

SEPTEMBER 2025

RESTORING THE RIVER

Official Newsletter of The St. Marys River Remedial Action Plan

Part 7: Restrictions on Fish Consumption BUI

Restrictions on Fish Consumption BUI

Welcome to the final issue in this series regarding the Restrictions on Fish Consumption BUI, and the results from the community survey that was recommended as the next step in redesignating this impairment.

Throughout the previous 6 issues in this series, readers have been able to understand all the moving parts in the Restrictions on Fish Consumption BUI in simple terms. Including understanding why the St. Marys River is an Area of Concern, what fish consumptions are and who creates them, and where contaminants come from. Readers also dove into learning about the most popular fishing locations are, as well as what people like to catch, eat most frequently, and how they cook them.

In this final issue, we'll dive into the next steps for this BUI, Restrictions on Fish Consumption. On the following pages you'll learn about what "delisting" criteria is and the difference between that and redesignation of the BUI. As well as what still needs to happen before the Restrictions on Fish Consumption BUI can be officially redesignated, and lastly, how you can continue to stay involved with the St. Marys River Remedial Action Plan.



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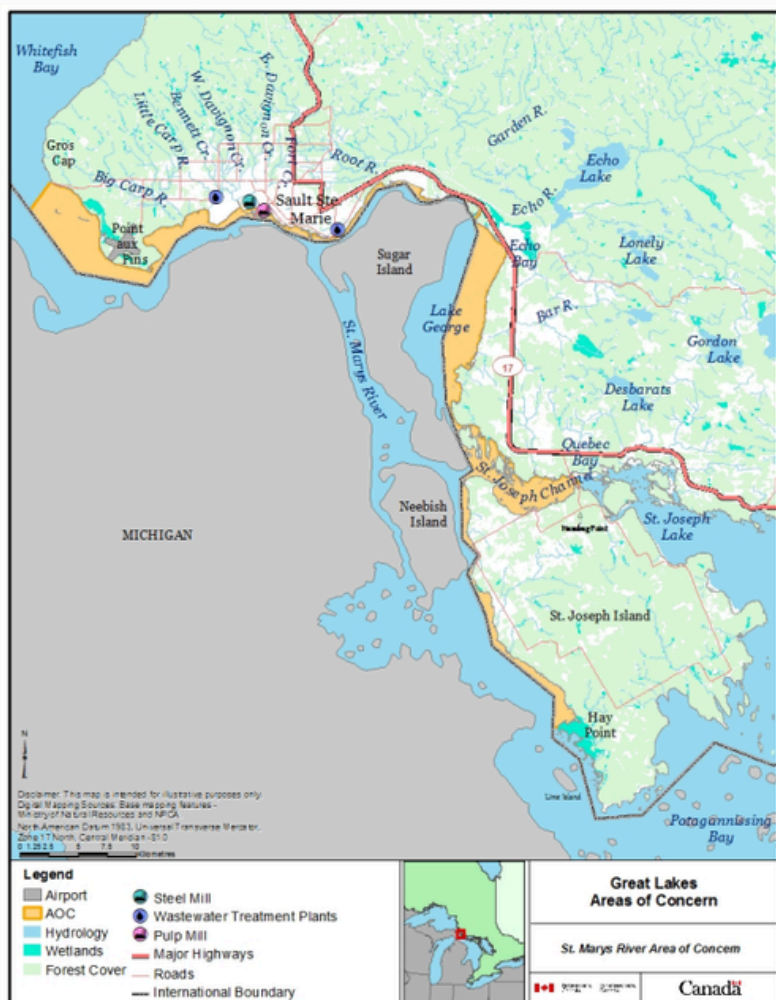
What's The Difference Between Redesigning and Delisting?

When we talk about cleaning up the St. Marys River, you might hear two important terms: “redesignation” and “delisting.” While they sound similar, they refer to different parts of the process.

Each environmental issue we track in the river (called a Beneficial Use Impairment, or BUI) is assessed individually. When science shows the issue has been resolved, that BUI is officially redesignated as “Not Impaired.” That means it’s no longer considered a problem.

Once all the BUIs in the river have been redesignated, we move toward the bigger goal: “delisting” the river as an Area of Concern (AOC).

We're well on our way, and each redesignation is a step closer to a healthier, restored St. Marys River!



What Are The Next Steps?

In regards to the Beneficial Use Impairment we’ve focused on throughout the last 6 issues in this series, you may be wondering, what happens next?

We’ve learned that:

- Fish advisories in the St. Marys River AOC are now no more restrictive than other parts of Lakes Huron and Superior, or non-AOC sites!
- Contaminant levels have declined steadily over the past 30+ years
- A community fish consumption survey confirmed that people eat fish at safe levels, especially when following the Guide to Eating Ontario Fish



So we're excited to share that based on the science, and community input from the Fish Consumption Survey, the BUI is recommended to be redesignated as "Not Impaired".

In order for this to happen, the recommendation will go through final review by the RAP team, government partners, Indigenous Communities, and BPAC (the Binational Public Advisory Council).

There will be:

- Final opportunities for public comment
- Updates shared through newsletters, social media, and events
- and continued monitoring of the river's health to ensure long-term safety

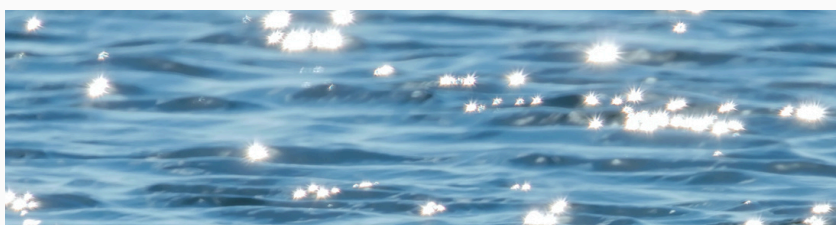
How to Stay Involved

As we wrap up our 7-part newsletter series on restoring the St. Marys River, we want to thank you for following along and deepening your understanding of this incredible waterway. Every redesignation, every study, and every story brings us closer to a healthier river!

It's true that you don't need a lab coat to protect the river. Here's how you can stay involved:

- Share this series with others
- Follow us for news, progress, and events
- Join a cleanup or citizen science project
- Talk about the river with your friends, family, and neighbours

Together, we're shaping the future of the St. Marys River one action at a time. Thank you for being here!



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