



RESTORING THE GREAT LAKES AREAS OF CONCERN

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS



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CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

RESTORING THE GREAT LAKES AREAS OF CONCERN

September 2025

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Restoring the Great Lakes Areas of Concern

The Great Lakes basin is Canada's most populated region. Its large population and extensive development places a strain on ecosystem health. Locations having experienced a high level of environmental damage from human activity are called Areas of Concern, a designation established under the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. This indicator assesses progress on restoring Areas of Concern around the Great Lakes within Canadian waters and those shared with the United States.

Status of the Great Lakes Areas of Concern

Each Area's beneficial uses that were initially classified as Impaired is assessed based on criteria specific to that Area. Once all criteria are met, the Area is considered Restored and delisted as an Area of Concern.

Key results

- Environmental quality in Canada's 17 Great Lakes Areas of Concern has improved since the restoration program began in 1987
- As of 2025,
 - 3 of the 17 Areas of Concern have been fully restored and delisted
 - 1 Area (Nipigon Bay) has been fully restored but remains listed pending final approval of its completion report following public consultation

Figure 1. Status of Canada's 17 Great Lakes Areas of Concern, 2025



[Data for Figure 1](#)

Note: Area of Concern status is based on progress reported as of March 31, 2025.
Source: Canada Water Agency (2025) [Great Lakes: Areas of Concern](#).

In 1987, the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement identified 43 Areas of Concern around the Great Lakes. Of these Areas of Concern:

- 26 were entirely in American waters,
 - 7 of which have been restored: Oswego River (2006), Presque Isle Bay (2013), Deer Lake (2014), White Lake (2014), Lower Menominee River (2020), Ashtabula River (2021), and Rochester Embayment (2024)
- 5 were shared between Canada and the United States
- 12 were entirely in Canadian waters

To date, considerable progress has been made towards the restoration of Canada's 17 Areas of Concern (including the 5 shared with the United States):

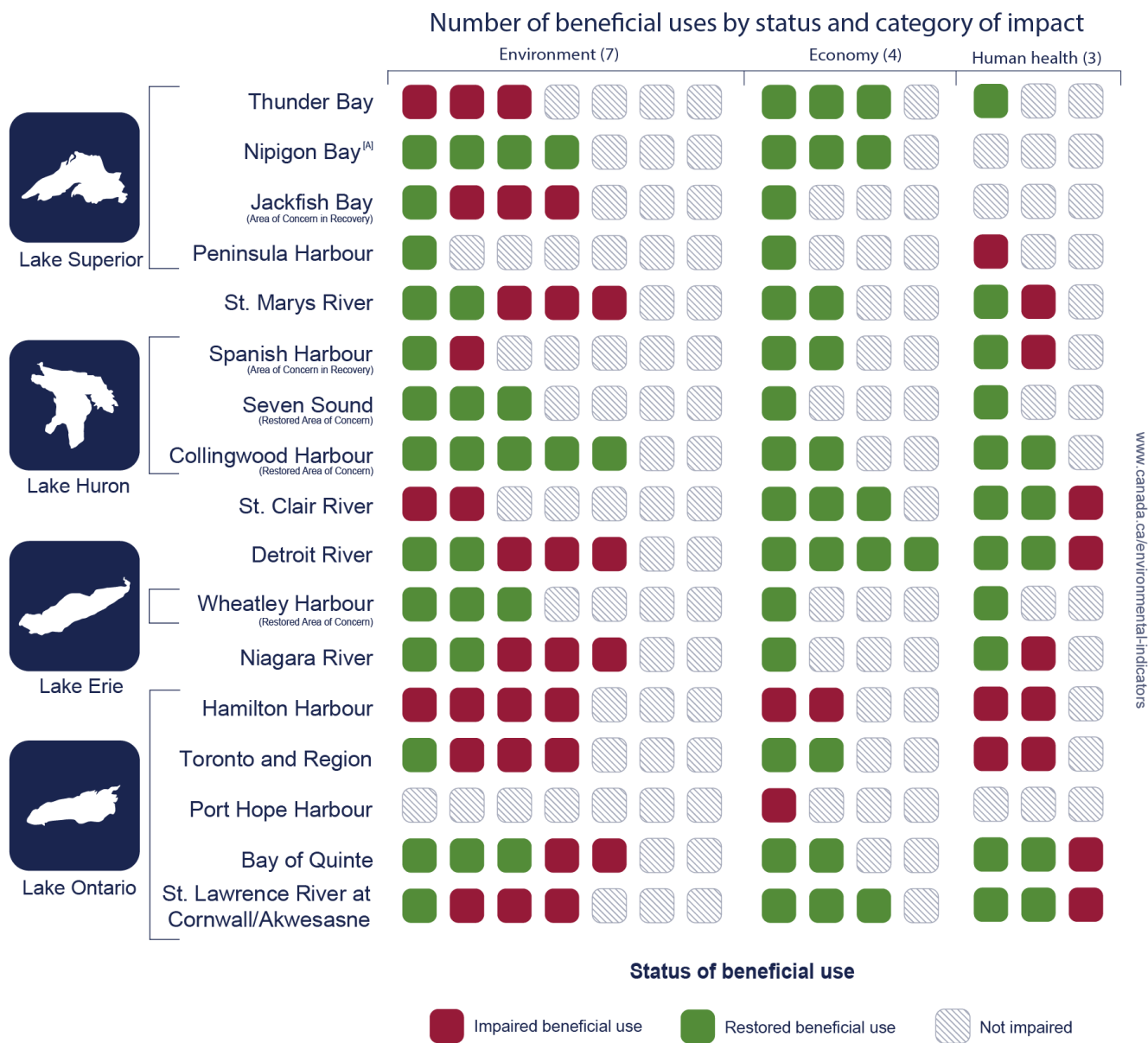
- 3 have been fully restored and delisted, meaning all impaired beneficial uses have a status of not impaired and the location has been removed from the list: Collingwood Harbour (1994), Severn Sound (2002) and Wheatley Harbour (2010)
- 1 has had all impaired beneficial uses restored and community engagement will continue until it is removed from the list of Areas of Concern: Nipigon Bay (2016)
 - As of 2016, Nipigon Bay had all of its impaired beneficial uses restored; however, it cannot be delisted as an Area of Concern until the final approval of its completion report following public consultations
- 2 have been formally designated as Areas of Concern in Recovery, signifying that all remedial actions have been completed and the natural recovery of the ecosystem will continue to be monitored: Spanish Harbour (1999) and Jackfish Bay (2011)
- Efforts continue to restore the remaining 11 Areas of Concern: Peninsula Harbour, Thunder Bay, Bay of Quinte, Port Hope Harbour, Toronto and Region, Hamilton Harbour, St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne, St. Clair River, St. Marys River, Niagara River and Detroit River

Progress on restoring the Great Lakes Areas of Concern

Key results

- As of March 2025, 76 of the 121 impaired beneficial uses identified in Canada's 17 Areas of Concern have been restored. Efforts continue to restore the 45 remaining impaired beneficial uses
- Between April 2023 and March 2025, 4 beneficial uses were restored (out of the 76 restored in total) in the St. Marys River (2), St. Clair River (1) and St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne (1) Areas of Concern

Figure 2. Progress on Canada’s 17 Great Lakes Areas of Concern, 1987 to 2025



Note: ^[A] As of 2016, the [Nipigon Bay Area of Concern](#) had all of its impaired beneficial uses restored; however, it cannot be formally designated as a Restored Area of Concern until the final approval of its completion report following public consultations on its delisting. Year

refers to fiscal year, which runs from April 1 to March 31. The year 2025 therefore refers to April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

Source: Canada Water Agency (2025) [Great Lakes: Areas of Concern](#).

At the 17 Areas of Concern, 121 beneficial uses have been considered impaired since the restoration program began in 1987. Beneficial uses describe how an aquatic ecosystem benefits the environment, economy or human health: they are the ecological services that are available to the population and the environment when the ecosystem is healthy (in other words, not impaired).

An impaired beneficial use has experienced enough changes to the chemical, physical or biological integrity of the area to restrict human use, or to restrict the area's ability to support plants and animals. Before classifying an area as an Area of Concern, 14 beneficial uses are considered. Each of the 14 beneficial uses can be classified based on their impairment under 1 of the following Categories of impact:¹

Environment (7)

1. Degradation of fish and wildlife populations
2. Fish tumours or other deformities
3. Bird or animal deformities or reproduction problems
4. Degradation of benthos
5. Degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations
6. Eutrophication or undesirable algae
7. Loss of fish and wildlife habitat

Economy (4)

1. Tainting of fish and wildlife flavour
2. Restrictions on dredging activities
3. Degradation of aesthetics
4. Added costs to agriculture or industry

Human health (3)

1. Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption
2. Restrictions on drinking water consumption, or taste and odour problems
3. Beach closing

¹ For more information on the beneficial use impairments, please see Environment and Climate Change Canada (2013) [2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement: annex 1](#).

About the indicator

What the indicator measures

This indicator assesses progress towards the restoration of Canada's 12 Areas of Concern and the 5 Areas of Concern shared with the United States.

An Area of Concern is a region in the Great Lakes that has experienced a high level of environmental damage from human activity. There are 14 beneficial uses that are considered in order to decide whether an area should be classified as an Area of Concern. Beneficial uses describe how an aquatic ecosystem benefits the economy, human health and the environment: they are the ecological services that are available to the population and the environment when the ecosystem is healthy (not impaired). An Impaired beneficial use has experienced enough changes to the chemical, physical or biological integrity of the area to restrict human use or to restrict the area's ability to support plants and animals.

The status of a beneficial use is determined by monitoring and conducting scientific studies in the Area of Concern. The study results are compared to the findings for reference sites and targets listed in the site's remedial action plan and other update reports.

Why this indicator is important

This indicator is used to provide information about the state of the Great Lakes and the Canadian environment. It tracks the work done to repair the environment at 17 Areas of Concern in Canada. In these areas, the degraded environment has disrupted fisheries, wildlife, tourism, recreation and/or agriculture.

Related initiatives

The indicator contributes to the [Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). It is linked to the 2030 Agenda's Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation.

The indicator also contributes towards reporting on Target 7 of the [Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy](#): "Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources, by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services."

The indicator assesses progress towards the goals of the [Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health, 2021](#). Specifically, it measures progress towards restoring the remaining impaired beneficial uses in the Canadian Great Lakes Areas of Concern (Thunder Bay, Jackfish Bay, Peninsula Harbour, St. Marys River, Spanish River, St. Clair River, Detroit River, Niagara River, Bay of Quinte, St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne, Hamilton Harbour, Toronto and Region, and Port Hope Harbour).

Related indicators

The [Phosphorus levels in the offshore waters of the Great Lakes](#) indicator reports total phosphorus levels in the offshore waters of the 4 Canadian Great Lakes.

The [Phosphorus loading to Lake Erie](#) indicators report on the total phosphorus loadings flowing directly into Lake Erie or from its tributary rivers.

The [Water quality in Canadian rivers](#) indicators provide a measure of the ability of river water across Canada to support plants and animals.

The [Nutrients in the St. Lawrence River](#) indicator report the status of total phosphorus and total nitrogen levels in the St. Lawrence River.

Data sources and methods

Data sources

The Canada Water Agency's [Great Lakes Areas of Concern](#) program tracks the status of all beneficial uses in Canada's 17 Areas of Concern (including the 5 shared with the United States). This information is developed as Canada exercises its responsibility under the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to remove a beneficial use impairment designation when the established criteria have been met. The most recent data available for each Area of Concern are used to calculate this indicator.

More information

The 2025 data were obtained from the Canada Water Agency. Progress reports summarizing the status of all beneficial uses for all Canadian Areas of Concern have been compiled every 1 to 3 years since 2012. Prior to 2012, beneficial use classifications were taken from remedial action plans and update reports.

Data coverage for this indicator begins with Severn Sound's Stage 1 report published in 1988 and includes data up to March 31, 2025. The other Areas of Concern released their Stage 1 reports between 1989 and 1993, with the majority being released in 1991. Wheatley Harbour released a combined Stage 1 and 2 report in 1998.

The Port Hope Harbour Area of Concern is being restored through the Port Hope Area Initiative, launched in 2001. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories is implementing the Port Hope Project on behalf of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, a federal Crown corporation because of the nature and scope of the contamination at this site. Only the progress reports compiled since 2003 were considered for Port Hope Harbour.

Description of the Areas of Concern process

The 1987 revision of the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement identified 43 Areas of Concern in Canadian and American waters of the Great Lakes. All Canadian Areas of Concern, have a remedial action plan to guide restoration and protection efforts targeting specific beneficial uses.²

In the former process, under the 1987 Protocol to the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, remedial action plans were developed and implemented in 3 stages.

- Stage 1 identified which of 14 beneficial uses were classified as Impaired or Not impaired, as well as the sources and causes of the problem
- Stage 2 established the goals, objectives and actions required to restore the ecosystem to a healthy state
- Stage 3 documented the successful restoration of the Area of Concern as measured against the objectives (delisting criteria) outlined in the Stage 2 Remedial Action Plan report

When the beneficial uses were considered Not Impaired, and Stage 3 was complete, the Area of Concern was declared Restored and officially "delisted". Typically, Canada waited to change the status of beneficial uses to Not Impaired in bunches (for example, with the release of a stage update report) or en masse (for example, with the completion of Stage 3).

Under the 2012 Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the process was modified and remedial action plans are now periodically updated to reflect restoration progress. Rather than waiting to change the status of all beneficial uses at once, updates now occur as progress is made. Under this agreement, Canada

- will remove an Impaired beneficial use designation when established criteria have been met

² For more information on what the beneficial uses are, please see: Environment and Climate Change Canada (2013) [2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement: annex 1](#).

- may elect to identify an Area of Concern as an Area of Concern in Recovery when all actions identified in a remedial action plan have been implemented and monitoring shows recovery is progressing as anticipated
- will remove the Area of Concern or Area of Concern in Recovery designation when environmental monitoring confirms beneficial use restoration criteria have been met

An Area of Concern in Recovery is an area originally identified as an Area of Concern where, on the basis of community and government consensus, all scientifically-feasible and economically-reasonable actions have been implemented and additional time is required for the environment to recover.

The reports prepared for each Area of Concern and additional information can be found at [Great Lakes: Areas of Concern](#).

Methods

The number of beneficial uses listed as Impaired was counted for all Stage 1 reports and all update reports conducted up to the end of March 2025. The results include the beneficial uses for Canada's 12 Areas of Concern, covering the 4 Canadian Great Lakes, as well as the 5 Areas of Concern shared with the United States in their connecting channels.

An Impaired beneficial use can be classified as Restored if all delisting requirements for that beneficial use impairment have been met. Criteria for a beneficial use impairment are established in consideration of conditions that can be eventually achieved on a lake-wide basis.

Recent changes

On October 15, 2024, the *Canada Water Agency Act* came into force to establish the Canada Water Agency as a new, standalone entity under the federal Environment Minister's portfolio to provide deferral leadership and improve coordination on freshwater management in Canada. The [Great Lakes Areas of Concern](#) program was transferred from Environment and Climate Change Canada to the Canada Water Agency.

Caveats and limitations

This indicator does not show the continuous nature of the rehabilitation process for each Area of Concern because the status for each beneficial use impairment can only change when new reports are published and the party (Canada) has confirmed the status as per the provisions in Annex 1 of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. With progress reports being updated annually, the staggered change is less evident.

Port Hope Harbour follows a separate program, the Port Hope Area Initiative that is being implemented by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories on behalf of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited.

Resources

References

Environment and Climate Change Canada (2013) [2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement: annex 1](#).

Related information

[Great Lakes: Areas of Concern](#)

[Canada-United States Great Lakes water quality agreement, 2012](#)

[Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health, 2021](#)

[2022 Progress Report of the Parties](#)

Annex

Annex A. Data tables for the figures presented in this document

Table A.1. Data for Figure 1. Status of Canada's 17 Great Lakes Areas of Concern, 2025Error!

Reference source not found.

Lake	Area of Concern	Assessment year	Status as of March 31, 2025
Superior	Thunder Bay	1991, 2012	Area of Concern
Superior	Nipigon Bay	1991	Area of Concern
Superior	Jackfish Bay	1991	Area of Concern in Recovery
Superior	Peninsula Harbour	1991, 2012	Area of Concern
n/a	St. Marys River	1992	Area of Concern
Huron	Spanish Harbour	1993	Area of Concern in Recovery
Huron	Severn Sound	1988	Restored Area of Concern
Huron	Collingwood Harbour	1989	Restored Area of Concern
n/a	St. Clair River	1991	Area of Concern
n/a	Detroit River	1991, 1998	Area of Concern
Erie	Wheatley Harbour	1998	Restored Area of Concern
n/a	Niagara River	1993	Area of Concern
Ontario	Hamilton Harbour	1992	Area of Concern
Ontario	Toronto and Region	1989	Area of Concern
Ontario	Port Hope Harbour	2003	Area of Concern
Ontario	Bay of Quinte	1990	Area of Concern
Ontario	St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne	1992	Area of Concern

Note: n/a = not applicable, Great Lake tributary river. Assessment reports were published between 1988 and 1993, in what were titled Stage 1 Remedial Action Plan reports, with the exception of Wheatley Harbour and Port Hope Harbour, which were produced in 1998 and 2003, respectively. Many of these included undefined status for certain beneficial uses, and they "required further assessment". Upon further assessment over subsequent years, what had been undefined was clarified in Remedial Action Plan status update reports. In these cases, a second year is noted as assessment year.

Source: Canada Water Agency (2025) [Great Lakes: Areas of Concern](#).

Table A. 2. Data for Error! Reference source not found. Figure 2. Progress on Canada's 17 Great Lakes Areas of Concern, 1987 to 2025

Lake	Area of Concern	Category	Benefit Impaired	Status	Year restored (if applicable)
Superior	Thunder Bay	Environment	Degradation of benthos	Impaired	n/a
Superior	Thunder Bay	Environment	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	Impaired	n/a
Superior	Thunder Bay	Environment	Loss of fish & wildlife habitat	Impaired	n/a
Superior	Thunder Bay	Economy	Added costs to agriculture or industry	Restored	2004
Superior	Thunder Bay	Economy	Degradation of aesthetics	Restored	2019
Superior	Thunder Bay	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Restored	2012
Superior	Thunder Bay	Human health	Beach closings	Restored	2023
Superior	Nipigon Bay ^[A]	Environment	Degradation of benthos	Restored	2016
Superior	Nipigon Bay ^[A]	Environment	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	Restored	2016
Superior	Nipigon Bay ^[A]	Environment	Eutrophication or undesirable algae	Restored	2016
Superior	Nipigon Bay ^[A]	Environment	Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	Restored	2016
Superior	Nipigon Bay ^[A]	Economy	Degradation of aesthetics	Restored	2016
Superior	Nipigon Bay ^[A]	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Restored	1995
Superior	Nipigon Bay ^[A]	Economy	Tainting of fish and wildlife flavour	Restored	1995
Superior	Jackfish Bay ^[B]	Environment	Degradation of benthos	Impaired	n/a
Superior	Jackfish Bay ^[B]	Environment	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	Impaired	n/a
Superior	Jackfish Bay ^[B]	Environment	Fish tumours or other deformities	Restored	2010
Superior	Jackfish Bay ^[B]	Environment	Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	Impaired	n/a
Superior	Jackfish Bay ^[B]	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Restored	1998
Superior	Peninsula Harbour	Environment	Degradation of benthos	Restored	2022
Superior	Peninsula Harbour	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Restored	2012
Superior	Peninsula Harbour	Human health	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	Impaired	n/a
n/a ^[D]	St. Marys River	Environment	Degradation of benthos	Impaired	n/a

Lake	Area of Concern	Category	Benefit Impaired	Status	Year restored (if applicable)
n/a ^[D]	St. Marys River	Environment	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	Restored	2024
n/a ^[D]	St. Marys River	Environment	Eutrophication or undesirable algae	Restored	2018
n/a ^[D]	St. Marys River	Environment	Fish tumours or other deformities	Impaired	n/a
n/a ^[D]	St. Marys River	Environment	Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	Impaired	n/a
n/a ^[D]	St. Marys River	Economy	Degradation of aesthetics	Restored	2018
n/a ^[D]	St. Marys River	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Restored	2024
n/a ^[D]	St. Marys River	Human health	Beach closings	Restored	2018
n/a ^[D]	St. Marys River	Human health	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	Impaired	n/a
Huron	Spanish Harbour ^[B]	Environment	Degradation of benthos	Impaired	n/a
Huron	Spanish Harbour ^[B]	Environment	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	Restored	1999
Huron	Spanish Harbour ^[B]	Economy	Added costs to agriculture or industry	Restored	2002
Huron	Spanish Harbour ^[B]	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Restored	2020
Huron	Spanish Harbour ^[B]	Human health	Beach closings	Restored	2002
Huron	Spanish Harbour ^[B]	Human health	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	Impaired	n/a
Huron	Severn Sound ^[C]	Environment	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	Restored	2002
Huron	Severn Sound ^[C]	Environment	Eutrophication or undesirable algae	Restored	2002
Huron	Severn Sound ^[C]	Environment	Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	Restored	2002
Huron	Severn Sound ^[C]	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Restored	2002
Huron	Severn Sound ^[C]	Human health	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	Restored	2002
Huron	Collingwood Harbour ^[C]	Environment	Bird/animal deformities or reproduction problems	Restored	1994
Huron	Collingwood Harbour ^[C]	Environment	Degradation of benthos	Restored	1994
Huron	Collingwood Harbour ^[C]	Environment	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	Restored	1994
Huron	Collingwood Harbour ^[C]	Environment	Degradation of phytoplankton and	Restored	1994

Lake	Area of Concern	Category	Benefit Impaired	Status	Year restored (if applicable)
			zooplankton populations		
Huron	Collingwood Harbour ^[C]	Environment	Eutrophication or undesirable algae	Restored	1994
Huron	Collingwood Harbour ^[C]	Economy	Degradation of aesthetics	Restored	1994
Huron	Collingwood Harbour ^[C]	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Restored	1994
Huron	Collingwood Harbour ^[C]	Human health	Beach closings	Restored	1994
Huron	Collingwood Harbour ^[C]	Human health	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	Restored	1994
n/a ^[D]	St. Clair River	Environment	Degradation of benthos	Impaired	n/a
n/a ^[D]	St. Clair River	Environment	Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	Impaired	n/a
n/a ^[D]	St. Clair River	Economy	Added costs to agriculture or industry	Restored	2012
n/a ^[D]	St. Clair River	Economy	Degradation of aesthetics	Restored	2016
n/a ^[D]	St. Clair River	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Restored	2018
n/a ^[D]	St. Clair River	Human health	Beach closings	Restored	2018
n/a ^[D]	St. Clair River	Human health	Restrictions - drinking water consumption, taste/odour problems	Restored	2024
n/a ^[D]	St. Clair River	Human health	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	Impaired	n/a
n/a ^[D]	Detroit River	Environment	Bird/animal deformities or reproduction problems	Impaired	n/a
n/a ^[D]	Detroit River	Environment	Degradation of benthos	Restored	2020
n/a ^[D]	Detroit River	Environment	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	Impaired	n/a
n/a ^[D]	Detroit River	Environment	Fish tumours or other deformities	Restored	2020
n/a ^[D]	Detroit River	Environment	Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	Impaired	n/a
n/a ^[D]	Detroit River	Economy	Added costs to agriculture or industry	Restored	2010
n/a ^[D]	Detroit River	Economy	Degradation of aesthetics	Restored	2016
n/a ^[D]	Detroit River	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Restored	2019
n/a ^[D]	Detroit River	Economy	Tainting of fish and wildlife flavour	Restored	2014
n/a ^[D]	Detroit River	Human health	Beach closings	Restored	2016

Lake	Area of Concern	Category	Benefit Impaired	Status	Year restored (if applicable)
n/a ^[D]	Detroit River	Human health	Restrictions - drinking water consumption, taste/odour problems	Restored	2010
n/a ^[D]	Detroit River	Human health	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	Impaired	n/a
Erie	Wheatley Harbour ^[C]	Environment	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	Restored	2010
Erie	Wheatley Harbour ^[C]	Environment	Eutrophication or undesirable algae	Restored	2010
Erie	Wheatley Harbour ^[C]	Environment	Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	Restored	2010
Erie	Wheatley Harbour ^[C]	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Restored	2010
Erie	Wheatley Harbour ^[C]	Human health	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	Restored	2010
n/a ^[D]	Niagara River	Environment	Bird/animal deformities or reproduction problems	Restored	2009
n/a ^[D]	Niagara River	Environment	Degradation of benthos	Impaired	n/a
n/a ^[D]	Niagara River	Environment	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	Impaired	n/a
n/a ^[D]	Niagara River	Environment	Eutrophication or undesirable algae	Restored	2019
n/a ^[D]	Niagara River	Environment	Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	Impaired	n/a
n/a ^[D]	Niagara River	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Restored	2009
n/a ^[D]	Niagara River	Human health	Beach closings	Restored	2023
n/a ^[D]	Niagara River	Human health	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	Hamilton Harbour	Environment	Degradation of benthos	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	Hamilton Harbour	Environment	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	Hamilton Harbour	Environment	Eutrophication or undesirable algae	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	Hamilton Harbour	Environment	Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	Hamilton Harbour	Economy	Degradation of aesthetics	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	Hamilton Harbour	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	Hamilton Harbour	Human health	Beach closings	Impaired	n/a

Lake	Area of Concern	Category	Benefit Impaired	Status	Year restored (if applicable)
Ontario	Hamilton Harbour	Human health	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	Toronto and Region	Environment	Degradation of benthos	Restored	2016
Ontario	Toronto and Region	Environment	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	Toronto and Region	Environment	Eutrophication or undesirable algae	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	Toronto and Region	Environment	Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	Toronto and Region	Economy	Degradation of aesthetics	Restored	2020
Ontario	Toronto and Region	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Restored	2016
Ontario	Toronto and Region	Human health	Beach closings	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	Toronto and Region	Human health	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	Port Hope Harbour	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	Bay of Quinte	Environment	Degradation of benthos	Restored	2018
Ontario	Bay of Quinte	Environment	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	Restored	2018
Ontario	Bay of Quinte	Environment	Degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	Bay of Quinte	Environment	Eutrophication or undesirable algae	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	Bay of Quinte	Environment	Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	Restored	2018
Ontario	Bay of Quinte	Economy	Degradation of aesthetics	Restored	2022
Ontario	Bay of Quinte	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Restored	2017
Ontario	Bay of Quinte	Human health	Beach closings	Restored	2019
Ontario	Bay of Quinte	Human health	Restrictions - drinking water consumption, taste/odour problems	Restored	2020
Ontario	Bay of Quinte	Human health	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne	Environment	Degradation of benthos	Restored	2007
Ontario	St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne	Environment	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	Impaired	n/a

Lake	Area of Concern	Category	Benefit Impaired	Status	Year restored (if applicable)
Ontario	St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne	Environment	Eutrophication or undesirable algae	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne	Environment	Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	Impaired	n/a
Ontario	St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne	Economy	Added costs to agriculture or industry	Restored	1997
Ontario	St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne	Economy	Degradation of aesthetics	Restored	1997
Ontario	St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne	Economy	Restrictions on dredging activities	Restored	2007
Ontario	St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne	Human health	Beach closings	Restored	2023
Ontario	St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne	Human health	Restrictions - drinking water consumption, taste/odour problems	Restored	1997
Ontario	St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne	Human health	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	Impaired	n/a

Note: n/a = not applicable. ^[A] All impaired beneficial uses have been restored in the Area of Concern; however, it cannot be formally designated as a Restored Area of Concern until the final approval of the completion report. ^[B] Area of Concern in Recovery. ^[C] Restored Area of Concern. ^[D] Great Lake tributary river. Year refers to fiscal year, which runs from April 1 to March 31. The year 2025 therefore refers to April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

Source: Canada Water Agency (2025) [Great Lakes: Areas of Concern](#).

Additional information can be obtained at:

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