synopsis of key issues**
- Goals, objectives and recommendations**

Schedule

- Jan.- Dec., 2002: Technical Workgroups Meet**
- January, 2003: Draft Plan Complete**
- Spring, 2003: Final Draft Plan Released for Public Review**
- Spring, 2003: “State of the Lake” Conference**
- Fall, 2003: Final Plan Complete**

Progress Report

- **Project Management Team met in September, November and May**
- **Advisory Committee met in November and May**
- **Preliminary plan outline and format developed**
- **Technical Workgroups convened**
- **Preliminary draft chapters completed**
- **Website developed: <http://www.glc.org/stclair/>**

Contacts

**Patrick Kuhne, Project Manager, Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, 313-226-6767,
*Patrick.A.Kuhne@usace.army.mil***

**Colette Luff, Principle Planner, Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, 313-226-7485,
*Colette.M.Luff@usace.army.mil***

**Jennifer Vincent, Environment Canada, Environmental Conservation Branch 905-336-4477,
*jenn.vincent@ec.gc.ca***

Matt Doss, Program Manager, Great Lakes Commission, 734-665-9135, *mdoss@glc.org*