

Briefing for the Michigan Legislature

Leveraging the Great Lakes as an
Economic Engine for Michigan

Status Report on Restoration Efforts in
Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern

Welcome!



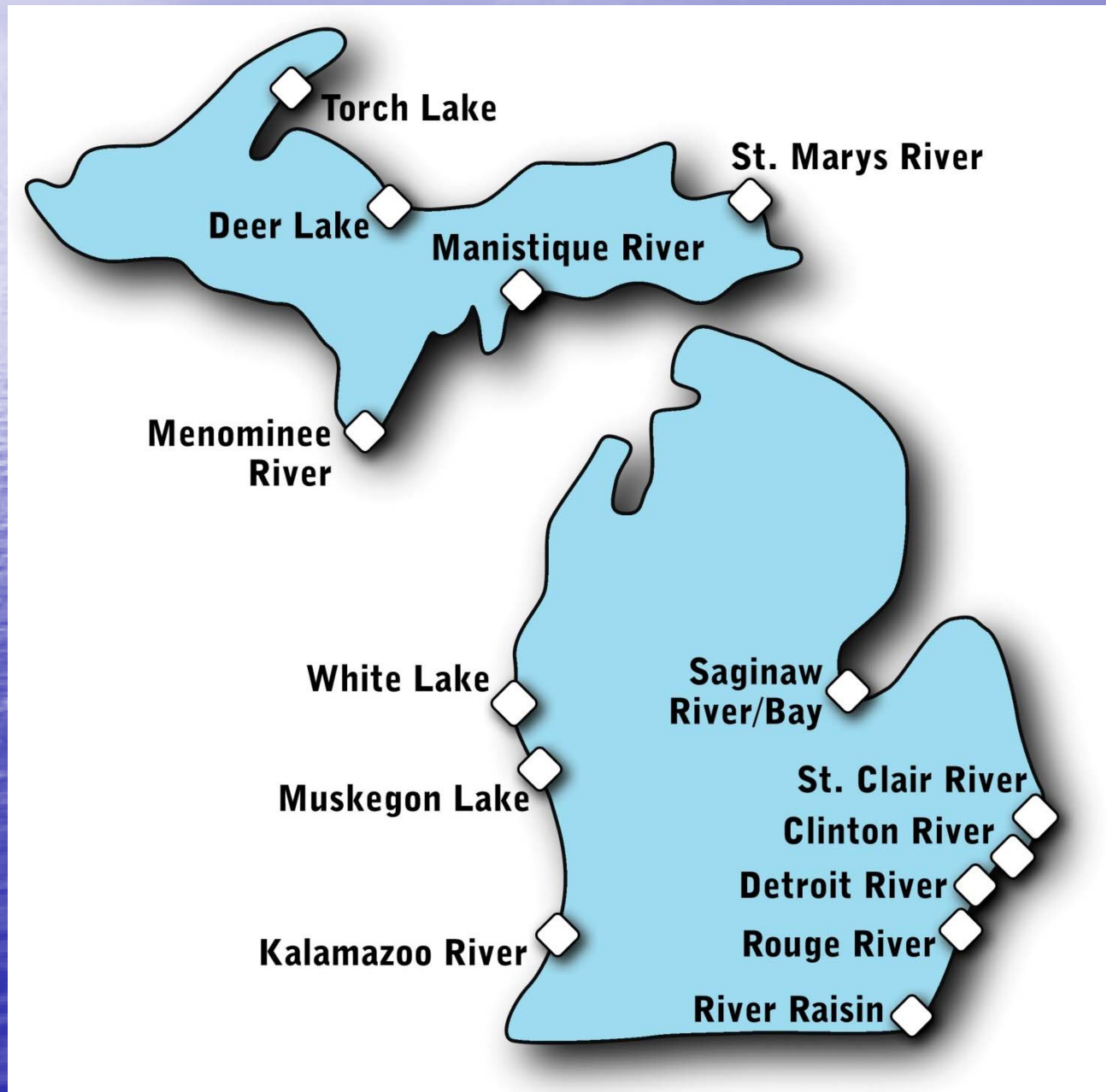
Economic Benefits from the Great Lakes

- \$50 billion in long-term benefits from restoring the Great Lakes
- Cleaning up toxic sediments to raise coastal property values by \$12-19 billion
- Hunting, fishing and wildlife watching generate \$4 billion annually in Michigan
- Maximizing the Great Lakes as an “amenity” part of an agenda for regional economic transformation



Sport fishing on the Detroit River

Michigan's 14 Great Lakes Areas of Concern



A photograph of a sailboat on a lake at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange glow. The sailboat's mast and rigging are silhouetted against the sky. The water reflects the sunset colors. The text is overlaid on the image in white and blue.

Overview of the Great Lakes Areas of Concern Program

- Established in 1987 under the U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
- 43 Areas of Concern designated in the Great Lakes
- 26 in U.S. waters, 17 in Canada, 5 binational waterways
- 14 Areas of Concern in Michigan, more than any other state
- Two-thirds of Michigan's counties affected by an AOC

Environmental Conditions in the Areas of Concern

- **Major causes**
 - ◆ contaminated sediments
 - ◆ nonpoint source pollution
 - ◆ combined and sanitary sewer overflows
 - ◆ past industrial practices
- **Major impacts**
 - ◆ fish consumption advisories
 - ◆ dredging restrictions
 - ◆ beach closings
 - ◆ loss of fish and wildlife habitat
 - ◆ public health concerns

Cleaning Up the Areas of Concern

- Remedial Action Plans developed for each Area of Concern
- Restoration – or “delisting” – criteria set measurable cleanup goals
- Public Advisory Councils assist with cleanup process at local level
- Statewide Public Advisory Council advises on statewide program
- Areas of Concern Program administered by DEQ

Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy



To Restore and Protect the Great Lakes



December 2005



We have plans...

FY2010 – FY2014

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan



February 21, 2010

White House Council on Environmental Quality
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 U.S. Department of Commerce
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
 U.S. Department of Interior
 U.S. Department of the Army
 U.S. Department of State
 U.S. Department of Transportation
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

*MI Great Lakes Plan:
Our Path to Protect, Restore, and Sustain
Michigan's Natural Treasures*

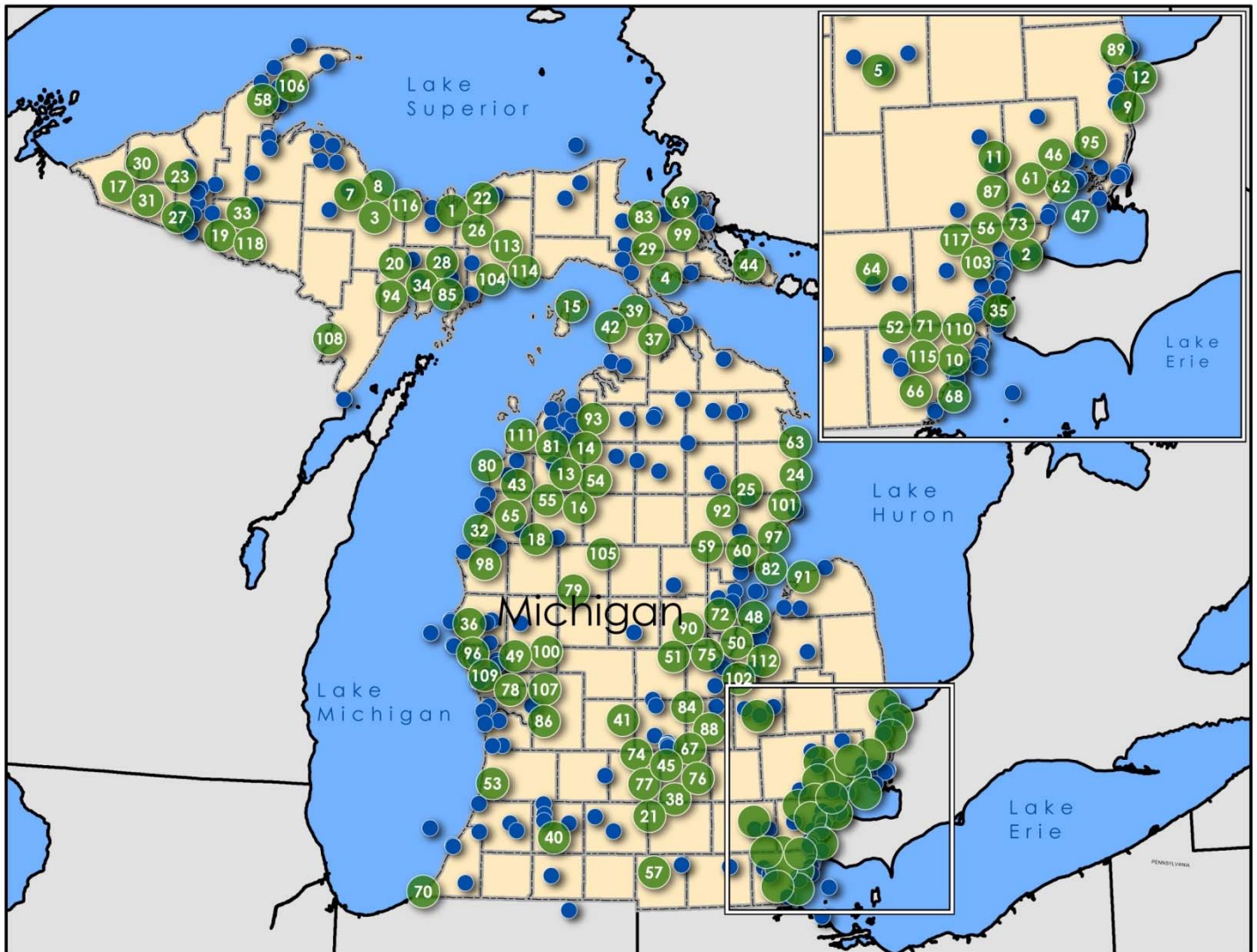
www.michigan.gov/deqgreatlakes

Prepared by the Office of the Great Lakes
 Michigan



And now we're taking action!

Over \$160 million for nearly 400 restoration projects in the first three years of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative!



The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: An Opportunity of a Generation!



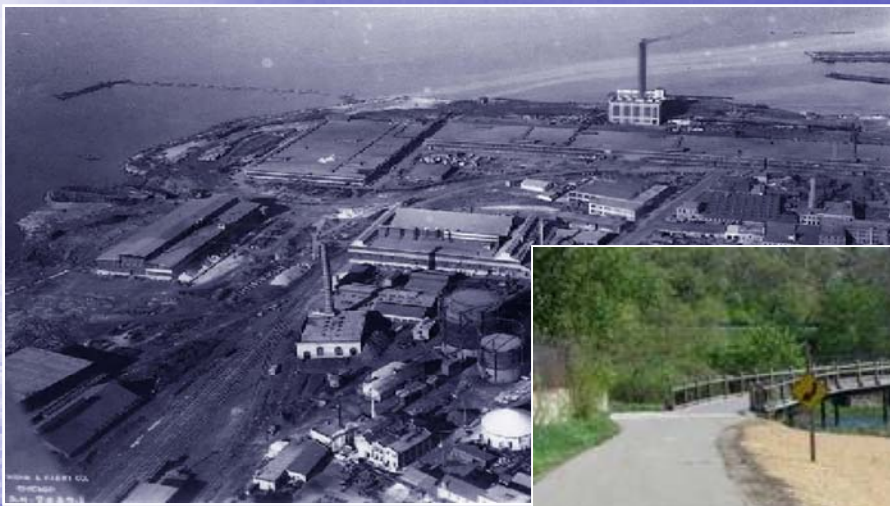
- **\$2.2 billion initiative to implement our regional restoration plan**
- **Administered by U.S. EPA in collaboration with federal agencies, the states, and others**
- **Guided by an action plan with performance measures**
- **Cleaning up the AOCs is a top priority**

Successes

- **Cleaning up toxic sediments**
- **Leveraging federal funds**
- **Establishing science-based cleanup goals**
- **Documenting progress**
- **Restoring beneficial uses**
- **Enhancing recreational & tourism opportunities**
- **Laying the foundation for shoreline development**
- **Removing areas from the federal list of “toxic hot spots”**

Generating Economic Benefits

The Muskegon Lake Habitat Restoration Project will generate \$66 million in economic benefits over 10 years, attract 65,000 new visitors annually and raise property values by \$12 million.



Remediation to restoration: Taking communities off the list of “toxic hotspots”

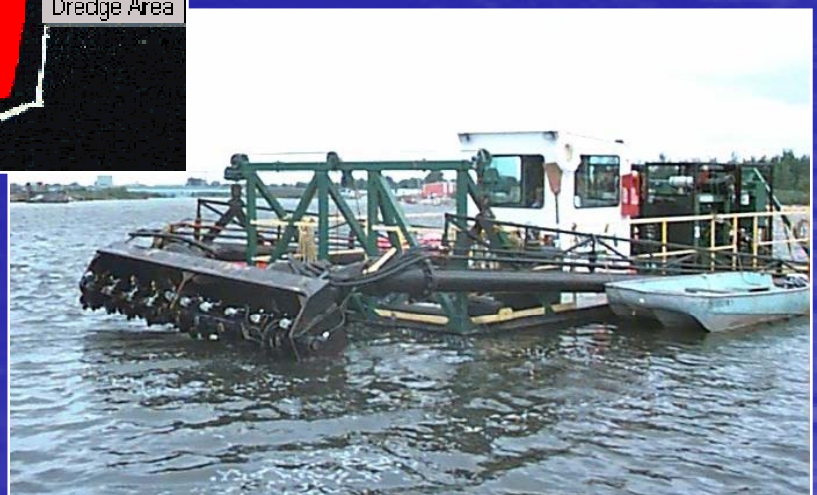
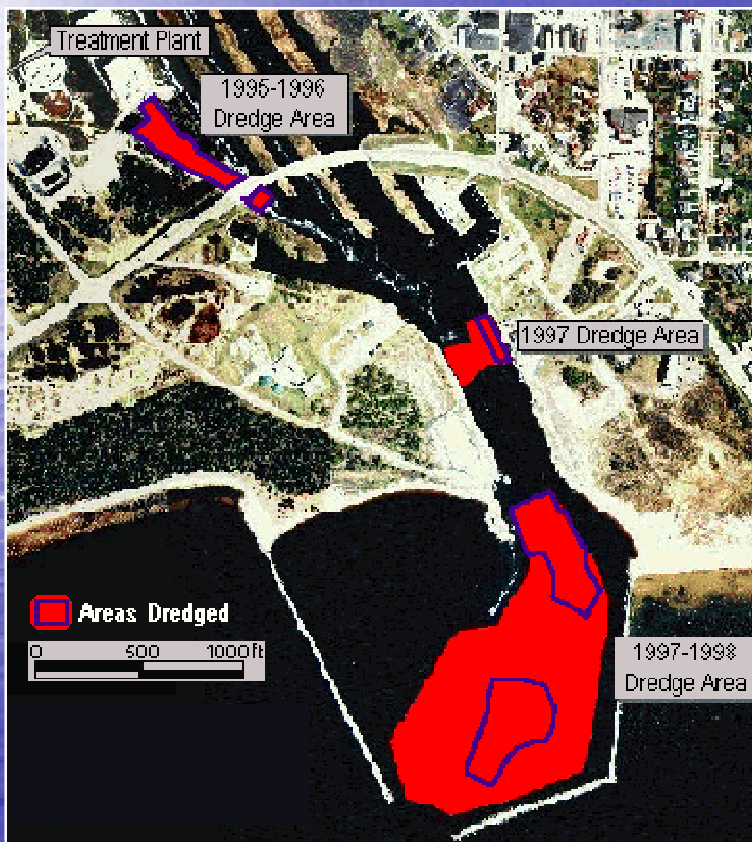
After remediating contaminated sediments in the River Raisin, 6 dams will be removed or bypassed to restore fish habitat and boat access from Lake Erie to Dundee. This and other restoration work will help remove the river from the list of Great Lakes “toxic hotspots.”



←
Visualization of rock
arch rapids in Monroe
on the River Raisin

Solving big environmental problems

More than 140,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediments were removed from the Manistique River and harbor from 1994-2000. With this major pollution source cleaned up, beneficial uses have been restored and other remaining problems are being addressed.



**The Statewide
Public Advisory
Council thanks you
for attending and
appreciates your
help in keeping the
Great Lakes great!**

