

U.S. GREAT LAKES AREAS OF CONCERN

WHAT IS AN AREA OF CONCERN?

Areas of Concern are designated by the International Joint Commission as geographic areas in the Great Lakes basin having severe environmental degradation. There are 43 Areas of Concern with 26 in the United States, 17 in Canada, and five shared by the two countries.

An Area of Concern must have at least one beneficial use impairment, which means a reduction in the chemical, physical, or biological integrity of the water body. These include:

01. Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption
02. Tainting of fish and wildlife flavor
03. Degraded fish and wildlife populations
04. Fish tumors or other deformities
05. Bird or animal deformities or reproductive problems
06. Degradation of benthos
07. Restrictions on dredging activities
08. Eutrophication or undesirable algae
09. Restrictions on drinking water consumptions or taste and odor problems
10. Beach closings
11. Degradation of aesthetics
12. Added costs to agriculture and industry
13. Degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations
14. Loss of fish and wildlife habitat



| Color Key | Status |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Great Lakes | Area of Concern (AOC) |
| Great Lakes Watershed | AOC with Management Actions Completed |
| | Delisted AOC |