



St. Clair River  
Canadian Delisting Criteria Review

# Criteria Review Background

- Currently using criteria from the 1995 Stage 2 report.
- US are using Michigan state wide criteria that were written in January 2006 and adopted by the BPAC in 2008 (?).
- CRIC working group has been created (March 2010) to review/revise criteria.
- Delisting Guiding Principles first task undertaken.

<b>Beneficial Use Impairment</b>	<b>Stage 2 Status in1995</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	Impaired (for fish)	Impaired (for fish)
Degradation of benthos	Impaired	Impaired
Restrictions on dredging activities	Impaired	Impaired
Restrictions on drinking water consumption, or taste and odour problems	Impaired	Impaired
Beach closings	Impaired	Impaired
Degradation of Aesthetics	Impaired	Impaired
Added Costs to Agriculture and Industry	Impaired	Impaired
Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat	Impaired	Impaired
Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Populations	RFA	Not Impaired
Degraded of Fish and Wildlife Populations	RFA	RFA
Fish Tumours or Other Deformities	RFA	RFA
Bird (or other animal) deformities or reproduction problems	Impaired (chironomid mouth parts)	RFA
Degradation of Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Populations	Not Impaired	Not Impaired
Eutrophication or undesirable algae	Not Impaired	Not Impaired

# Delisting Guiding Principles

- Criteria should be relevant to the original reasons for Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) determination.
  - Delisting criteria should be linked to the concerns identified in the St. Clair River Stage 1 RAP report.
- Criteria should deal with anthropogenic causes that originate within the AOC
  - There are some region-wide issues that are beyond the AOC program. Therefore, focus of AOC RAP efforts should be directed to causes that originate within the St. Clair River AOC. (Need to distinguish between in-river sources, upstream/regional sources and out of basin sources.)
- Criteria should reflect a goal of equivalency with unimpaired portions of the Great Lakes Basin.
  - This recognizes that when a BUI is remediated to the point of being "similar to unimpaired portions of the Great Lakes Basin", there may still be some residual unmitigated impact of the issues, but not at levels that distinguish the St. Clair River from other areas of the Basin.
  - For some BUI's, it may not be the entire river that is impaired. Consideration needs to be given to both the severity and geographic extent of the localized impairment when comparing the overall state of the river to portions of the Basin deemed to be unimpaired.
- Criteria should be practical, measurable and achievable
  - The intent of the RAP process was to identify AOC's and BUI's for actionable attention to remedy the worst issues in the Great Lakes Basins. Criteria should not be so stringent as to be impossible to achieve.
  - Targets set must have a measurable component to them.
- Criteria should be consistent with those adopted for the U.S. side of the St. Clair River, and with the criteria adopted for the Detroit River, providing those criteria align with these principles.

## BUI # 7 – Added Costs To Agriculture or Industry

Current Status of BUI: Impaired

*Background - the Stage 1 Report it identified on the Ontario side, food processors in Wallaceburg being temporarily shut down following the October 1990 ethylbenzene spill from Dow Chemical...*

Overview

*Two of the companies that use raw water from the St. Clair River in their operations (e.g. for cooling) were contacted to determine whether they had experienced any added costs due to the quality of the water in the river.....*

Delisting Criteria

*Original (Original; 1995 Stage 2 Report Binational)*

*"No plant shutdowns attributable to water quality over a two year period. No added costs for the disposal of contaminated sediment."*

*Proposed Revised (2010: Canadian)*

*When there are no significant additional costs required to use raw St. Clair River water for agricultural and industrial purposes.*

### ***Rationale for the Revision***

*The proposal is to refocus the criterion on no additional costs required to treat water relative to other parts of the Great Lakes for which raw water can be used for agricultural and industrial purposes and therefore not considered impaired.....*

### ***Related Recommendations***

*Review data on costs to industry and agriculture that utilize St. Clair River raw water.*

# Next Steps

- Complete review/revision of criteria
- Provide to CRIC for review and acceptance
- Provide to BPAC for review, comment and endorsement
- Provide to Four Agency Managers for comment
- Provide to COA AIC/Managers for review and endorsement
- Provide to IJC for review and endorsement