

ANNEX 1

AREAS OF CONCERN

A. Purpose

The purpose of this Annex is to contribute to the achievement of the General and Specific Objectives of this Agreement by restoring beneficial uses that have become impaired due to local conditions at Areas of Concern (AOCs), through the development and implementation of Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for each AOC designated pursuant to this Agreement.

B. Programs and Other Measures

An AOC is a geographic area designated by the Parties where significant impairment of beneficial uses has occurred as a result of human activities at the local level.

The Parties have designated AOCs and may, after consulting with State and Provincial Governments, Tribal Governments, First Nations, Métis, Municipal Governments, watershed management agencies, other local public agencies, the Public, and the Commission as appropriate, designate additional AOCs based on an evaluation of Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs). A BUI is a reduction in the chemical, physical or biological integrity of the Waters of the Great Lakes sufficient to cause any of the following:

1. restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption;
2. tainting of fish and wildlife flavour;
3. degradation of fish and wildlife populations;
4. fish tumours or other deformities;
5. bird or animal deformities or reproduction problems;
6. degradation of benthos;