

Integration of Existing EPA Authorities and New Restoration Efforts to Accelerate Recovery of Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes Basin

T. Kevin O'Donnell, Heather Williams, Karen Rodriguez,
Marc Tuchman, John Perrecone, and David Cowgill

EPA-Great Lakes National Program Office
Chicago, IL

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A satellite-style map of the Great Lakes basin, showing the five Great Lakes (Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario) and the St. Lawrence River. The water bodies are dark blue, while the surrounding land is a mix of green and brown, indicating vegetation and terrain. The text is overlaid in white on the central part of the map.

First international agreement to
restore and protect a large
ecosystem across an international
border

Presentation Outline

- Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
- Areas of Concern (AOCs)
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)
- Integrating EPA Programs to Accelerate Recovery of Sheboygan River AOC



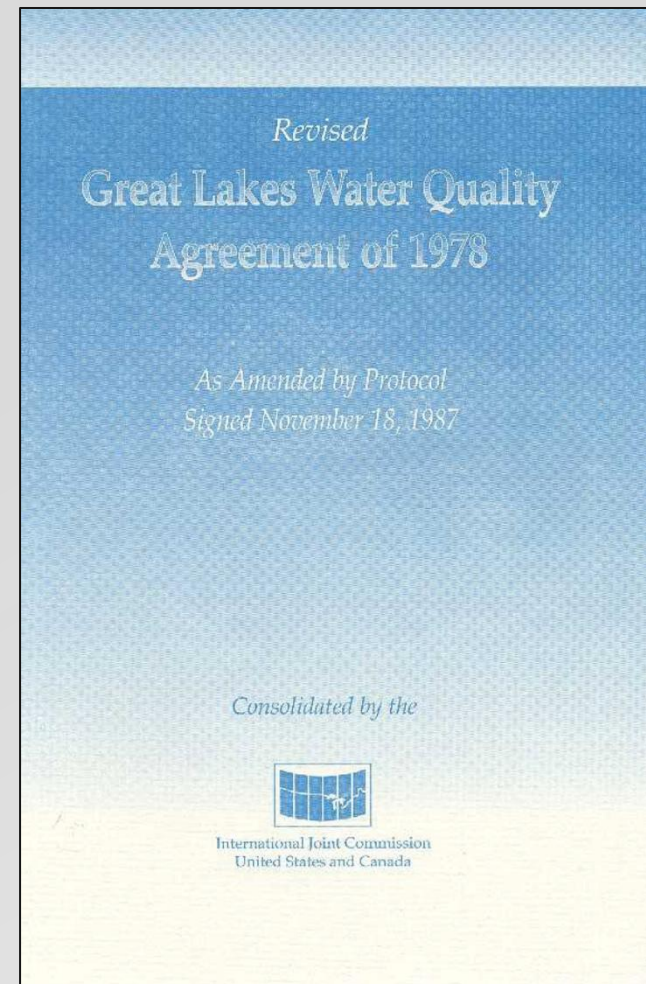
1972 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

- Binational commitment to meet water quality objectives
 - Phosphorus
 - Toxic Chemicals
 - Wastewater treatment



1987 Amending Protocol to Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

- Targeted, ecosystem approaches were formalized
- 43 Areas of Concern (AOCs) Identified





Calumet River and Harbor



Cuyahoga River



Fox River and Green Bay



Great Lakes Areas of Concern

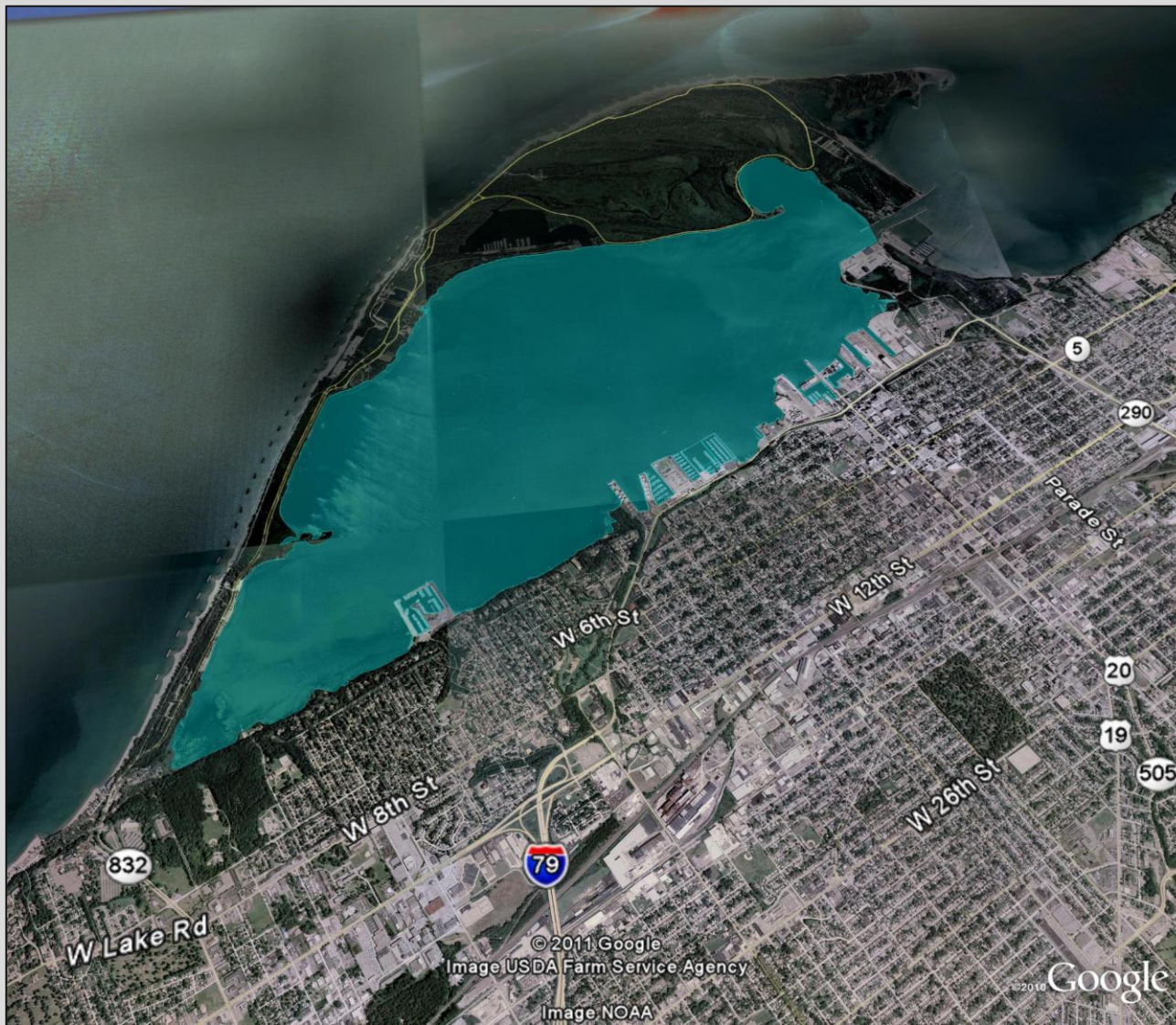
Great Lakes Basin Boundary



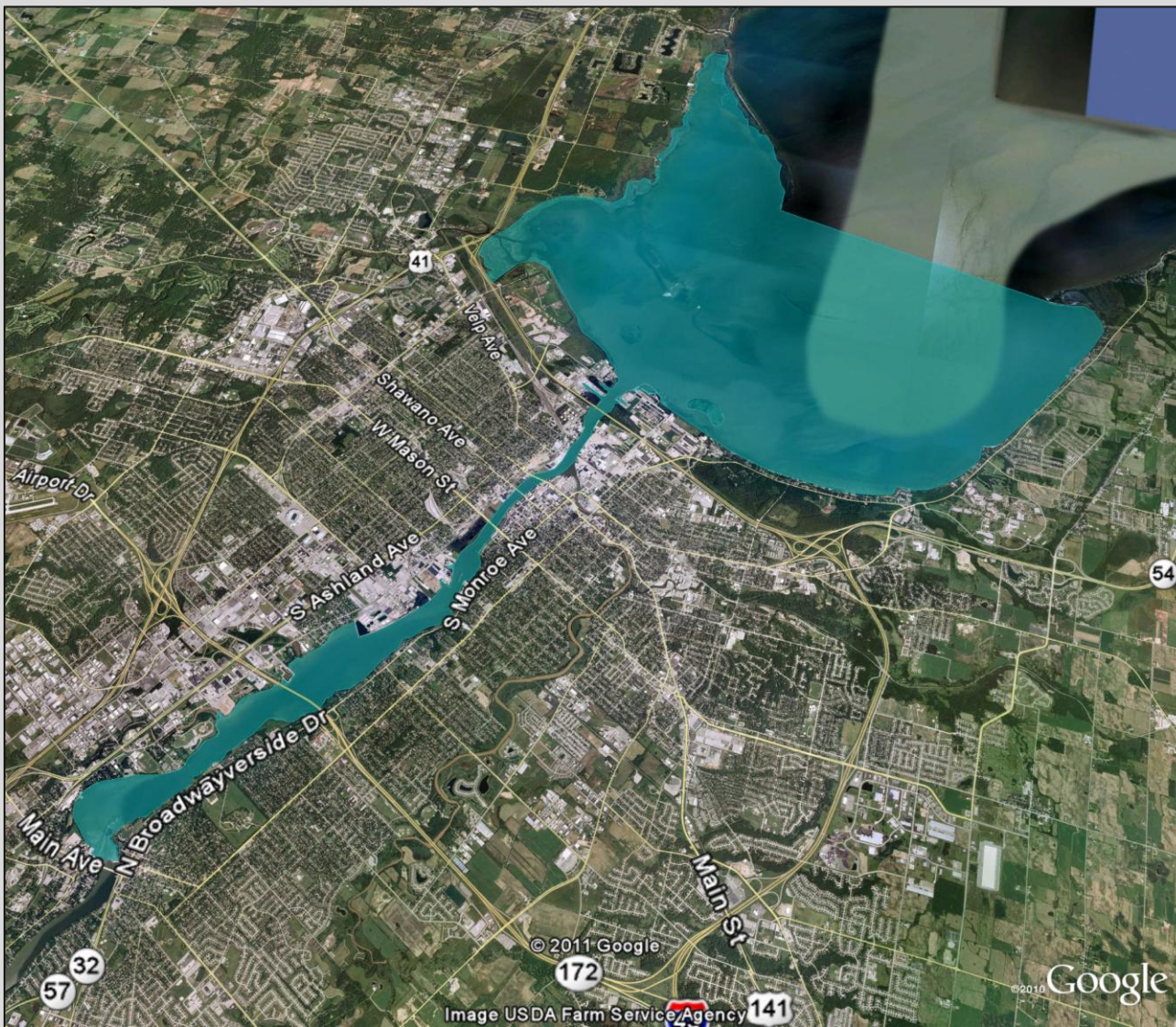
Legend	
■	U.S. AOCs
◆	Binational AOCs
●	Canadian AOCs
▲	Areas in Recovery
★	Delisted Canadian AOCs
✚	Delisted U. S. AOCs



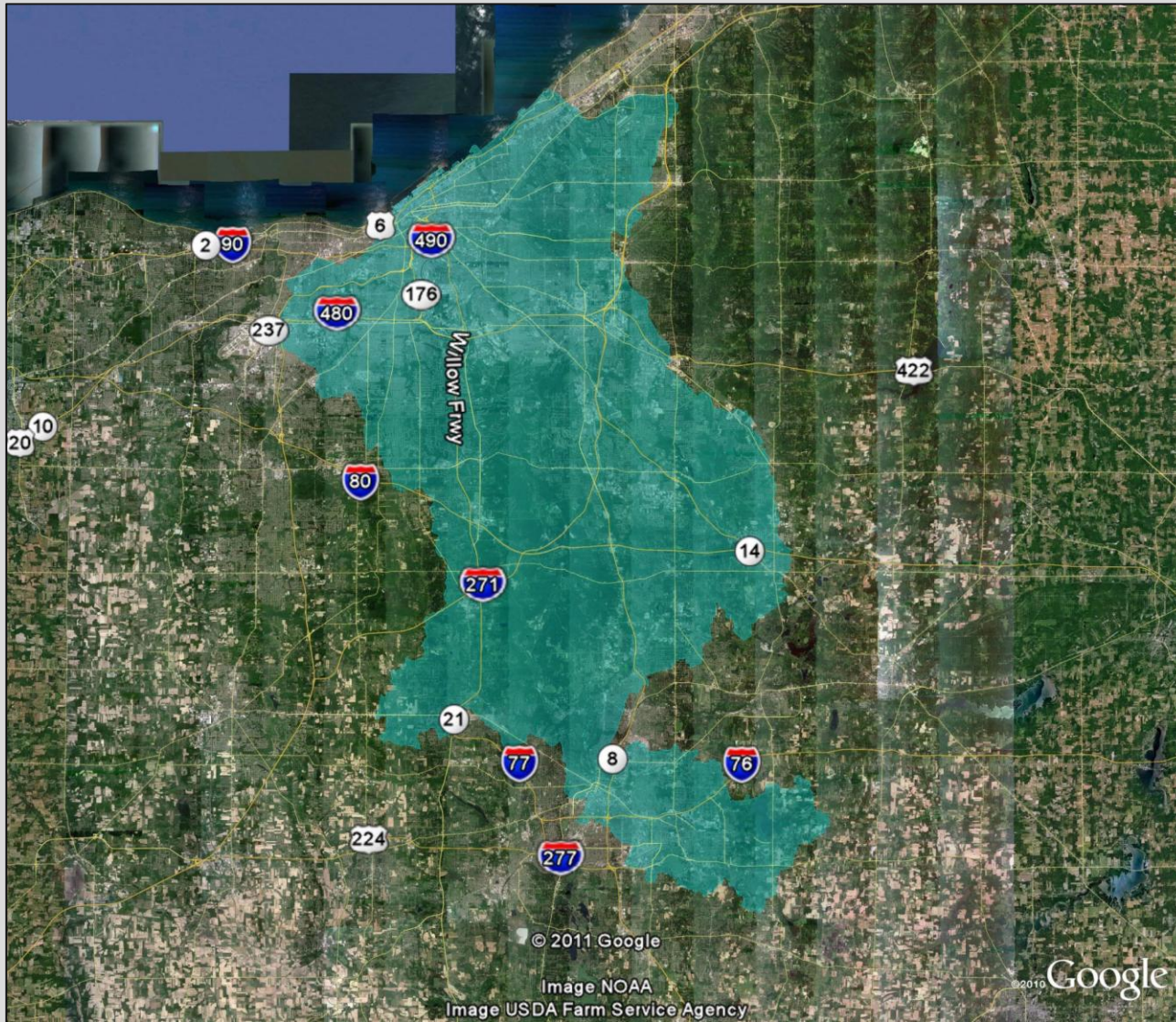
Presque Isle Bay AOC (PA)



Lower Fox River/Green Bay AOC (WI)



Cuyahoga River AOC (OH)



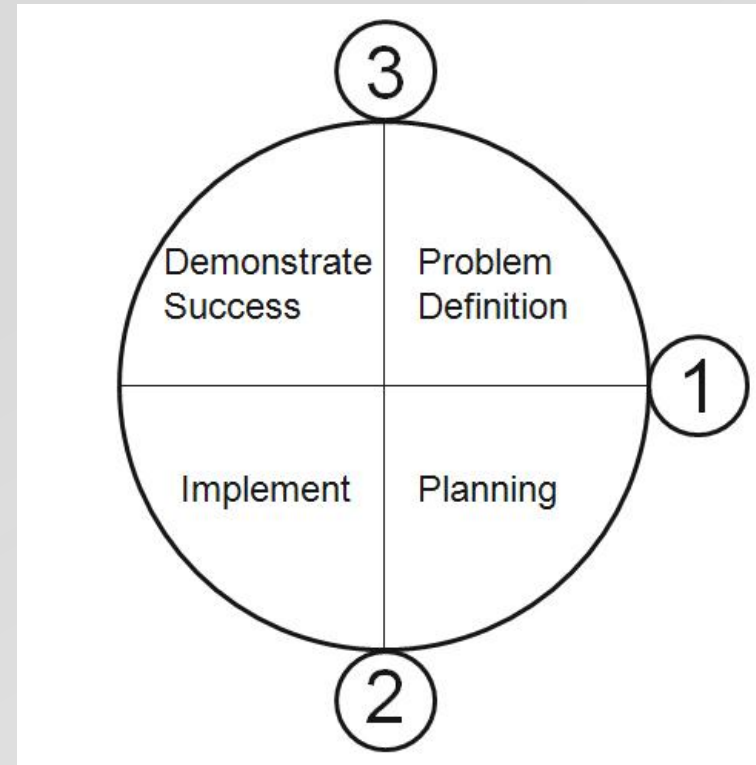
Ecosystem Approach to Restoration

- Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs)
 - 14 listed BUIs
 - Eutrophication or undesirable algae
 - Degradation of fish and wildlife populations
 - Drinking water restrictions
 - Restrictions on fish/wildlife consumption
 - etc.
- 30 US/Binational AOCs
 - 261 BUIs currently exist



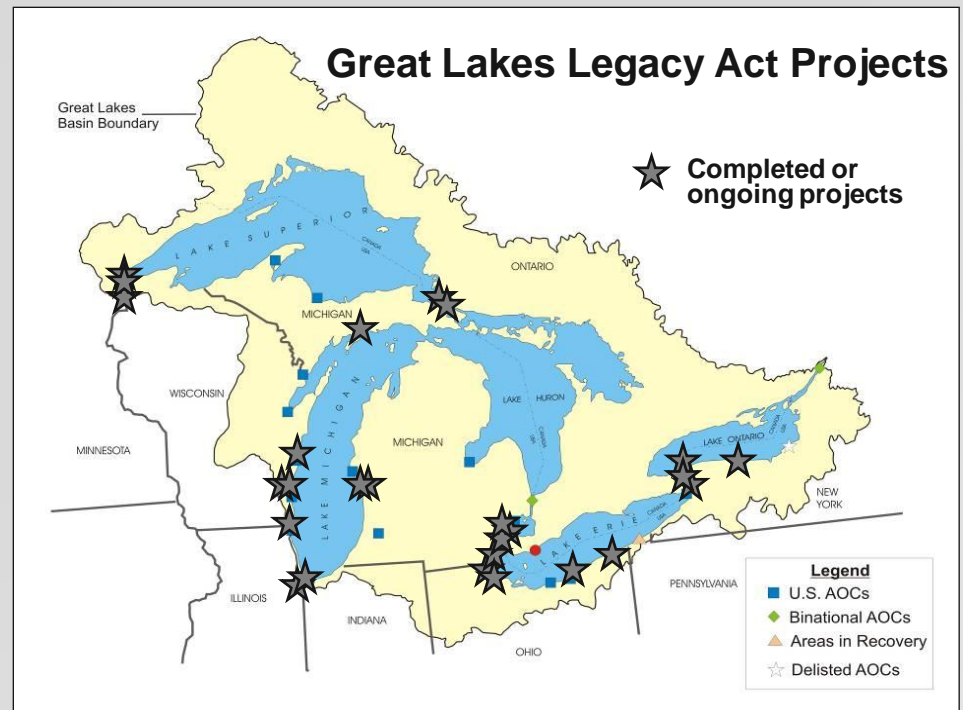
Approach to AOC Cleanup/Restoration

- Plans for each AOC are developed in cooperation among:
 - Federal governments
 - States/Provinces
 - Local stakeholders/public
- Bottom-up, three step reporting process



Federal Mechanisms Relied On for AOC Cleanup

- Natural Resources Damage Assessment
- Clean Water Act
- Superfund Action
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- **Great Lakes Legacy Act**



1,297,000 yd³ sediment remediated



Past Challenges to AOC Cleanup/Restoration

- Lack of enforcement/regulatory authority
- Complexity of problems and solutions
- Lack of information
- Variable state and local participation
- High cost of proposed cleanup/restoration and lack of resources



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

- Obama Administration Initiative
 - FY2010: \$475 million
 - FY2011: \$300 million

FY2010 – FY2014

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan



February 21, 2010

White House Council on Environmental Quality
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of State
U.S. Department of the Army
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of Transportation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



GLRI Measures of Progress

- 28 measures of progress in GLRI action plan

Measure	Baseline/ Universe	2010 Target	2011 Target	2012 Target	2013 Target	2014 Cumulative Target
1. Number of AOCs where all management actions necessary for delisting have been implemented (cumulative).	Baseline: 1 AOC Universe: 31 AOCs	1 AOC (no change)	1AOC	3AOCs	4 AOCs	5 AOCs

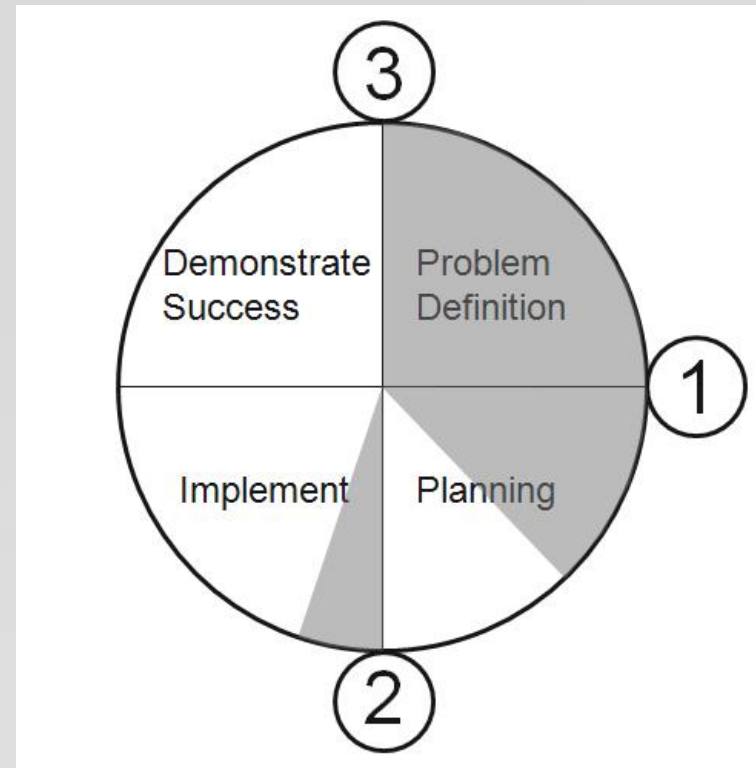


Sheboygan River AOC (WI)



Sheboygan River AOC Background

- 9 BUIs identified in 1987
- EPA Superfund sediment cleanup underway
- Interest in Legacy Act
- AOC assessment in 2010-2011



Sheboygan River AOC Technical Advisory Committee



Planning for Habitat Restoration

- Prioritize projects based on:
 - Contribution to BUI removal
 - Available land and willing partners
 - Ability to implement projects in short term
 - Proximity to sediment cleanup or recent assessment



Contaminated Sediment Removal



- Superfund Action: 81,000 yd³



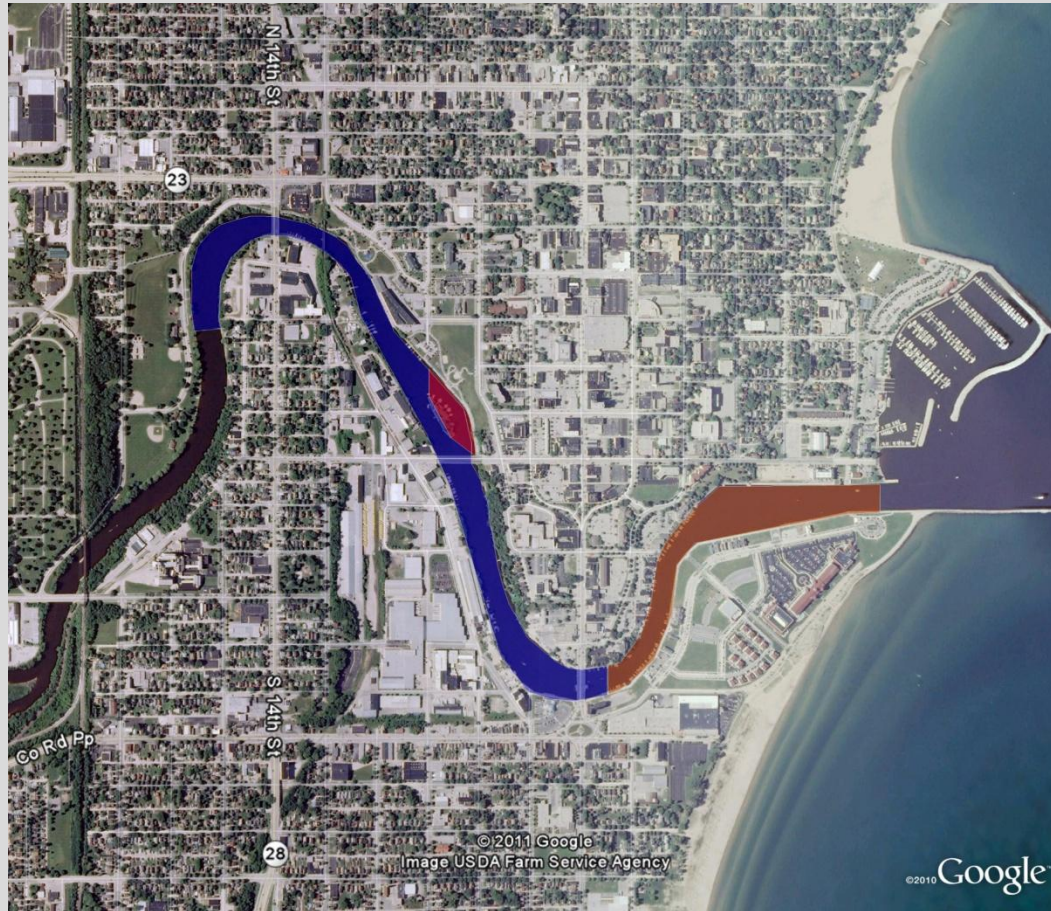
Contaminated Sediment Removal



- Superfund Action: 81,000 yd³
- Legacy Act: 200,000 yd³



Contaminated Sediment Removal



- Superfund Action: 81,000 yd³
- Legacy Act: 200,000 yd³
- USACE Dredging: 170,000 yd³

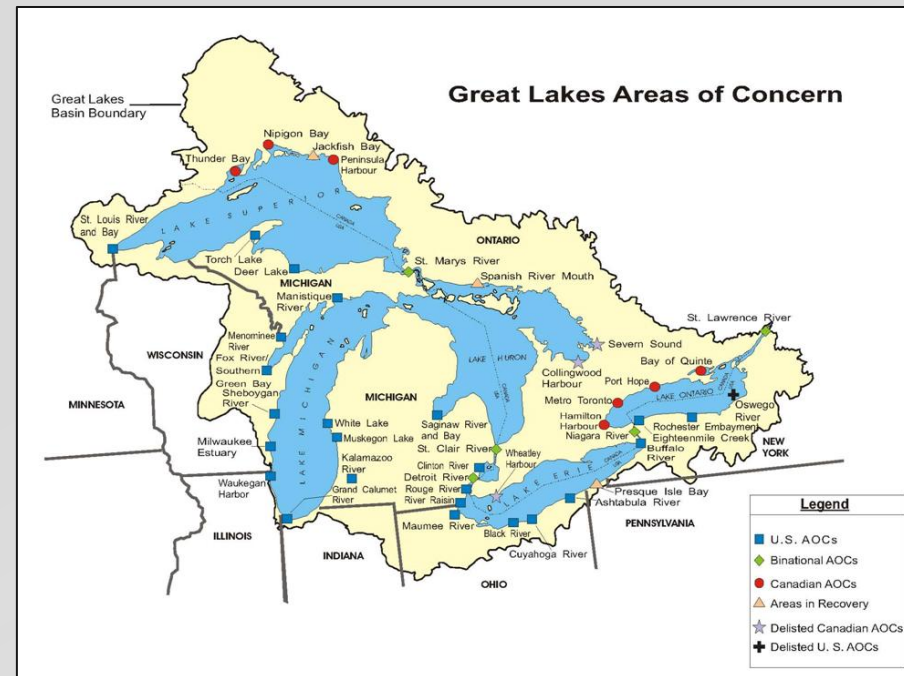


Habitat Restoration Projects



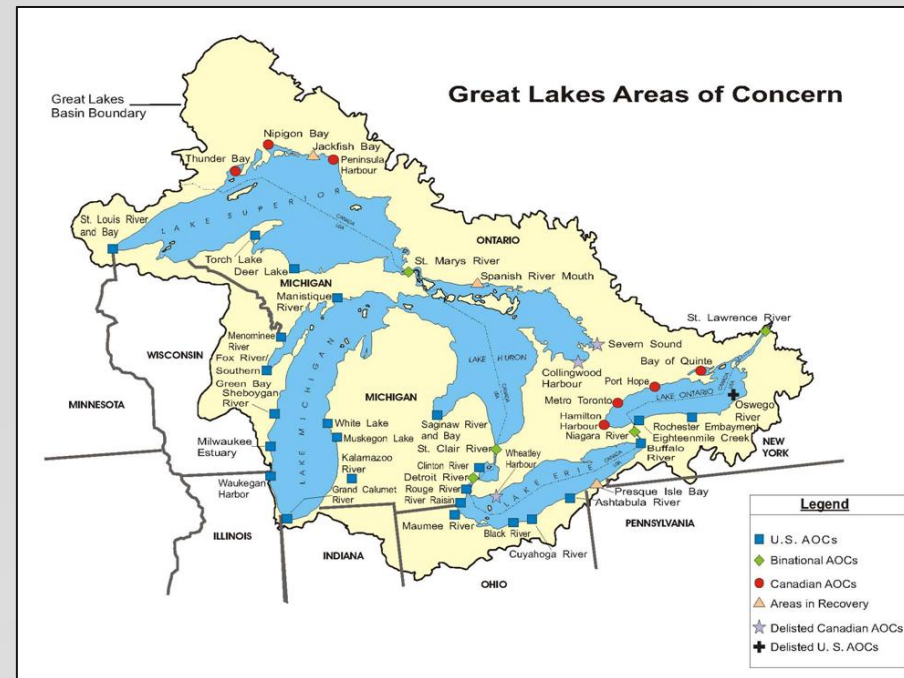
Great Lakes AOC Cleanup/Restoration Considerations

- Superfund is a *regulatory approach* to site cleanup
- Legacy Act is a *partnership approach* to AOC cleanup
- Legacy Act requires non-federal match



Great Lakes AOC Cleanup/Restoration Considerations

- GLRI provides resources *now* to address AOC restoration
- Stakeholders need to become comfortable with an accelerated pace
- Life after AOC delisting?



Questions?

Contact:

T. Kevin O'Donnell

EPA-Great Lakes National Program Office

Chicago, IL

Phone: 312-886-0813

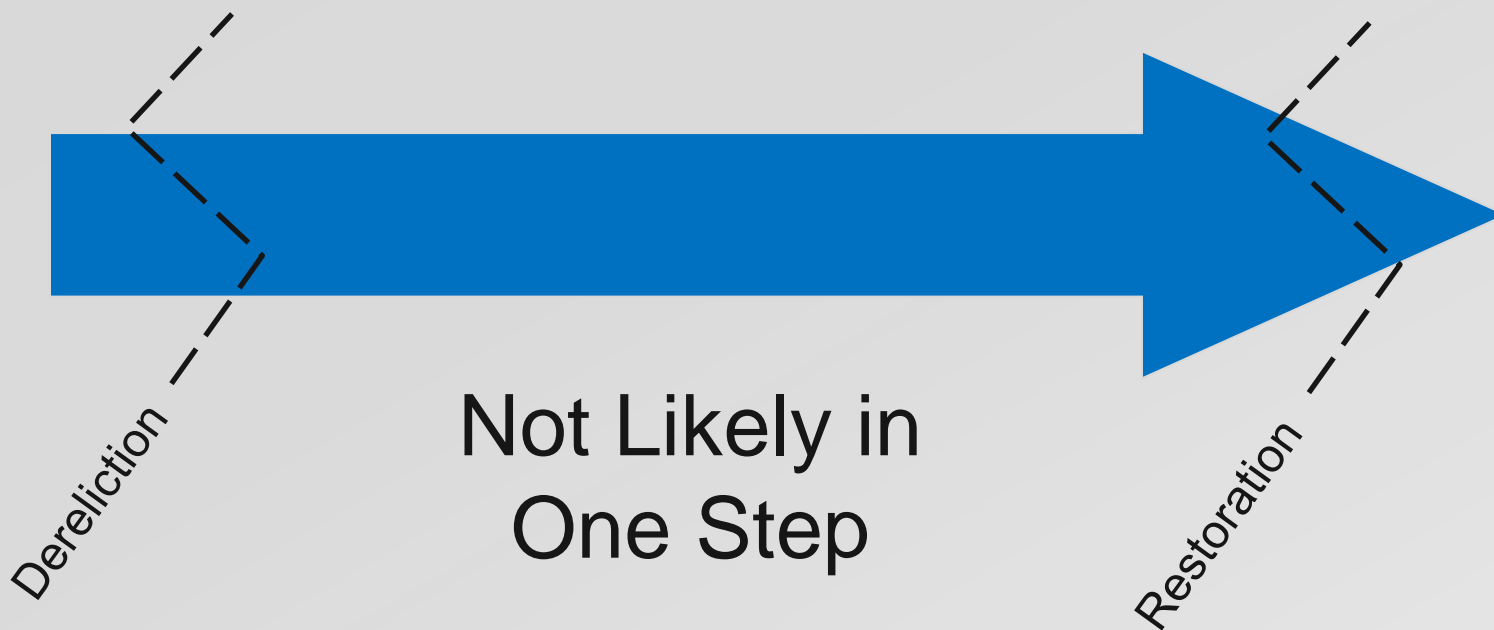
Email: odonnell.thomas@epa.gov



Possible for the Sheboygan River?

Degraded
State

Natural/
Semi-Natural State



Planning for the Sheboygan River

Degraded
State

