

St. Marys AOC Habitat Restoration

Status of the St. Marys Area of Concern

- In 1987 Areas of Concern (AOCs) were designated under the U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement based on the presence of impairments to beneficial uses (BUIs), such as restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption, loss of fish and wildlife habitat, etc.
- In 1988 the community came together to form a bi-national public advisory committee (BPAC) to identify projects to address these impairments.
- In 1992 a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was developed that included specific information about the cause and extent of the impairments in the St. Marys River.
- The St. Marys River RAP identified 10 of the possible 14 BUIs to be addressed for de-listing the AOC.
- In 2002 specific actions were identified by the Stage 2 RAP to address the BUIs.
- Separate, but complementary, restoration actions were developed for the US and Canada.
- Implementation of the Little Rapids Restoration Project (LRRP) completes all major *anticipated* construction and restoration work in the U.S.
- The US BUIs are expected to be addressed by 2019; actions on the Canadian side of the St. Mary's River AOC are expected to be complete by 2025.

For more information contact:

Heather Braun, Project Manager for Habitat Restoration
Great Lakes Commission, 734-971-9135, hbraun@glc.org

U.S. Beneficial Use Impairments at the St. Marys River

Beneficial Use Impaired	Status
Bird or animal deformities or reproductive problems	Removed
Degradation of Aesthetics	Removed
Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat	Addressed by the LRRP
Degraded Fish and Wildlife Populations	Addressed by the LRRP
Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption	Impaired
Fish tumors or other deformities	Impaired
Degradation of Benthos	Impaired
Restrictions on Dredging Activities	Impaired
Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae	Impaired
Beach Closings	Impaired

Updated June 2015

The Little Rapids Restoration Project is the sole action needed to remove the remaining habitat related BUIs in the U.S.



Learn more at <http://bit.ly/LittleRapidsRestoration>