



# St. Marys AOC Habitat Restoration

## Status of the St. Marys AOC

- In 1987 Areas of Concern (AOCs) were designated under the U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement based on the presence of impairments to beneficial uses (BUIs), such as restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption, loss of fish and wildlife habitat, etc.
- In 1988 the community came together to form a bi-national public advisory committee (BPAC) to identify projects to address these impairments.
- In 1992 a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was developed that included specific information about the cause and extent of the impairments in the St. Marys River.
- The St. Marys River RAP identified 10 of the possible 14 BUIs to be addressed for de-listing the AOC.
- In 2002 specific actions were identified by the Stage 2 RAP to address the BUIs.
- Separate, but complementary, restoration actions were developed for the US and Canada.
- Implementation of the Little Rapids Restoration Project (LRRP) completes all major *anticipated* construction and restoration work in the U.S.
- The US BUIs are expected to be addressed by 2019; actions on the Canadian side of the St. Mary’s River AOC are expected to be complete by 2025.

**For more information contact:**

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| U.S. Beneficial Use Impairments at the St. Marys River |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Beneficial Use Impaired                                | Status                |
| Bird or animal deformities or reproductive problems    | Removed               |
| Degradation of Aesthetics                              | Removed               |
| Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat                      | Addressed by the LRRP |
| Degraded Fish and Wildlife Populations                 | Addressed by the LRRP |
| Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption          | Impaired              |
| Fish tumors or other deformities                       | Impaired              |
| Degradation of Benthos                                 | Impaired              |
| Restrictions on Dredging Activities                    | Impaired              |
| Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae                    | Impaired              |
| Beach Closings   | Impaired              |

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The Little Rapids Restoration Project is the sole action needed to remove the remaining habitat related BUIs in the U.S.



Learn more at <http://bit.ly/LittleRapidsRestoration>