

St. Marys River AOC BPAC Meeting Agenda

Place: CC202, Algoma University
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

When: June 1st, 2017
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

1. Call to order/introductions

2. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes

- April 26th, 2017

3. Business arising from previous minutes

- Discussion of Beach Closings Re-designation Report for the Canadian side of the St. Marys River AOC.
- MDEQ request for letter of support re: Removal Recommendation for the Restrictions on Dredging BUI (US side)
- Draft letter to USEPA regarding unilateral delisting of the St. Marys River AOC.

4. Presentations

- N/A

5. Office Reports

- Updates will be provided during the meeting

6. Agency Updates

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

- In May 2017, ECCC received final results of the recent fish tumour survey for the St. Marys River. Of the 100 White Suckers collected in summer 2015, 6 were found to have tumours (liver neoplasms). This 6% tumour rate is down from 10.6% detected in the 2009 survey (15 of 141 White Suckers), and it is lower than the 9.2% tumour rate (17 out of 185) from the 1985-90 survey that led to Fish Tumours being designated an impairment for the Area of Concern.
- The 6% tumour rate is closer to the Canadian delisting criteria for the beneficial use impairment, which states: *This beneficial use will no longer be impaired when a survey from within the Area of Concern of a locally abundant member of the sucker family, encompassing a diverse age range, indicates a liver tumour prevalence rate of **less than 5%**.* Experts believe there is a state of impairment when it is greater than 5%.
- A full report will be drafted this summer, and presented to BPAC in the fall. The lead ECCC researcher will be on hand to answer questions, and participate in group discussion regarding proposed next steps.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

- EPA has worked with all of the partners at this AOC in order to fund and implement those management actions that were identified by the State and the BPAC to remove BUIs. We have completed sediment remediation projects and have funded and supported the Little Rapids habitat restoration project. We will work with the BPAC and all other partners to review any new data or information that will help us to remove the remaining five BUIs. We will provide technical support and any other kind of support needed to remove BUIs and to eventually delist this AOC.
- Most recently, we reviewed the “Restrictions on Dredging” BUI Removal document prepared by MDEQ and stated that, based upon the data in the document, the target has been achieved and the BUI can be removed. As a follow-up, John Riley asked for some EPA data from the Consumers Power site to answer some questions raised by the BPAC. We provided that data and we support MDEQ’s request to the BPAC to provide a letter of support to remove this BUI.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)

- At the April 2017 BPAC mtg, a draft Removal Recommendation for the Restrictions on Dredging BUI (US side) was presented. BPAC asked to see other sediment quality data from previous dredge cycles. The most recent data set from the US Army Corps of Engineers to support navigational dredging operations was collected in 2001. This data was summarized and presented to BPAC members via email on May 16, 2017.
- The 2001 data also supports removal of the BUI, based on Michigan’s criteria. The DEQ respectfully requests a letter of support for the BUI removal from the BPAC.

7. Memberships

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

8. New Business

9. Public Comments

10. Next Meeting