



## **ST. MARYS RIVER**

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# **BINATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL**

February 25, 2015

Mr. John Riley  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Office of the Great Lakes  
P.O. Box 30473  
Lansing Michigan

Dear Mr. Riley:

DRAFT St. Marys River Fish and Wildlife Restoration Plan Addendum  
Prepared by the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes  
November, 014

This acknowledges ST. MARYS RIVER BINATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL 's support on December 02, 2014 for the addendum outlined below.

### Purpose of the Addendum

This addendum updates the St. Marys River Fish and Wildlife Restoration Plan prepared and approved by the St. Marys River Area of Concern Binational Public Advisory Council dated December, 2008. Specifically, it addresses restoration criteria for the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Population Beneficial Use Impairments by removing the requirement for restoration of rapids habitat at the Neebish Rock Cut and increasing rapids habitat restoration of the Little Rapids at Sugar Island.

### Justification for Revision

The original Fish and Wildlife Restoration Plan focused on two areas of potential increase in rapids habitat, the Little Rapids and the Neebish Rock Cut. The plan recognized the critical importance of high-energy rapids habitat to the river.

The 2008 Restoration Plan recommended two sites for restoration, totaling approximately 100 acres of improved rapids habitat. Of those 100 acres, it was estimated at the time that about 28 acres of habitat would be restored at the Little Rapids, and approximately 68 acres could be restored at the Neebish Rock Cut site.

When the project sites were assessed for feasibility, it was determined that the increased rapids habitat at the Little Rapids site could reasonably be estimated at approximately 50-70 acres of improved rapids habitat, depending on the final design specifications of the project. However, the proposed Neebish Rock Cut project was determined to be infeasible. Subsequently, the federal and state agencies engaged in the AOC work made a commitment to complete the Little Rapids project in its expanded scope and made a decision to not conduct the Neebish Rock Cut project.

#### Restoration Target

This addendum modifies restoration criteria for the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations Beneficial Use Impairments in the St. Marys River Fish and Wildlife Restoration Plan to read:

- The two fish and wildlife BUIs will be considered restored in the Michigan portion of the St. Marys River AOC upon completion of the Little Rapids project at Sugar Island, which would restore approximately 50 to 70 acres of fish and wildlife habitat.

Donald L. Marles A.I.M.A.



Chairman

ST. MARYS RIVER BINATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL