

St. Marys River AOC BPAC Meeting Agenda

Place: LSSU, Ontario Room
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

When: April 26th, 2017
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

1. Call to order/introductions

2. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes

- February 1st, 2017
- March 13th, 2017

3. Business arising from previous minutes

- BPAC Terms of Reference and update member and participant list
- Comments on draft Triennial Assessment of Progress on Great Lakes Water Quality

4. Presentations

- N/A

5. Office Reports

- Updates will be provided during the meeting

6. Agency Updates

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)/ Ontario Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change (OMOECC)

Fish Tumours BUI

- ECCC is waiting for a third-party review of the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture's analysis of liver samples taken from 100 White Suckers collected in summer 2015. Preliminary results show four (4) fish have liver tumours, which is an improvement over the 10.6% tumour rate (15 out of 141) from the 2009 survey. There are uncertainties with a few other samples and a second opinion is being sought.

RAP Implementation Annex

- ECCC is working with MOECC and Lisa Derickx to complete the annual update to the Canadian Remedial Action Plan Implementation Annex. A draft will be circulated to BPAC for review and comment. Accounting for activities and accomplishments in 2016-17, the update will add to previous versions of the document, which: 1) takes stock of completed actions and achievements since the Stage 2 RAP (2002) within the Canadian portion of the AOC; 2) describes current ecological conditions as articulated by the relevant beneficial use impairments and associated delisting criteria; and 3) outlines the remedial actions, monitoring and assessment needs going forward.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

Ted Smith was promoted to a managerial position within the US EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office. John Perrecone has replaced him as the EPA lead for the St. Marys River Area of Concern.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)

The Little Rapids Habitat Restoration project is complete, with the exception of minor paving, planting and pavement marking, which will be addressed in late May or early June. Ecological monitoring has already begun by a team led by Ashley Moerke, of LSSU. Larval fish, adult fish, benthos, and bathymetry assessments are all part of the post restoration monitoring that will take place in 2017.

Two celebration events are being planned, one is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 10. The focus will be a community outreach and education program, extolling the benefits of the project, and encouraging use of the new fishing access. This event is being coordinated by Rebecca Bolen, of Eastern U.P. Regional Planning and Development.

The second event is being planned as a podium style media event, with the dedication of a brass plaque commemorating the project. Speakers will include representatives from the various federal and state agencies involved with the project, along with the Great Lakes Commission, the Chippewa County Road Commission, elected officials, tribes, BPAC, the Soo Area Sportsman's Club and others. Invited guests will include media, the community and other stakeholders. This event will take place in July or August, but a date has not yet been set.

We have a draft Removal Recommendation for the Restrictions on Dredging Activities Beneficial Use Impairment for the US side of the St. Marys River AOC. Following incorporation of any feedback from the BPAC, and with input from EPA's GLNPO, the document will be reviewed by Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, there will also be a 30 day public comment period. Official removal of the BUI is anticipated in the fall of 2017.

7. Memberships

- For new members, applications must be received & prospective members present for confirmation – standard procedure.
- Letter received from Alexia Whisler.

8. New Business

- Michigan's Removal Recommendation for the Restrictions on Dredging BUI for the US side of the St. Marys River Area of Concern – John Riley

9. Public Comments

11. BPAC Executive Elections – Postponed from the last meeting

10. Next Meeting