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LAKE ERIE



LAKEWIDE
MANAGEMENT
PLAN



L A K E E R I E L a M P

LAKE ERIE UPDATE



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News for Friends of Lake Erie

Safe beaches, clean drinking water, and healthy fish and wildlife populations are uppermost in the minds of today's population.

It's hard to believe that only a few short years ago – the 1960s to be exact – residents on both sides of the border were getting ready to lay wreaths along the shores of Lake Erie to mourn its passing. Lake Erie was “dying,” choked of life-giving oxygen by massive amounts of algae, fed by tons of man-made phosphorus waste.

Wake-up call

Scientists described it as eutrophication and sent out an urgent wake-up call that was heard by governments in Canada and the United States. These governments placed limits on phosphorus loads to the lake and began to look for ways to work together towards a co-ordinated lakewide approach.

The concern generated was responsible in great part for an increase in research into the causes of that environmental degradation. Greater public

awareness of water quality issues affecting all of the Great Lakes likely stemmed from worries associated with Lake Erie.

Today, Lake Erie is feeling much better, thank you – but still has a long way to go before being cured. Its improved health to date is due to the research and work of various agencies and citizens' organizations, including those that are part of the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP).

What is the LaMP?



In the Fall of 1994, government leaders in Canada and the United States endorsed a plan to develop a Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan in accordance with provisions of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA).

The GLWQA is a treaty between governments of the two countries concerning the stewardship of the Great

Lakes basin. It provides for the establishment of Lakewide Management Plans for all of the Great Lakes.

The individual management plans create a framework for work towards restoring and protecting the uses of the lakes. Four stages of development and implementation have been established:

- **Stage 1: Defining the problem.**
- **Stage 2: Developing a rehabilitation action plan.**
- **Stage 3: Selecting remedial activities.**
- **Stage 4: Implementing and monitoring results for success.**

Ecosystem approach



With safe beaches, clean drinking water, and healthy fish and wildlife populations in mind, the Lake Erie LaMP is using an ecosystem approach to co-ordinate the work of environmental and natural resource organizations that do not routinely interact. This approach integrates water and air quality as well as natural resource management practices.

This co-ordination effort combines the work of researchers, regulators and environmental managers from public and private sources. Pooling these resources makes it easier to achieve commitments to the LaMP process for key environmental improvements to Lake Erie.

Who is the LaMP?

The governments of Canada and the United States share the lead in the LaMP process. They are joined in the effort by a number of agencies from the Province of Ontario and the States of Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio.

Representatives from these jurisdictions participate in an agency framework which includes a Management Committee responsible for overseeing the development of the Lake Erie LaMP, and a Work Group responsible for developing action recommendations to restore Lake Erie. To accomplish this, four Subcommittees of the Work Group have been formed:

- **Beneficial Use Impairments;**
- **Sources and Loadings;**
- **Ecosystem Objectives; and**
- **Public Involvement.**

Public Participation

While governments lead the LaMP process, improvements can't happen without the interest and participation of the public and stakeholders, recognized through a three-tiered approach to public involvement.



First tier public

The first tier consists of the Lake Erie Binational Public Forum, a formal body comprised of Canadian and American citizens selected from the various geographic locations and interest groups. Forum participants include representatives of anglers, farmers, boaters, industries, municipalities, lake-shore residents and environmental groups.

Meeting three times a year, the Forum is involved in:

- goal-setting and decision-making in partnership with the Lake Erie Work Group;
- striving to increase stakeholder participation; and
- implementing, facilitating and participating in LaMP related activities at a local level where appropriate.

To assist in this effort, Forum members have organized themselves into a number of Task Groups revolving around specific areas of interest.

Second tier public

The second tier of public involvement is referred to as the Lake Erie Network. These individuals and organizations have indicated their interest in the Lake



Erie LaMP through such actions as requesting information or documents on the LaMP and, in many cases, providing their comments on these documents, attending workshops or meetings, and volunteering for public education activities in their communities.

Network members receive information on LaMP progress as it becomes available.

Third tier public

The general public forms the third tier of the Public Involvement Program. This group receives information on the LaMP through such avenues as mass media and third-party newsletters.

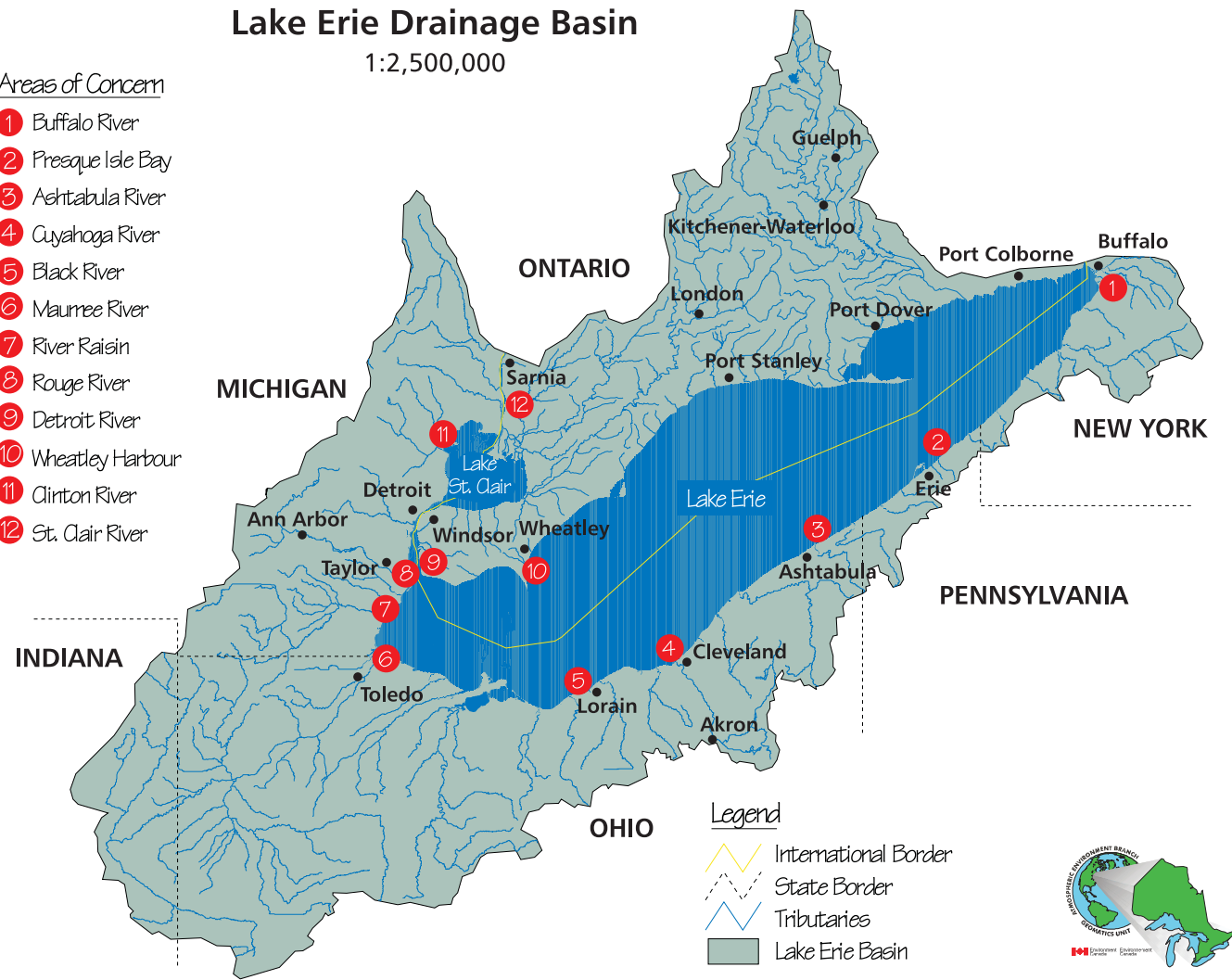


Lake Erie Drainage Basin

1:2,500,000

Areas of Concern

- 1 Buffalo River
- 2 Presque Isle Bay
- 3 Ashtabula River
- 4 Cuyahoga River
- 5 Black River
- 6 Maumee River
- 7 River Raisin
- 8 Rouge River
- 9 Detroit River
- 10 Wheatley Harbour
- 11 Clinton River
- 12 St. Clair River



Did You Know . . . ?

- Lake Erie is the shallowest of the Great Lakes, containing 128 trillion gallons (484 billion cubic metres) of water, and measuring 241 miles (388 kilometres) long and 57 miles (92 kilometres) wide.
- Eighty percent of Lake Erie's water flows in via the Detroit River, carrying water from Lakes Superior, Huron and Michigan. The rest comes from precipitation.
- Of all the Great Lakes, Lake Erie is exposed to the most stress from urbanization and agriculture.
- About a third of the total population of the Great Lakes basin resides within the Lake Erie watershed.
- Lake Erie supports more than 12 million people in its drainage basin in Canada and the United States, making it one of the most heavily populated freshwater lakes in the world.
- Lake Erie is the warmest and most biologically productive of the Great Lakes, boasting a significant sport and commercial fishery, and is renowned for its waterfowl, plants and animals.



Status Report

A *Status Report* has been prepared to update you on progress under the LaMP. It provides information on the GLWQA and the structure of the LaMP, and contains sections describing progress towards development of ecosystem objectives, beneficial use impairment assessment, and sources and loadings of pollutants already identified as causing beneficial use impairments. Additional information is provided on key issues facing Lake Erie, such as:

- loss of wetlands;
- changes in fish populations;
- exotic species (e.g. zebra mussels);
- PCBs;
- phosphorus; and
- human health.

The report also highlights the next important steps to be taken in the progress of the LaMP.



For copies

Check out the Status Report on the WEB at www.cciw.ca/glimr/lakes/erie/ or www.epa.gov/lakeerie/

To obtain a copy of the report, or for other information, contact:

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