

**Lake Superior Lakewide Management Plan
(LaMP)**

2004

Lake Superior Binational Program

This preface document replaces the LaMP 2000 preface.

Preface

Lakewide Management Plans

One of the most significant environmental agreements in the history of the Great Lakes was put in place with the signing of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978 (GLWQA), between the United States and Canada. This historic Agreement committed the U.S. and Canada (the Parties) to address the water quality issues of the Great Lakes in a coordinated, joint fashion. The purpose of the Agreement was to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem” (IJC 1993).

In the revised GLWQA of 1978, as amended by Protocol signed November 18, 1987, the Parties agreed to develop and implement, in consultation with State and Provincial Governments, Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs) for open lake waters and Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for Areas of Concern (AOCs). The LaMPs are intended to identify the critical pollutants that affect the beneficial uses of the lakes and to develop strategies, recommendations, and policy options to restore these beneficial uses. Moreover, the Specific Objectives Supplement to Annex 1 of the GLWQA requires the development of Ecosystem Objectives for the Lakes as the state of knowledge permits. Annex 2 further indicates that the RAPs and LaMPs “shall embody a systematic and comprehensive ecosystem approach to restoring and protecting beneficial uses....they are to serve as an important step toward virtual elimination of persistent toxic substances...”.

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement specifies that the LaMPs are to be completed in four stages. These stages are: 1) when problem definition has been completed; 2) when the schedule of load reductions has been determined; 3) when remedial measures are selected; and 4) when monitoring indicates that the contribution of the critical pollutants to impairment of beneficial uses has been eliminated. These stage descriptions suggest that the LaMPs are to focus solely on the impact of critical pollutants to the Lakes. However, the group of government agencies designing the LaMPs felt it was also necessary to address other equally important issues in the Lake basins. Therefore, the LaMPs go beyond the requirement of a LaMP for critical pollutants, and use an ecosystem approach, integrating environmental protection and natural resource management.

The Lake Superior LaMP is unique because of an additional agreement, announced in 1991, between the federal governments, states and province surrounding Lake Superior. Called the Binational Program to Restore and Protect the Lake Superior Basin, the program established a Zero Discharge Demonstration Program and a broader ecosystem approach. The Zero Discharge Demonstration was created in response to citizen and International Joint Commission recommendations to establish Lake Superior as a pilot for zero discharge. Annex 12 of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement notes that “the philosophy adopted for control of inputs of persistent toxic substances shall be zero discharge.”

Lake Superior Watershed



The LaMP process has proven to be a resource intensive effort and has taken much longer than expected. In the interest of advancing the rehabilitation of the Great Lakes, and getting more information out to the public in a timely manner, the Binational Executive Committee (BEC) passed a resolution in 1999 to accelerate the LaMP effort. By accelerate, it was meant that there should be an emphasis on taking action and adopting a streamlined LaMP review and approval process. The LaMPs should treat problem identification, selection of remedial and regulatory measures, and implementation as a concurrent, integrated process rather than a sequential one. In the Lake Superior LaMP, Stages 1 and 2 were completed before the BEC decision and Stage 3 was integrated into LaMP 2000 as the critical chemicals chapter.

Consistent with the BEC resolution, the LaMP contains appropriate funded and proposed (non-funded) actions for restoration and protection to bring about actual improvement in the ecosystem. Actions include commitments by the Parties, governments and regulatory programs, as well as suggested voluntary actions that could be taken by non-governmental partners. LaMP 2002 reported on the success of those actions, and identified challenges remaining to achieve established goals and ecosystem objectives.

In the Lake Superior LaMP, Stages 1 and 2 were completed before the BEC decision and Stage 3 was integrated into LaMP 2000 as the critical chemicals chapter.

Furthermore, BEC suggested that the LaMPs be based on the current body of knowledge and state what remedial actions can be implemented now. It was recommended that a LaMP be produced for each Lake by April 2000, with updates every two years thereafter.

The concept of adaptive management is being applied to the LaMP process. An iterative approach is being taken with periodic refining based upon the lessons learned, successes, new information, and public input generated. The LaMP will adjust over time to address the most pertinent issues facing the Lake ecosystem.

Some parts of LaMP 2004 identify data gaps and next steps for LaMP 2006. LaMP 2004 is presented in a loose-leaf format with tabbed sections that can be inserted into a three-ringed binder. This format allows for easy updates, additions of new material, and removal of outdated information. The table which follows is a guide to updating your LaMP 2000 with the LaMP 2004 updates.

Lake Superior LaMP 2004 Guide to Changes

File name	Contents	How to Update your LaMP 2000 binder
LS Preface 2004	Preface/Executive Summary	Replaces LaMP 2000 Preface
LS Chapter 1 2004	Introduction and Purpose of the Lake Superior Lakewide Management Plan	Replaces LaMP 2000 Chapter 1
LS Chapter 2 2004	Public Outreach and Education, Report from the Forum	Replaces LaMP 2000 Chapter 2
LS Chapter 3 2000	Ecosystem Objectives	No changes
LS Chapter 4 Update 2004	Lake Superior Critical Pollutants Progress Report	Insert at beginning of Chapter 4
LS Chapter 4 2000	Lake Superior Critical Pollutants	No changes (This chapter will be updated in 2005 for inclusion in the 2006 report)
LS Chapter 5 Update 2004	Human Health Information	Insert at beginning of Chapter 5
LS Chapter 5 2000	Human Health	No changes
LS Chapter 6 Update 2004	Update/Progress Report on Consolidated Ecosystem Chapters (6, 7, 8, 10); Habitat Progress Report	Insert at beginning of Chapter 6
LS Chapter 6 Table of Contents 2000	Status of Habitat in the Lake Superior Basin[Note: Chapter 6 is in 5 files]	No changes (This chapter will be updated in 2004, as part of the new consolidated ecosystem chapter, for inclusion in the 2006 report.)
LS Chapter 6a/b/c 2000 and Addendums		
LS chapter 7 2000	Terrestrial Wildlife Communities	Insert at beginning of Chapter 7

File name	Contents	How to Update your LaMP 2000 binder
LS Chapter 8 update 2004	The Aquatic Communities Progress Report	Insert at beginning of Chapter 8
LS Chapter 8 2000	The Aquatic Community Part 1: Fish and Their Habitat	No changes (This chapter will be updated in 2004, as part of the new consolidated ecosystem chapter, for inclusion in the 2006 report.)
LS Chapter 9 2004	Developing Sustainability in the Lake Superior Basin	Replaces LaMP 2000 Chapter 9
LS Chapter 10 2000	Aquatic Nuisance Species	No changes (This chapter will be updated in 2004, as part of the new consolidated ecosystem chapter, for inclusion in the 2006 report.)
(No File – LaMP 2000 Chapter removed)	Atmospheric Deposition of Pollutants of Concern	Remove LaMP 2000 chapter 11 (This is now being addressed by the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy – see long range transport challenge www.binational.net). See also LaMP 2002 for update.
LS Appendix A 2004	Lake Superior Areas of Concern/Remedial Action Plan Summary Matrix	Replaces LaMP 2000 Appendix A
LS Appendix B 2000	Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Development Strategy for Lake Superior	No Change
LS Glossary 2000	Glossary	No change
LS Acronyms 2000	Acronyms and Abbreviations	No change
LS errata 2000	Errata Sheet - 4/18/00	No change

Acknowledgements

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The Lake Superior Lakewide Management Plan 2004 was prepared by the Lake Superior Binational Program's Superior Work Group with input from various other agencies and organizations including the Lake Superior Binational Forum. We would like to thank the committees of the Superior Workgroup for their efforts in completing this document.

Member agencies of the Lake Superior Binational Program are:

1854 Authority
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Chippewa-Ottawa Treaty Fishery Management Authority
Environment Canada
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Fort William First Nation
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
Health Canada
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Department of Health
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Parks Canada
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Geological Survey - Biological Resources Division
U.S. National Park Service
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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