



# 2016 Areas of Concern Conference

## March 2-3, 2016

### University of Michigan-Dearborn, University Center

**DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2**

WiFi Network: umd-guest  
Password: 2EF-FF4-D78

**All Plenary sessions will take place in Kochoff Hall. Partitions will be deployed in Kochoff to create breakout sessions A, B and C. Vendor tables are located north of Kochoff Hall in the concourse.**

DAY 1 SCHEDULE		LOCATION
8:30 am - 9:30 am	<b>Registration and Light Refreshments</b>	University Center Concourse
9:30 am - 11:00 am	<b>Morning Plenary</b>	Kochoff Hall
11:00 am - 11:15 am	<b>Break</b>	Concourse
11:15 am - 12:30 pm	<b>Plenary Session</b>	Kochoff Hall
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	<b>Buffet Lunch</b>	Concourse and Kochoff Hall
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Breakout Sessions A</b>	Kochoff Hall — A, B, C
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	<b>Break</b>	Concourse
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	<b>Breakout Sessions B</b>	Kochoff Hall — A, B, C
5:00 pm	<b>Adjourn</b>	

**9:30 am Welcoming Remarks**

David Susko, Director, Environmental Interpretive Center, University of Michigan-Dearborn  
Jon Allan, Director, Office of Great Lakes, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

**9:45 am AOC Program Update**

Chris Korleski, Director, Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO), U.S. EPA

**10:15 am Interactive Polling Session**

*Use interactive devices to poll the audience on key issues and concerns in the implementation of the AOC program.*

Facilitator: Matt Doss, Policy Director, Great Lakes Commission

**11:00 am Break**

**11:15 am Getting Work Done at AOCs**

*Update on Annex One of Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement*

Wendy Carney, Deputy Director, U.S. EPA-GLNPO

*How are the Federal GLRI agencies implementing the AOC program?*

Marc Tuchman, U.S. EPA-GLNPO

**11:45 am GLRI Technical Support at AOCs: Success Stories and How to Use this Resource at your AOC**

*How does technical support funding help AOCs develop their list of management actions? What are specific examples of this support that have set the stage to implement management actions?*

Facilitator: Ted Smith, U.S. EPA-GLNPO

Panelists: Amy Roe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
Tony Friona, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Julie Sims, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,  
Edward Roseman, U.S. Geologic Survey,

**12:15 pm AOC Success Stories: Short videos of GLRI funded AOC work in the Great Lakes Basin**

Moderator: John Perrecone, U.S. EPA-GLNPO

**12:30 pm Buffet Lunch**

**1:30 pm Breakout Sessions A—Kochoff Hall:**

<b>Session 1: BUI Removal Process</b>	Room: A
<i>What steps are followed in the BUI Removal process and what are some suggested items to include in the BUI Removal document?</i>	
Moderators: Rick Hobrla, MDEQ, Office of the Great Lakes and John Perrecone, U.S. EPA-GLNPO	
<b>Session 2: Maintenance and Monitoring of GLRI Habitat Restoration Projects</b>	Room: B
<i>Immediate and long-term monitoring and maintenance of habitat restoration projects are critical to the establishment and continuing success of these important projects. The panel will discuss the programmatic, funding, and technical challenges of developing and implementing monitoring and maintenance plans for GLRI habitat restoration projects under a variety of funding scenarios.</i>	
Moderators: Scott Cieniawski, U.S. EPA-GLNPO and Julie Sims, NOAA	
Panelists: Nelson French, MPCA Jason Hill, Ducks Unlimited Carl Platz, USACE	
<b>Session 3: Progress on Remediation to Restoration to Revitalization</b>	Room: C
<i>The goal for the session is to use audience participation to gain a better understanding of what revitalization activities are occurring in AOC communities, and how they are related to ongoing remediation and restoration efforts. Please bring your revitalization stories to share!</i>	
Moderators: Joel Hoffman and Katie Williams, Office of Research and Development, U.S. EPA	
Panelist: Chris De Sousa, Ryerson University	

**3:00 pm Break**

**3:30 pm Breakout Sessions B—Kochoff Hall:**

<b>Session 4: Delisting AOCs Under the New Water Quality Agreement.</b>	Room: C
<i>Have you ever wondered how an AOC gets delisted? This session will provide an overview of the steps involved in the delisting process including the new requirements created by the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.</i>	
Moderator: Wendy Carney, U.S. EPA-GLNPO	
<b>Session 5: BUI Verification Monitoring: How to monitor, evaluate, &amp; expedite removal of BUIs</b>	Room: B
<i>Data collected by various agencies has led to over 60 BUI removals since the start of the AOC program - over 40 since the start of the GLRI in 2010. This session will ask, "What has been successful to date and what improvements can be made in monitoring programs?" It will present the larger picture of BUI monitoring and this session will not be laying out the "answer" per se as much as laying out the issues for discussion.</i>	
Moderator: Jeff Schaeffer, USGS, Great Lakes Science Center	
Panelists: Carl Ruetz, Grand Valley State University Joe Bohr, MDEQ Barb Scudder-Eikenberry, USGS, WI Water Science Center	
<b>Session 6: Outreach and Communication in the AOC Program: Use of Social Media to Engage the Public.</b>	Room: A
<i>Social media is an important form of communication in AOCs. We'll take a look at real examples of successful social media applications from AOC practitioners in the Great Lakes. This session will also discuss best management practices and provide a set of take-home guidelines for improving communication efforts.</i>	
Moderators: Caitie Nigrelli, IL/IN Sea Grant and Allison Nowotarski, U.S. EPA, Region 5, Office of External Communications	

**5:00 pm Adjourn**



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DAY 2 SCHEDULE		LOCATION
8:00 am - 8:15 am	<b>Reconvene, Review Agenda</b>	Kochoff Hall
8:15 am - 9:00 am	<b>Plenary Session</b>	Kochoff Hall
9:00 am - 10:30 am	<b>Breakout Sessions C</b>	Kochoff Hall — A, B, C
10:30 am - 10:45 am	<b>Break</b>	Concourse
10:45 am - 12:30 pm	<b>Plenary Session</b>	Kochoff Hall
12:30 pm	<b>Adjourn</b>	

**8:15 am      The Return of the Sturgeon: Success Stories in the Great Lakes**  
*With a diverse group of panelists working on wide ranging issues we will look at: recreating lost spawning and nursery habitat, innovative fish passage on a large river system, head-start and reintroduction programs involving stream-side rearing, and changing contaminants in long lived fish. Using “Collective Impact” principles, partnerships have been the key to this success story.*

Moderator: Jim Boase, USFWS  
 Panelists: Dawn Dittman, USGS, Tunison Laboratory  
                   Mike Thomas, MDNR  
                   Marty Holtgren, MDNR  
                   John Lindgren, MNDNR

**9:00 am      Breakout Sessions C—Kochoff Hall:**

<b>Session 7: Understanding and Engaging AOC Communities: What does Social Science Tell Us?</b>	<b>Room: A</b>
<p><i>Most environmental problems can be viewed as social problems. The incorporation of social science into AOC management and outreach allows us access to a more complete set of problem-solving tools. Social scientists from across the Great Lakes will share their research and decision-making implications for AOCs.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Caitie Nigrelli, IL/IN Sea Grant                      Panelists: Nicole Machuca, College of Charleston                                        Katie Williams, U.S. EPA-ORD                                        Kaitlyn Hornik, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign                                        Sherwood Smith, Avenue ISR</p>	
<b>Session 8: BUI Session: Habitat &amp; Populations BUIs: Restoration Targets, Management Actions and Assessment Criteria</b>	<b>Room: B</b>
<p><i>As with all BUIs, removing the Habitat and Populations BUIs requires overcoming both technical and policy challenges. This session will give insight on key actors, scoping, technical information and stages of the BUI removal process specific to the Loss of Fish &amp; Wildlife Habitat and Degraded Fish &amp; Wildlife Populations BUIs.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Julie Sims, NOAA                      Panelists: Al Steinman, Grand Valley State University                                        John Riley, MDEQ                                        Mandy Annis, USFWS                                        Megan O’Brien, U.S. EPA-GLNPO, ORISE</p>	
<b>Session 9: Great Lakes Legacy Act: The Role of Non-Federal Sponsors</b>	<b>Room: C</b>
<p><i>This session will give insight into the roles that non-federal sponsors play in Great Lakes Legacy Act projects. Perspectives from both industry and states will be provided.</i></p> <p>Moderators: Marc Tuchman, U.S. EPA-GLNPO and Steven C. Nadeau, Sediment Management Work Group/Honigman                      Panelists: Mike Alexander, MDEQ                                        Scott Cieniawski, U.S. EPA-GLNPO                                        Mark Loomis, U.S. EPA-GLNPO</p>	

- 10:30 am**      **Break**
- 10:45 am**      **Lessons Learned:** *Presentation by state and local AOC leaders on how to develop and implement management actions for delisting.*  
Moderator: Marc Tuchman, U.S. EPA-GLNPO  
Panelists: Nelson French, MPCA  
              Anne Vaara, Clinton River AOC  
              Kendra Axness, WDNR, Office of the Great Lakes  
              AmyJo Klei, Ohio EPA
- 11:30 am**      **Rouge River AOC Projects and Successes**  
Jennifer Tewkesbury, MDEQ and Aimee LaLonde-Norman, Friends of the Rouge
- 11:50 am**      **AOC Program Question and Answer Forum.**  
Facilitator: Marc Tuchman, U.S. EPA-GLNPO
- 12:15 pm**      **Wrap-up:** *Immediate Evaluation via Interactive Poll and Follow-up Actions*  
Facilitator: John Perrecone, U.S. EPA-GLNPO
- 12:30 pm**      **Adjourn**

We would like to thank the following organizations who have helped make this conference a success:



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