



St. Clair River Area of Concern

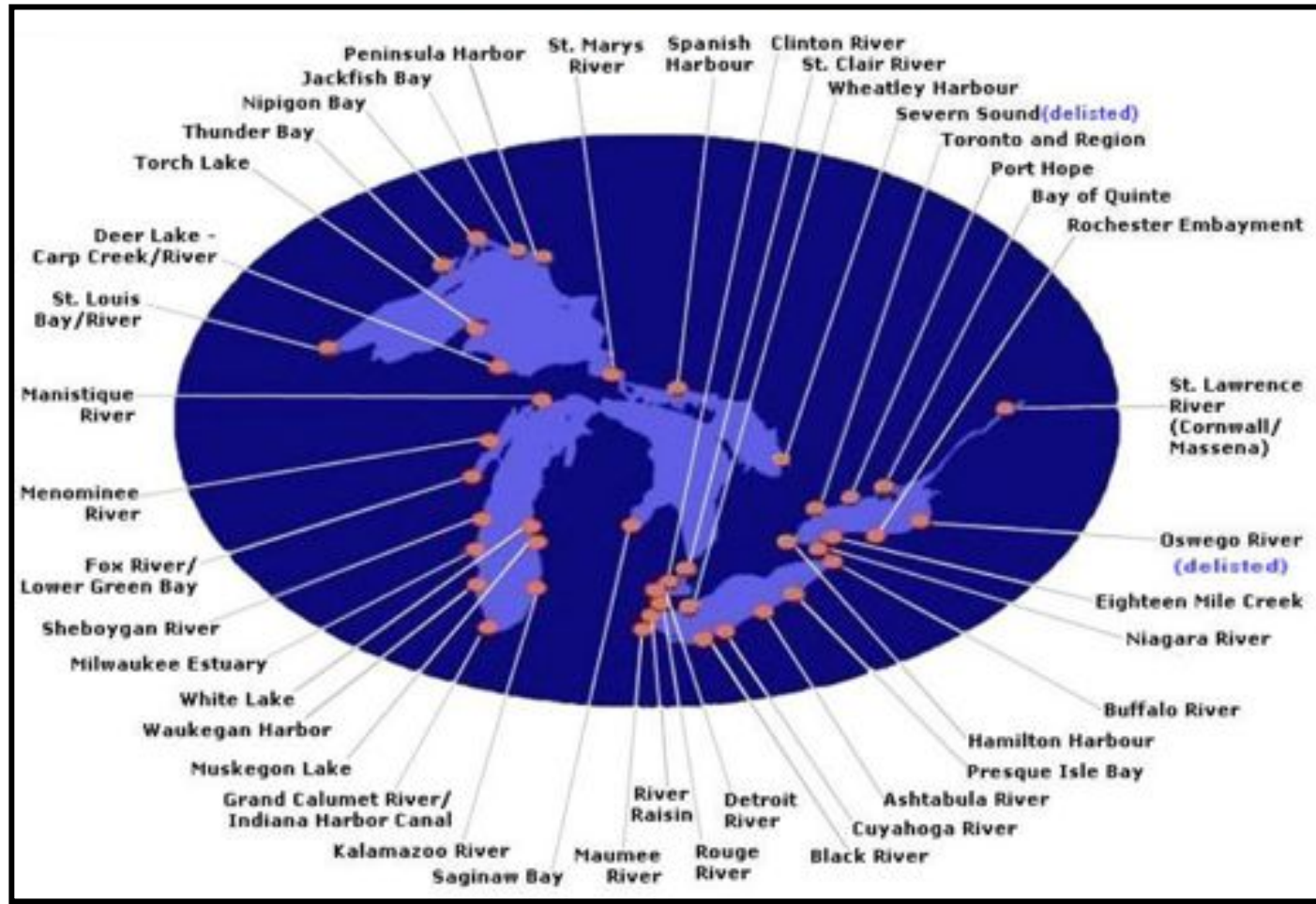
Binational Public Advisory Council for the St. Clair
River

Canadian co-chair :Kris Lee

U.S. co-chair: Janice Littlefield



AOCs in the Great Lakes



- “Listed” by International Joint Commission (IJC)
- GLWQA Amendment Process



The St. Clair River

- Integral part of the Great Lakes
- Part of connecting waters between Lake Huron and Lake Erie
- 64 kilometers (40 miles) long
- From mouth of Lake Huron, includes St. Clair River Delta



Watershed tributaries

- Talfourd, Baby, Bowens, Clay, Marshy and Murphy creeks
- Sydenham River
- Black, Pine and Belle rivers
- Bunce Creek and Marine City Drain







St. Clair River - Socio-economics

- Bordered by 11 communities
- Shoreline home of 230,000 residents
- Visited by 3.5 million tourists annually
- Utilized by more than 20,000 anglers annually
- Accessed by over 500,000 pleasure watercraft annually
- Used by 12,500 commercial freight vessels annually

Sources: *Sarnia-Lambton Economic Development Office, Canadian Coast Guard, BoatCan Inc., Sarnia Lambton Tourism*







St. Clair River - Natural Systems

- Home to 91 species of fish
- Major spawning area for sturgeon and 45 other fish species
- Home of 180 known aquatic plant species
- Home of 250 bird and waterfowl species
- Visited by 150,000 migratory waterfowl each autumn
- The St. Clair region is recognized under the *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, in part due to the wetlands of the Walpole Island First Nations*

Source: Remedial Action Plan, Stage I Report







Environmental Issues A.K.A. Beneficial Use Impairments

BUIs Impaired

- Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption
- Degradation of benthos
- Restrictions on dredging activities
- Restrictions on drinking water consumption or taste or odour problems
- Beach closings
- Degradation of aesthetics
- Added costs to agriculture and industry
- Loss of fish and wildlife habitat

BUIs Unimpaired

- Eutrophication or undesirable algae
- Degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations

BUIs Needing Further Assessment

- Tainting of fish and wildlife flavour
- Degradation of fish and wildlife populations
- Fish tumours and other deformities
- Bird and animal deformities or reproductive problems

Source: Table 6. Summary of Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) beneficial use impairments within the St.Clair River AOC



Challenges to St. Clair River AOC

Political/Administrative

4 government agencies

Funding volatility

Respecting First Nations

Amendment to Great Lakes Water
Quality Agreement process

Environmental

Habitat loss

Sediment

Fish consumption

Beach closings





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WELCOME TO THE FRIENDS OF ST. CLAIR RIVER WEBSITE

Join Us in June at the Sarnia Bay Point



The Sarnia Bay Point is the last parcel of undeveloped property on the Sarnia waterfront and is home to an amazing water ecosystem - a wildlife haven - right in the middle of downtown.

Events Schedule
June 1, 7:00 PM
Bay Point Family Nature Walk
June 8, 7:00 PM
Phragmites is turning my picture with some algae

The Bay Point is also a great place to walk. The trail

- Education Resources
- Photo Gallery
- News Room
- Meeting Minutes

AOC NEWS



Who is BPAC?

BPAC is a community of volunteers created in 1988 to assist RAP Team

- Provides a voice for local stakeholders

BPAC consists of 56 members from Ontario and Michigan, representing the sectors of:

- Agriculture
- Business and industry
- Citizens-at-large
- Community groups
- Conservation and environment
- Education
- Fishery
- Health
- Labour
- Municipalities
- Native peoples
- Provincial/state agencies
- Shipping
- Tourism and recreation





Recent Successes

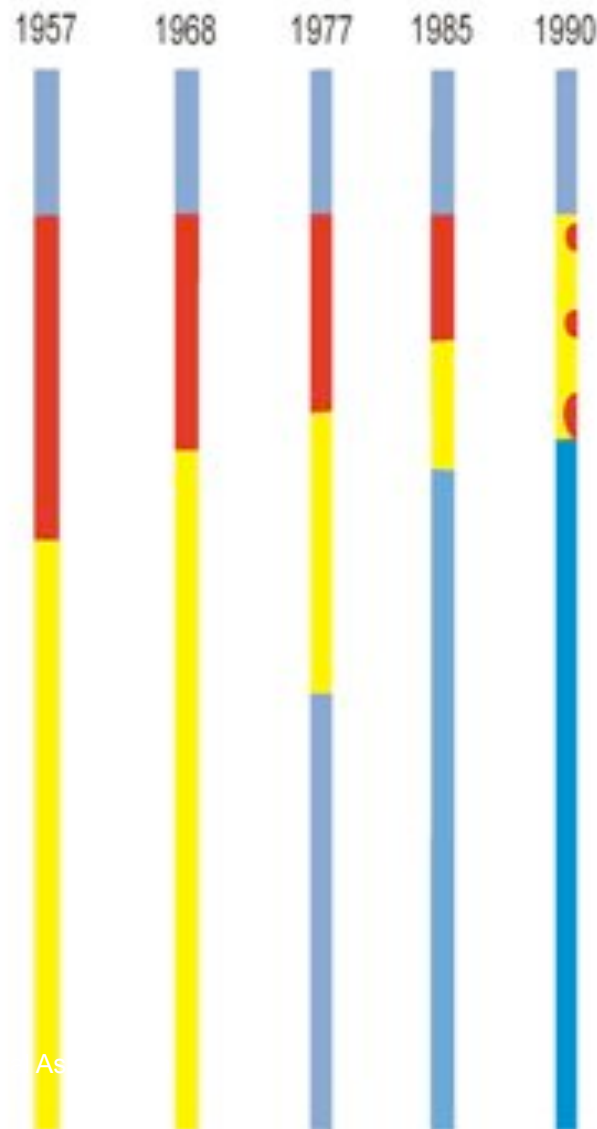
- Sediment studies and remediation projects (DOW, Environment Canada, MOE)
- Industrial waste water improvements
- City of Sarnia combined sewer separation
- Guthrie Park shoreline softening
- Wetlands Projects - DOW
- Terra Industries 20 hectare naturalization project
- ICI Canada - 20 hectare wetland
- Highway 40 Corridor
- St Clair River Tributaries Watershed Report Card
- City of Port Huron Sewer Separation
- Completion of regional watershed plan
- Submission of 8 fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects totaling \$16 million dollars
- Branton-Cundick Park
- Sarnia Bay Point demonstration site



Sediment Recovery

This graphic represents a band of sediment extending about 100 metres from the Canadian shore. Sediment quality has recovered in response to reductions in discharges over the past 25 years.

- Unimpaired
- Impaired
- Degraded





BPAC Activities to Restore Beneficial Uses

- Public outreach and education
 - Media releases, civic and school outreach and education
 - 2006 Photo Contest
 - 2008 Healthy Lakes Healthy Lives Tour
 - 2009 St. Clair River RAP Video
 - 2010 Rain Barrel Public Art Project.
 - BUI Fact Sheets
 - Speaking engagements
 - Participation in community events
 - Partnerships with other environmental interest groups



BPAC Contact Information:

Visit us on the web at: www.friendsofstclair.ca

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Other related resources on the web:

Friends of the St. Clair Watershed (US)

Great Lakes Information Network

Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association

Ministry of the Environment

Environment Canada

Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment

USEPA

International Joint Commission



Questions

