



Bay of Quinte

Remedial Action Plan
Healthy Bay • Healthy Community

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan

The Bay of Quinte is a healthy and vibrant ecosystem
we need to protect for future generations

What is an Area of Concern and why is the Bay of Quinte one?

The Bay of Quinte was designated an Area of Concern in 1985 by the International Joint Commission (IJC) (a Canada - U.S. Great Lakes watch dog), under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Areas of Concern are locations in the Great Lakes system where human activities have severely damaged the quality of the environment. There were 43 Areas of Concern originally identified, 12 of which were Canadian and 5 of which were shared binationally.

Each Area of Concern must develop and implement a Remedial Action Plan to address the environmental damage. A Remedial Action Plan or a "RAP" is an important scientific endeavour, which is undertaken by federal and provincial governments, industry, and the local community, to address environmental concerns that are believed to impair the use of various resources such as drinking water, fish, and wildlife habitat. Once the RAP is completed, the area is no longer considered to be impaired and is formally removed from the IJC's list of Areas of Concern.



Environmental concerns in the Bay of Quinte were due to:

EXCESS NUTRIENTS (PHOSPHORUS) - Excess nutrients (phosphorus) in the Bay of Quinte primarily come from sewage treatment plants, agricultural land practices, and storm sewers. Thanks to actions taken by municipalities and rural landowners, the amount of phosphorous going into the Bay has decreased from 216 kg/day in the 1970's to a current loading of less than 10kg/day, according to 2011 - 2012 data. However, phosphorus levels above recommended guidelines are still being recorded in the waters of the Bay.

PERSISTENT TOXIC CONTAMINATION - Generally, historical industrial sites were/are responsible for chemicals found in the Bay of Quinte. Many actions have been taken to eliminate toxins/chemicals from entering the Bay and monitoring programs are on-going.

BACTERIAL CONTAMINATION - Studies show that current sources of E. coli bacteria are from non-human sources. Heavy rainfall, causing excess stormwater runoff from both urban and rural sources, is the primary trigger of elevated E-coli levels.

LOSS OR DESTRUCTION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT - It has been estimated that 12,000 hectares of coastal wetlands have been lost over time, within 3.2 km around the Bay of Quinte. Much of the remaining 7,000 hectares has been impacted by development pressure. Habitat improvement projects large and small have been implemented around the Bay to protect and restore wetlands and shorelines.

These environmental concerns are placed into different categories so they can be monitored and assessed. These categories are called Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) and the Bay has 11 out of a possible 14 BUIs that were identified by the IJC. e.g. Loss of fish and wildlife habitat, Restrictions on drinking water or taste and odour problems.

Our next update will cover the status of the 11 Beneficial Use Impairments of the Bay of Quinte.

To find out more about the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan and how through the efforts of its many partners the Bay is a success story that needs your input and support, visit our web site www.bqrap.ca or contact, Sarah Midlane-Jones, BQRAP Communications - smidlanejones@bqrap.ca - 613-394-3915 ext 214

Please make the Bay of Quinte part of your campaign agenda.