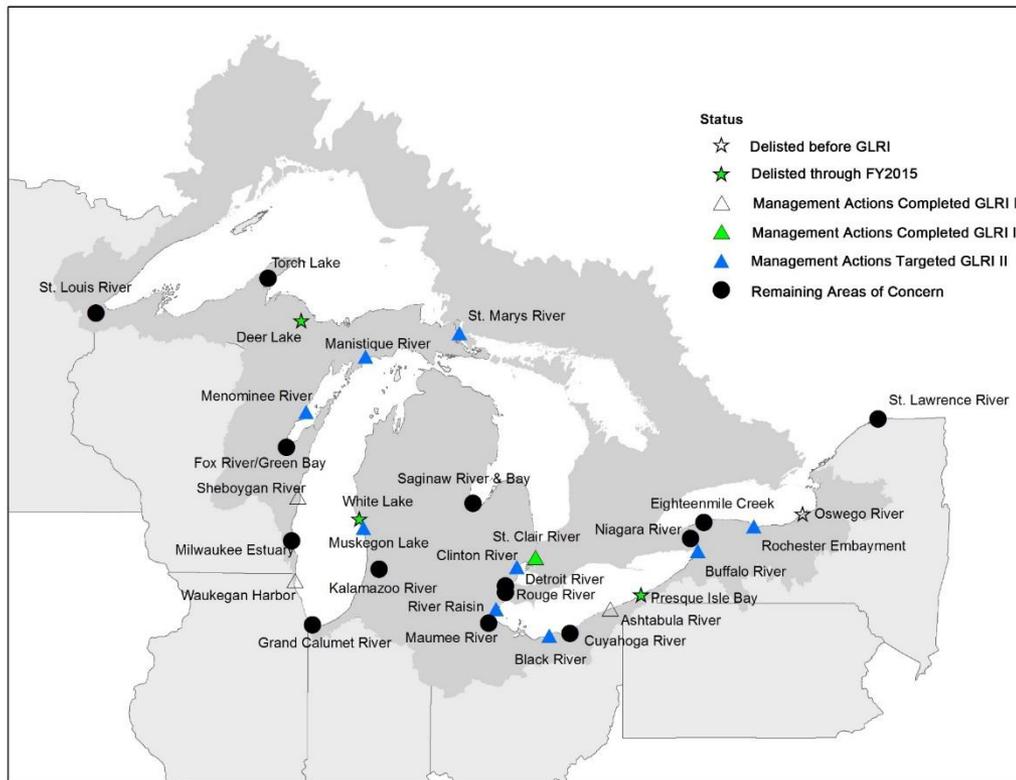


# Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex 1 Update

## Areas of Concern



**2016 Areas of Concern Conference**  
**March 2- 3, 2016**

**Wendy L Carney**  
**Deputy Director**  
**Great Lakes National**  
**Program Office**

# Big Picture – Progress Report

- 60 BUIs removed
  - 22 different AOCs / 8 States
  - 195 BUIs remain
- 4 AOCs Delisted
  - Oswego River (2006)
  - Presque Isle Bay (2013)
  - Deer Lake (2014)
  - White Lake (2014)

# Big Picture – Progress Report

- 4 AOCs with remedial actions completed
  - Sheboygan River(2013)
  - Ashtabula River (2014)
  - Waukegan Harbor (2014)
  - St. Clair River (2015)

# AOC Situation Analysis Report

- A review and comparison of U.S. and Canada agency roles and practices;
- Status of and processes for RAPs, including delisting criteria, BUI removals, AOC delisting and public involvement;
- Key challenges, targets and objectives; and
- Recommendations on guidance needs and information sharing.

# AOC Situation Analysis Report

- Key Recommendations
  - Update AOC Delisting Guidance
  - Guidance on Developing and Implementing Removal Targets for BUIs
  - Best Management Practices for Post-Action Monitoring
  - Review Bi-National Position Papers

# Draft Areas of Concern in Recovery (AOCiR) Guidance

- A task Team was established to develop a guidance document on the new Area of Concern in Recovery provision in Annex 1
- Draft guidance document was reviewed by the Secretariat and the GLEC co-chairs
- Annex Co-Leads revised the document and distributed the document to a broader set of AOC Practitioners for comment

# Draft Guidance Document

- The draft guidance:
  - Reviews GLWQA provisions and requirements;
  - Outlines roles and relationships;
  - Describes a 5 step process and factors to consider:
    - The status of remaining remedial actions
    - The Beneficial Use removal criteria
    - Monitoring plans to track recovery
    - Estimates or forecasts of time for recovery
    - Agency, community and stakeholder review & comment
  - Key challenges; and
  - Provides two hypothetical case studies as examples to assist in applying the guidance

# Review Questions

1. **Clarity & utility** of the guidance?
2. **Practicality** of proposed factors?
3. **Is it comprehensive** – is anything missing?
4. **Does it conflict** or is inconsistent with your organization's **policies or practices**?
5. **Other** suggestions for improvement?

# Feedback Received

- 1. Clarity/utility:** edits suggested to improve clarity (e.g., use of Canadian vs US terminology; expand explanations, etc.).
- 2. Practical** but differences between AOCs & jurisdictions are complicated.
- 3. Comprehensive** but could expand on consideration of risk, “weight of evidence” in decision making and on “reasonable & achievable” BUI removal criteria.

# Feedback Received

4. **No policy/process** conflicts identified but differing jurisdictional roles & responsibilities make it difficult to provide “one size fits all” guidance.
5. **Other suggestions:** more prescriptive guidance; make delisting less onerous for AOCiRs, expand on binational AOCs, etc.

# Next Steps

- Situation Analysis Report & AOCiR Guidance
  - Submit report for final review by GLEC Co-Chairs.
  - Following review post on Binational.net for formal review & comment.