

# St. Marys River AOC BPAC Meeting Agenda

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

**When:** November 1, 2017  
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

## 1. Call to order/introductions

## 2. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes

- August 24, 2017

## 3. Business arising from previous minutes

- Review action items from previous meeting
- Recent degradation of Great Lakes coastal wetland in Sault Ste. Marie – Draft letters (2)

## 4. Presentations

- Nearshore Fish Community Health in the St. Marys River AOC – Lisa O'Connor, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Great Lakes Laboratory

## 5. Office Reports

- Updates will be provided during the meeting

## 6. Agency Updates

- (see reverse)

## 7. Memberships

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

## 8. New Business

- Summary of updated Implementation Annex

## 9. Public Comments

## 10. Next Meeting

## **Four Agency Report to the St. Marys River BPAC Meeting**

November 1, 2017

CC202, Algoma University, Ontario

6:30pm-8:30pm

### **Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)**

- ECCC is drafting a study report on its summer 2015 survey that found 6 out of 100 White Suckers had liver tumours. This 6% tumour rate is down from 10.6% detected in a 2009 survey, and is lower than the 9.2% tumour rate from the 1985-90 survey that led to BUI designation. It is just above the delisting criteria target of <5%. The lead investigator will present and discuss the results at a future BPAC meeting.
- ECCC continues to work with the Batchewana First Nation to advance proposed aquatic habitat restoration around Whitefish Island to benefit native fish species, including Brook Trout, Whitefish and Walleye. A contract will be issued for the next phase of the project: develop and produce engineered designs (construction plans) for naturalizing the Whitefish Channel bed and bank areas, and constructing islands and shoals east of Whitefish Island. The concept drawings were shared with BPAC in December 2016.

### **Ontario Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change (OMOECC)**

- MOECC and ECCC are reconvening a technical committee to further the development of a multi-agency contaminated sediment management strategy for the area east of Bellevue Marine Park and downstream of Topsail Island on the Canadian side of the AOC.

### **United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) & Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)**

- In September, MDEQ submitted a request to US EPA to remove the Restrictions on Dredging Activities BUI from the US side of the St. Marys River. Concurrence with the BUI restoration is anticipated very soon.