



Project Title: Developing Biodiversity Conservation Strategies for Lake Erie and Lake Michigan

Participants: PIs - TNC, MNFI, NCC; LaMPs and LaMP Forums, many others

Start/end dates: October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2012

Funds: GLRI - \$600,000 for both lakes

Environment Canada ~\$30,000 for ON

- 1. Defined Biodiversity Conservation Targets**
(Offshore, Nearshore, Islands, Migratory Fish, Coastal Wetlands, Coastal Terrestrial Systems, Aerial Migrants, Connecting Channels)
- 2. Assessed current viability status of biodiversity conservation targets (draft; consulting ~100+ experts)**
- 3. Assessed threats to biodiversity conservation targets (1st iteration; ranked by ~50 experts)**

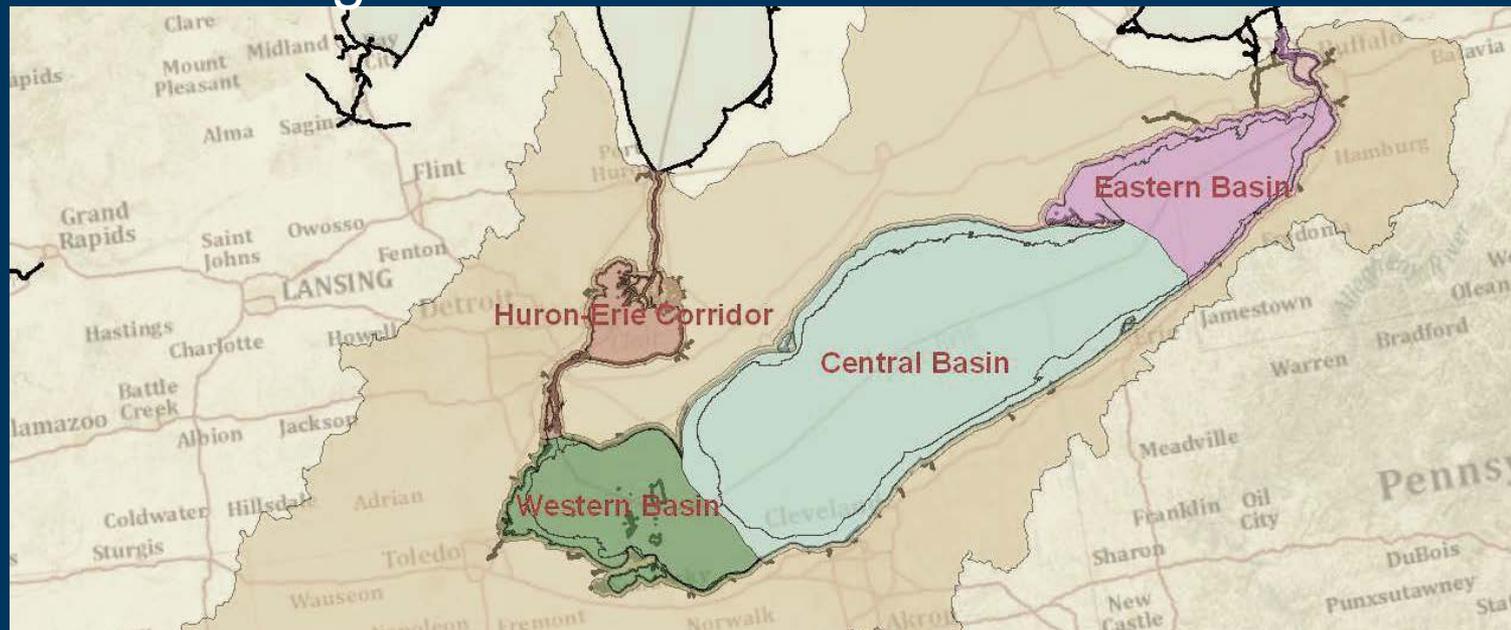
Lake Erie Biodiversity Conservation Strategy:

3. Regional Value

Value to Lake Erie conservation community:

“primary output... biodiversity conservation strategies that will complement and be incorporated into the Lake Erie Lakewide Area Management Plan (LaMP)”

- LaMP implementers and Regional practitioners (watershed managers, NRCS staff, EPA, CZM, other agencies, public)
- SOLEC: further refining indicators



Project will provide managers and others in the conservation community with:

- Regional and spatially-explicit data related to biodiversity status, threats, conservation strategies and measures of success
- Improving and enhancing focus on indicators
- A set of strategies for conservation of biodiversity
- Spatial prioritization for protection and restoration activities and some other strategies
- Recommendations for coordinated implementation of biodiversity conservation

Organized information about targets, status, threats and strategies

Strategies to conserve biodiversity will in many (all) cases also improve ecosystem services:

- Better water quality (reduced Harmful Algal Blooms; improved drinking water; enhanced recreation)
- Tourism benefits (e.g., enhanced use of the Lake and shoreline areas; improved migratory bird habitat)
- Fisheries benefits → Sportfishing and charter boat industry

Lake Erie Biodiversity Conservation Strategy: 6. Economic impact

Strategies to conserve biodiversity will in many cases will *potentially* provide economic benefits:

- Reduced water treatment costs
- Improved tourism industry
- Improved sport fishery
- Reduced dredging costs



Project will identify information gaps and research needs related to:

- Viability (e.g., indicators that should be monitored, building on existing indicators)
- Threats (e.g., improving understanding of impact—current and future—of threats to biodiversity)
- Strategy implementation (e.g., research or monitoring to better understand strategy effectiveness)

Lake Erie Biodiversity Conservation Strategy: 8. Benefits of synthesis effort

- Raise awareness among practitioners and researchers
- Establish coordination or communication between and among projects (still room for improvement)

