

I. Executive Summary

Since its formal endorsement by the Binational Executive Committee in 2002, the Lake Huron Binational Partnership (“the Partnership”) has coordinated lakewide environmental activities in the Lake Huron basin. The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Environment Canada, Michigan’s Departments of Environmental Quality and Natural Resources, and Ontario’s Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources form the core of the Partnership by providing leadership and coordination. A flexible membership is being promoted on an issue-by-issue basis, which is inclusive of other agencies and levels of government, Tribes/First Nations, non-government organizations, and the public.

The approach in Lake Huron differs from the Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs) of Lakes Superior, Michigan, Erie and Ontario in that it focuses on pollution reduction activities in areas of obvious importance, such as Areas of Concern (AOCs), and directly pursues on-the-ground activities to protect areas of high-quality habitat within the Lake Huron basin. Existing stakeholder and agency forums are used as much as possible to support the goals of the Partnership. The

Partnership maintains a close association with the Remedial Action Plan efforts in AOCs, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission’s Lake Huron and Lake Huron Technical Committees, the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC), and domestic efforts that support the Partnership.

This 2008-2010 Action Plan provides updated information on environmental trends, identifies priority issues, and promotes management activities to be pursued over the next two-year cycle. Consistent with an adaptive management approach, the Action Plan tracks progress on issues identified in the previous cycle, including contaminants in fish, changes in food web structure and protection of critical habitat, and has been expanded to address emerging issues, such as observed increases in nearshore algae and diseases such as botulism and viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS).

Over the past two-year cycle, the Partnership has successfully used a streamlined approach to coordinate the many environmental activities impacting Lake Huron. We look forward to expanding on our past efforts and advancing the binational protection and restoration of the Lake Huron ecosystem.

