

**Report of the
Lake Erie Habitat Task Group
2025–2026**



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Charges to the Habitat Task Group 2025

1. Maintain a list of functional habitats and impediments for species specified by the LEC Fish Community Objectives (FCOs) that can be used to identify and evaluate status of:
 - a. Priority management areas (PMA) that support LaMP, LEC Lake Erie Environmental Objectives (LEEOs) and FCOs
 - b. Identify data needs to better identify and describe functional habitats (e.g. improved bathymetry).
 - c. Documentation of key habitat and research projects as related to priority management areas.
 - d. Use GIS techniques to refine PMA mapping, coordination, and scale.
2. Support other task groups by compiling metrics of habitat use by fish.

Charge 1: Maintain a list of functional habitats and impediments for species specified by the Lake Erie Committee (LEC) Fish Community Objectives (FCOs)

Charge 1a: Priority management areas (PMA) that support Lakewide Action and Management Plans (LaMP), LEC Lake Erie Environmental Objectives (LEEOs) and FCOs

In 2021-2022, the Habitat Task Group (HTG) defined a 4-phase process to better capture the progress to-date and communicate future work needed to finish developing a functional, systematic, adaptive, cumulative, and collaborative approach for identifying Priority Management Areas (PMAs; Figure 1). Phase 1 was the initial proof of concept including the initial PMA data collected, management prioritization and scoring. Work completed during Phase 1 was presented in the 2019 HTG report (HTG 2019). Phase 2 was defined as the proof of concept for moving the original flat file PMA dataset (Phase 1) into a GIS framework. This phase included the creation of functional GIS layers and a geospatial data viewer to help data visualization. Phase 2 was completed in 2022-2023 and will be updated in more detail under Charge 1d. Phase 3 was the development of a user-friendly, backward-facing portal that will allow the underlying PMA data to be easily updated and refined as new information becomes available. This phase also includes development of a forward-facing viewer that will facilitate end-user analysis of the data and broad communication of Lake Erie's Environmental priorities. Phase 3 is ongoing with a pilot viewer developed for LEC use. Finally, Phase 4 is the ongoing phase in which the HTG will operationalize the PMA exercise allowing for updating and refinement of the PMA data, re-prioritize as required, and report out on progress within PMAs. The framework for this final phase is being developed through the Great Lakes Habitat Framework (<https://hub.glahf.org/>) to identify the workflows for the review/analysis of data, research needs, knowledge gaps, and delivery of the PMA and its products. Potential updates to the PMA will have to address the long-term viability of the data and its accessibility, along with the flexibility to address future research needs and technology changes.

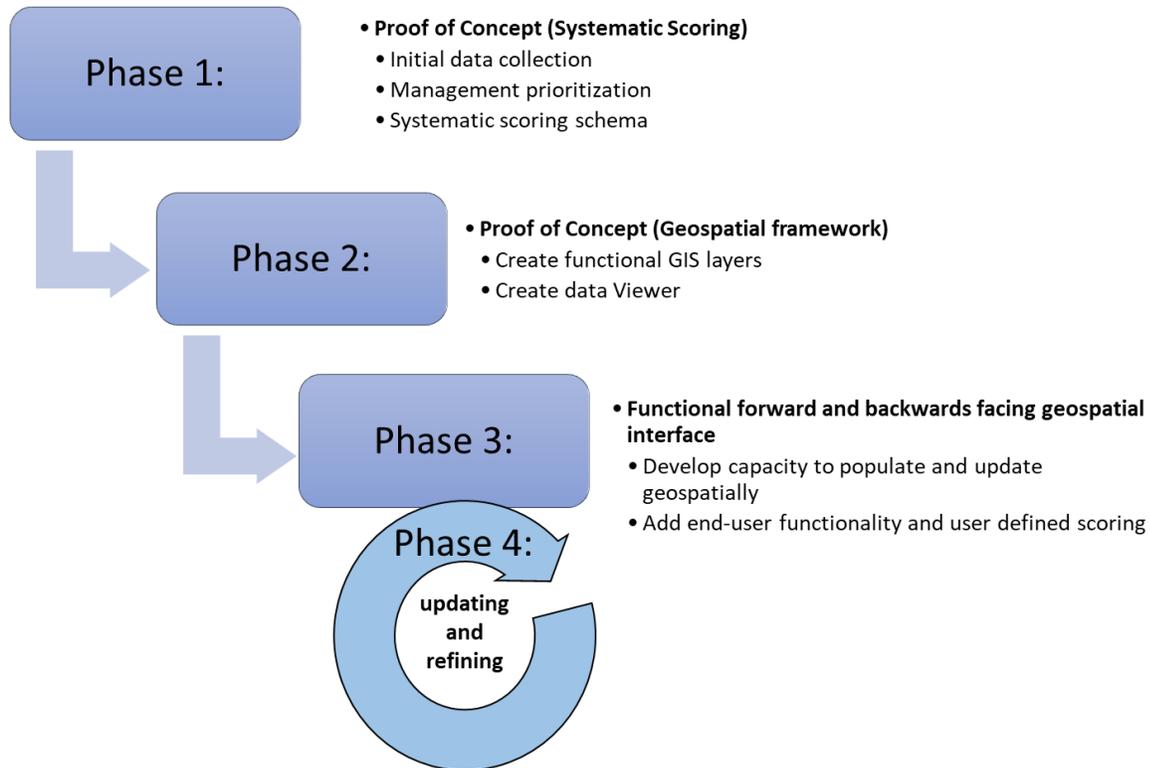


Figure 1. Four phases of PMA development identified by the Habitat Task group.

Hotspot Analysis

In 2024, HTG members began collaborating on a new project to aid identification of high importance habitats in Lake Erie. The foundation of this work is Dr. Silviya Ivanova’s (University of Windsor/Michigan State University) Hotspot Analysis of Lake Ontario. To perform this analysis, acoustic telemetry data for 19 fishes were collated for all of Lake Ontario through projects facilitated by the Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System (GLATOS). Habitat data were also assimilated, including bathymetry, substrate, lake surface temperature, and Chlorophyll-a. Ivanova (et al., manuscript in review) created Species Distribution Models for each species and season, then combined the spatial outputs from each model to define “hotspots”: areas of high use for multiple species of fishes, especially those where offshore and nearshore guilds overlap in space and time (Figure 2).

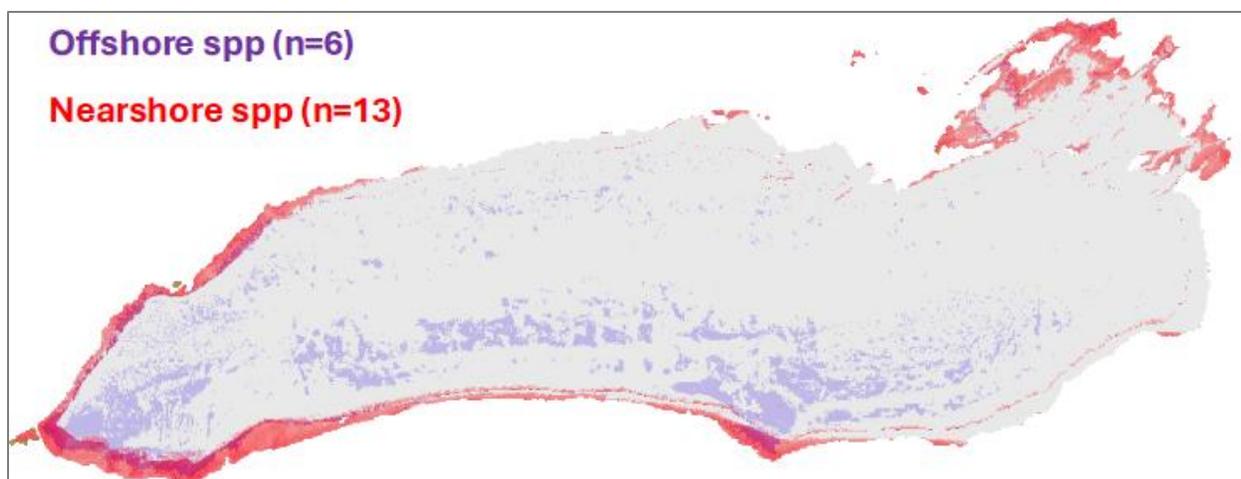


Figure 2. Example output of Hotspot Analysis for Lake Ontario. Habitat most used by nearshore species are highlighted in red, while offshore species areas are purple. Areas where these layers overlap indicate hotspots of habitat use by multiple groups.

The new Lake Erie project aims to complete a similar task using as many species as possible from existing GLATOS projects. Data compilation has begun but is currently stalled; sufficient funding has yet to be procured but is still being pursued. Zak Slagle (ODNR) is the acting liaison between the HTG and the Hotspot working group. Once it is completed, Hotspot outputs will be used to compare, refine, and update PMA definitions, with the eventual goal of much-improved understanding and quantitative assessment of key habitats for important fishes in the Lake Erie basin. Project results will inform future habitat restoration, protection, and enhancement projects, helping agencies to prioritize limited habitat funding.

Charge 1b: Identify data needs to better identify and describe functional habitats.

In 2021, developments made while updating the PMA dataset into a spatial dataset identified numerous data needs required to detect and describe additional functional habitats. With the completion of Phase 2, the HTG has developed a sound list of data needs. Continued work in Phase 3 and process developments for Phase 4 will allow the HTG to identify the process to further address those needs (Figure 1).

Charge 1c: Documentation of key habitat and research projects as related to priority management areas.

Habitat Suitability Index Updates

Habitat suitability index (HSI) models are used to identify and quantify suitable habitat for various fish species by comparing habitat characteristics (e.g., substrate, water depth, and flow) to species' optimal tolerance ranges at various life stages (e.g., spawning, and juvenile; USFWS 1981). Based on literature reviews, a species tolerance range is used to convert each habitat characteristic into a rating of "good", "moderate", or "poor" which are assigned numerical values such as 1, 0.5, and 0, respectively. For

example, juvenile Lake Sturgeon are most successful in habitats containing silt, sand, gravel, and/or cobble substrates therefore areas with these substrates would be rated as “good”. Ratings for all habitat characteristics are then combined to create an HSI map identifying suitable habitat for that species. This information can be used to protect and/or restore suitable habitats of native fish species, as well as identify risks of invasive species. In Lake Erie, there are several initiatives working to develop HSI.

Lake Sturgeon Habitat Suitability in the Cuyahoga River

J. Fischer

PMA linkage

Functional Habitat: Central Basin – Rivers/Tributaries

Priority: Medium

In 2025, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife (ODNR-DOW), United States Geological Survey, Cuyahoga Valley National Park Service, Cleveland Metroparks, and Summit Metroparks oversaw the first official Lake Sturgeon release event in the Cuyahoga River, with 2,000 Lake Sturgeon stocked in the river across three locations. All fish were offspring from adults caught in the Upper St. Clair

River and were reared at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery until they were large enough to survive in the wild and receive tags used to assess stocking success. A subset of 60 fish received acoustic transmitters to track movement rates through the Cuyahoga River and into Lake Erie and to assess survival over the first nine months in the river and lake. This builds on efforts in 2024, where 60 juvenile Lake Sturgeon were implanted with acoustic transmitters to assess movement and space use prior to the larger 2025 stocking event.



Figure 3. Ohio Division of Wildlife, Cuyahoga Valley National Parks Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff release Lake Sturgeon into the Cuyahoga

Habitat assessments in the Cuyahoga River have been completed, substrate maps and the 1-D flow model used to estimate depths and water velocities are available on ServCat and Data.gov (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/Reference/Profile/175571>; <https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/Reference/Profile/178665>). Additionally, an R package, groundTruther (<https://github.com/USFWS/groundTruther>), was developed to assist with estimating accuracy of side-scan sonar substrate classifications or other remote sensing patch classifications. The package allows users to account for GPS error when

matching ground truthing data to patch classifications, estimate the accuracy of patch classifications, and propagate classification uncertainty for use in subsequent analyses, such as habitat suitability indices.

Sauger Habitat Suitability in the Sandusky River

B. Schmidt

PMA linkage

Functional Habitat: Western Basin – Rivers/Tributaries

Priority: Very High

The ODNR-DOW is working with a Master's student, Elizabeth Anderson, at the University of Toledo to create a Sauger (*Stizostedion canadensis*) spawning HSI for the Sandusky and Maumee rivers to determine if stocking could feasibly result in self-sustaining populations. Sauger supported a historically important commercial and recreational fishery in Lake Erie until a complete population collapse in the 1950s (Hartman et al. 2019). In addition to overfishing, habitat degradation and construction of dams on tributary rivers were seen as contributing to their decline. A restocking effort in the 1970s failed to reestablish the species (Hartman et al. 2019).

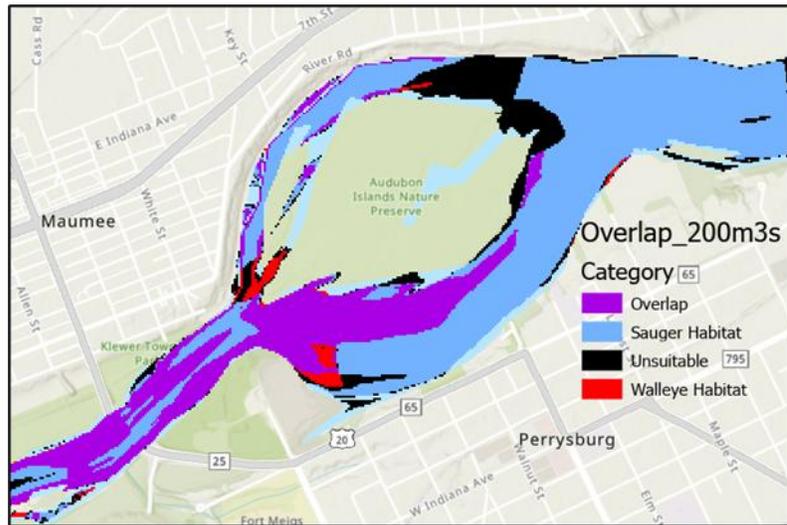


Figure 4. Example of spawning HSI for Walleye and Sauger in the Maumee River, showing spatial overlap (purple) and spawning habitats unique to each species (Sauger in blue, Walleye in red).

Using side-scan sonar and physical assessment to quantify substrate and a Hydraulic Engineering Center River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) model to estimate water velocity and depth, initial results suggest substantial spawning habitat for Sauger exists in both the Maumee and Sandusky rivers (4). Model results suggest that more spawning habitat is available for Sauger (388 ha and 148 ha in the Maumee and Sandusky rivers, respectively) than for Walleye, however there are varying degrees in spatial overlap with Walleye in both systems. The Sandusky River has more unique Sauger spawning habitat than the Maumee and may be more suitable for stocking considering unknown interactions in areas of habitat overlap. Genetic analysis indicated that the Ohio River population most closely matched the extirpated Lake Erie population and could be used as a stocking source (Hartman et al. 2019). The Ohio DNR-DOW is beginning trial production and pilot stockings of fingerling sauger in 2026 and 2027 with the goal of ramping up production and stocking 500,000 fingerlings annually 2028-2037. Stocking

strategies will be routinely evaluated and adjusted based on hatchery capacity and survival of fingerlings post stocking.

Lake Erie Experimental Offshore Habitat Rehabilitation

P. Wilkins, J. Robinson, P. Kohn, R.J. Johnson, J. Markham, J. Ludwig, M. Cochrane, and R. Zimar

PMA linkage

Functional Habitat: Eastern Basin – Open Water Reef/Shoal Priority: Very High

Over the past 30 years, invasive dreissenid mussel colonization has degraded rocky spawning habitat across many of New York’s waterways, severely impacting lithophilic fish species. Few options exist to rehabilitate these mussel-fouled habitats, and most efforts have focused on nearshore areas. Offshore rocky reefs remain largely unaddressed due to additional logistical challenges. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation tested a high-volume, high-velocity jetting method to rehabilitate impacted offshore (15–20 meters deep) Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) spawning reefs. The method was developed and tested at two experimental sites on Brocton Shoal in September 2025, a historical offshore Lake Trout spawning reef complex in Lake Erie. Experimental and control sites were identified through side-scan sonar and multibeam echosounder surveys, in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office. The objective was to remove silt, pseudofeces, dead shell, and live mussels to remediate habitat to pre-dreissenid conditions. Pre- and post-project habitat assessments were conducted by The Nature Conservancy divers to evaluate the method’s effectiveness. Initial results show that jetting successfully removed silt, dead shell, and live mussels from the rock surfaces and interstitial spaces, producing a significant decrease in mussel density and increase in interstitial depth (Figure 5). Subsequent dives and high-resolution benthic mapping at six-month intervals will quantify the rate of re-fouling and further assess the practicality and longevity of this offshore rehabilitation approach.

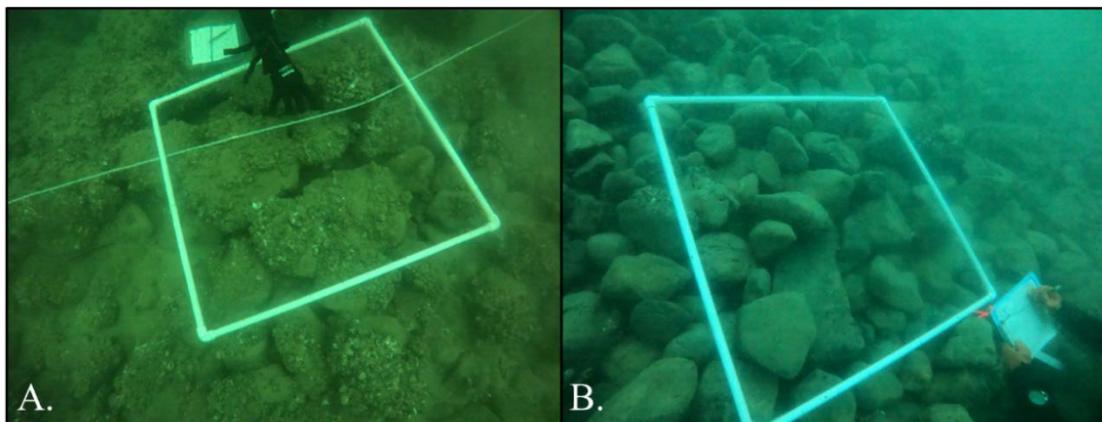


Figure 5. Images from the habitat assessment at Brocton Shoal experimental site before (A.) and after (B.) the jetting method was implemented to remove invasive mussels.

Influence of Ice Cover on Fish Spawning Reef Hydrodynamics

C. Hilling, R. DeBruyne

PMA linkage

Functional Habitat: West Basin – Open Water Reef/Shoal

Priority: Very High

Lake ice cover may reduce wind-driven currents, thereby possibly protecting Lake Whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*) eggs from physical disturbance, displacement from preferred habitats, and burying with sediments. An interdisciplinary team of scientists



Figure 6. USGS R/V Muskie crew members lower an acoustic Doppler current profiler and other environmental data loggers housed within a tripod mooring near Niagara Reef in Lake Erie's west basin in December 2024.

recently initiated fieldwork to understand the relationship of ice cover and hydrodynamics on Lake Erie spawning reefs. U.S. Geological Survey scientists and university partners deployed and retrieved three bottom-moored hydrodynamic monitoring stations near Niagara Reef, part of Lake Erie's west basin reef complex. The research team deployed two monitoring stations along an east-west axis near the apex of Niagara Reef and a third in deeper water north of the reef. Each monitoring station houses an acoustic Doppler

current profiler which uses sound waves to measure characteristics of water movement at preset intervals, including current speed and direction, turbulence, wave period and height, and characteristics related to ice cover. Sensors measuring temperature, water depth, turbidity, and light were also appended to monitoring stations to collect additional environmental data. The instruments measured hydrodynamics and environmental parameters during December 2024–May 2025 to better understand relationships of ice cover, lake hydrodynamics, and fish reproductive success. Monitoring stations were deployed in 2025 near Mouse Island. The team will analyze the data beginning in May 2026 following completion of the second overwinter deployment.

Gorge Dam Removal on the (Cuyahoga River)

Z. Slagle

PMA linkage

Functional Habitat: Central Basin Rivers/Tributaries

Priority: Medium

The Gorge Dam Removal Project was behind schedule but progressing in 2025–2026. In Summer 2025, dredging of contaminated sediment began from the dam pool. Project updates have been more frequent. Approximately 669,000 m³ of contaminated sediment must be removed prior to dam demolition, at a cost of around \$100 million. While it is unclear how long dredging will take place, the next step (Phase 3) will be dam demolition. Project partners include the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the City of Akron, FirstEnergy/Ohio Edison Company, and the Ohio EPA. The actual dam removal was to take place in 2026. This project will open ~18 rkm to freely flow to Lake Erie and is expected to improve water quality downstream throughout the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern, potentially leading to delisting. Fish population connectivity continues to be examined via acoustic telemetry and genetic techniques, led by Matthew Acre (USGS).

Flat Rock Dam Disposition Feasibility Study

C. Harris and J. Buszkiewicz

PMA linkage

Functional Habitat: West Basin – Rivers/Tributaries

Priority: Very High

In 2023, a feasibility study was funded through the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Fisheries Regional Partnership Grant to assess the aging structures of Flat Rock (century-old) and Huroc (60-year-old) dams (Figure 7). The Flat Rock Dam is owned and operated by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) and the Huroc Dam is owned by the City of Flat Rock. The two dams are situated as the lowest barriers on the Huron River and are just less than 1,000 feet apart from one another. The dam owners partnered with Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC), Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC), and GEI Consultants to complete the study in July 2025.

The Huroc Dam is a low head dam (about 2.5 feet tall) and many fish species can move beyond it at higher flows, but the Flat Rock Dam is about 16 feet tall and blocks all fish passage. Previous efforts to promote fish passage upstream of the Flat Rock Dam led to the construction of a fish ladder that can successfully pass fast swimming species like Rainbow Trout (Steelhead). Unfortunately, the Flat Rock Dam is still an impassable barrier for most native species. Even though both dams are fairly old, they are still considered to be in fair condition today.

This study details four potential alternatives for the two structures that range from taking no action except for fish passage improvements to a full removal. The study brings together large amounts of information existing for the structures, along with a number of

new data collections that capture the current conditions of the ecosystem surrounding the dams. As the lowest barrier for Sea Lamprey on the Huron River, this study also details the implications for Sea Lamprey control associated to each alternative. With the study completed, the full findings can be found at the HCMA website (<https://www.metroparks.com/current-projects/#1>). The next steps following this study will depend on the decisions of the dam owners as they follow their respective processes to work towards a decision.

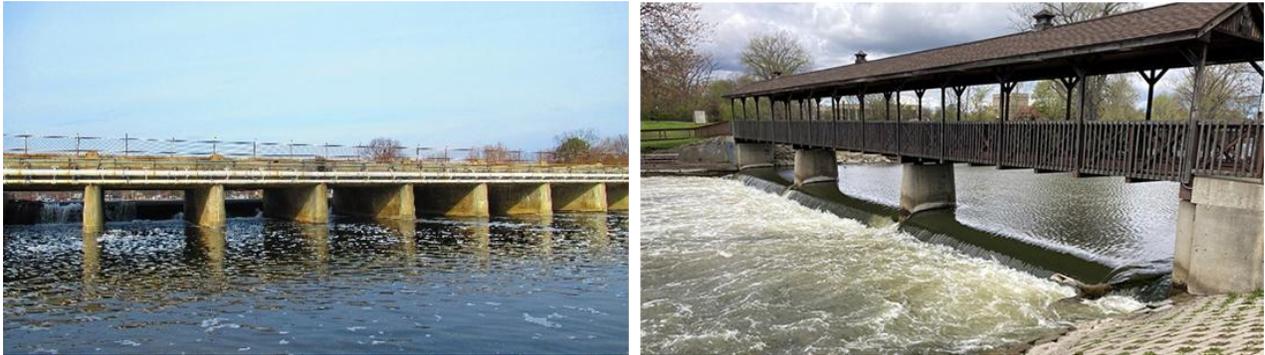


Figure 7. Images of the Flat Rock Dam (left) and Huroc Dam (right) on the Huron River (MI) in the City of Flat Rock

Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Framework

J. Kerns and E. Berg

PMA linkage

Functional Habitat: Lake Erie basin – Coastal wetlands Priority: Very High to Low

The U.S. and Canada are collaborating on a Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Framework for Lake Erie and the Huron-Erie Corridor, led by the Great Lakes Coastal Assembly. This effort aims to 1) map the current extent of coastal wetlands, 2) assess the extent and condition of coastal wetlands needed for healthy Great Lakes and communities, and 3) identify priority areas for coastal wetland conservation.

In 2025, the Coastal Assembly made progress towards accomplishing the Lake Erie Pilot of the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Framework thanks to leadership from NOAA, USFWS, the Framework Steering Committee, and Technical Team. Key accomplishments included 1) updated geospatial datasets depicting coastal wetland extent for the Lake Erie basin, 2) decided to integrate the Framework decision support tool with the existing Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Decision Support Tool, and 3) conducted targeted outreach to the Lake Erie LAMP. Upcoming work on the Framework will focus on building and testing the integrated decision support tool. Priority next steps include 1) developing final datasets for coastal wetland extent, 2) finalizing the decision support tool, 3) drafting an implementation plan, 4) and hosting partner workshops, culminating in a capstone presentation at the 2026 Great Lakes Coastal Symposium. The team will also produce video tutorials to support end-users and continue targeted

outreach to the Lake Erie LAMP and Great Lakes regional leadership as the pilot progresses.

Brandenburg Park Shoreline Softening

C. Harris

PMA linkage

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Functional Habitat: Lake St. Clair – Nearshore | Priority: High |
|--|----------------|

Brandenburg Park is located on the shoreline of Lake St. Clair in Anchor Bay. Like much of the Lake St. Clair shoreline along the Michigan coast, Brandenburg Park had a steel seawall armoring the shoreline that led to reduced habitat quality in the nearshore environment. By 2017 the seawall that had protected Brandenburg Park from erosion issues had failed and became a safety concern for the park. In 2018, a project to not only remedy the failed seawall, but also improve nearshore habitat for fish and other aquatic species was initiated.

The habitat improvement project was focused on increasing habitat diversity in the nearshore environment to benefit the immensely diverse fish community of Lake St. Clair. Some of the methods used to accomplish this include shoreline softening, woody material placement, native plantings, and stone breakwater structures offshore. The stone breakwater structures were built to allow flow through the area while reducing wave height substantially so wave energy hitting the shoreline was low enough for native plants to provide adequate protection. The project was completed in 2021, and monitoring efforts continue today. More information about the project can be found at the Great Lakes Commission website:

<https://www.glc.org/work/priorityareas/brandenburg>.

One of the continuing monitoring efforts is a nearshore fish community electrofishing effort conducted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The effort at Brandenburg Park is part of a larger study with multiple index sites along the Michigan coast of Lake St. Clair. While this study is ongoing and data analysis for the whole study is in process some early findings provide quality evidence for the benefits of the habitat improvements at Brandenburg Park. An example of this uses the Shannon Diversity Index that is a commonly used metric to



Figure 8. Shannon Diversity Index scores for Brandenburg Park during pre-monitoring (2019-2021) and post monitoring (2022-2024).

describe diversity of a fish community and incorporates species richness along with species evenness. Pre- and post-monitoring data at Brandenburg Park show a substantial increase from a Shannon Diversity Index averaging 1.36 during pre-monitoring and averaging 2.32 during post monitoring through 2024 (Figure 8). This data is a portion of the evidence showing how the habitat improvement project at Brandenburg Park has created an ecosystem uplift for this area of Lake St. Clair.

Cedar Point Causeway Wetlands Project (Sandusky Bay)

Z. Slagle

PMA linkage

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Functional Habitat: West Basin Nearshore | Priority: High |
|--|----------------|

The Cedar Point Causeway Wetland Creation Project has been somewhat stalled (HTG 2024). In 2021, a retaining structure was built, forming two cells to accept dredge material along the Cedar Point Causeway in eastern Sandusky Bay; in 2022 and 2023, dredge material from the bay channel was pumped into these structures. Work yet-to-be-completed includes the regrading of retained sediments (dredged material), creation of a flow-through channel within the wetland, installation of additional sediment stabilization and fish & wildlife habitat structures, and planting of native wetland plant species. Some funding remains in the original grant to support the wetland restoration phase, but the estimated project cost requires that supplemental funding is secured. Eventually, the retaining structure will be breached to allow water movement and fish passage between the contained wetland and the bay, adding 13 hectares of new wetland habitat. Partner agencies will continue to monitor changes to water quality and the fish community in future years.

Clark and Delaware/Horseshoe Islands Restoration Projects (Maumee River)

Z. Slagle

PMA linkage

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Functional Habitat: West Basin Rivers/Tributaries | Priority: Very High |
|---|---------------------|

Clark and Delaware/Horseshoe islands are natural features located ~16 km upstream of the mouth of the Maumee River, Lake Erie’s largest watershed; these islands have eroded to around 5% of their size in the 1940s. This restoration project created new hard structures to calm water and create new wetland habitat for the ~25 ha area, which will absorb nutrients, reduce sedimentation, and add to fish



Figure 9. Aerial view of the restored Clark Island facing southwest, Maumee River, Ohio. Photo courtesy of Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority.

habitat in the river. This is a collaborative project between the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, the City of Toledo, with significant input from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Maumee Area of Concern Advisory Committee. Funding was provided by the State of Ohio’s H2Ohio Program and GLRI (~\$13.5 million). This project was completed in Fall 2025 (Figure 9).

Collins Park Stream Restoration (Maumee River Watershed)

Z. Slagle

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| PMA linkage | |
| Functional Habitat: West Basin Rivers/Tributaries | Priority: Very High |

Duck Creek is a small Maumee River tributary that flows through the City of Toledo’s Collins Park. Historically, this creek was channelized and altered with subsurface culverts; recent fish and macroinvertebrate surveys found the waterway to be degraded. Feasibility (2023) and design and permitting stages (2025) were recently completed for restoration of Duck Creek, with construction starting in January 2025. This project will restore 1 km of stream, 1.7 ha of floodplain, and 0.9 ha of riparian forest. The project is funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Fund (\$1.5 million) and GLRI (\$350,000); project partners include the City of Toledo, NOAA, the Great Lakes Commission, the Ohio EPA, the Maumee AOC Advisory Committee, and Verdantas.

Charge 1d: Use GIS techniques to refine PMA mapping, coordination, and scale.

In 2023, the Habitat Task Group reported on the development of reef layers and river plumes identified as Priority Management Areas. Those layers were further refined, and the exercise was used to help develop reef prediction layers for the other Great Lakes. Work will continue with Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Framework support staff to refine layers and develop workflow processes through PMA phases 3 and 4.

Charge 2: Support other task groups by compiling metrics of habitat use by fish.

There was no new work towards this charge in 2025. There are ongoing efforts targeted at this charge which have been captured in prior reports. One ongoing effort is the Experimental Lake Erie Hypoxia Forecast led by NOAA-GLERL (https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/res/HABs_and_Hypoxia/hypoxiaWarningSystem.html). This system provides a forecast of bottom temperature and dissolved oxygen with the intent to alert users of hypoxic events (including upwelling events) in Lake Erie. The information collected and forecasted through this effort assists fisheries managers as well as many other stakeholders around Lake Erie. Over the next year, the HTG will continue looking for opportunities to compile habitat metrics which are beneficial for the goals and objectives of the LEC.

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- USFWS, 1981. Standards for the development of habitat suitability index models (No. 103 Ecological Services Manual). US Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Ecological Services.

Protocol for Use of Habitat Task Group Data and Reports

- The HTG has used standardized methods, equipment, and protocol in generating and analyzing data; however, the data are based on surveys that have limitations due to gear, depth, time, and weather constraints that vary from year to year. Any results or conclusions must be treated with respect to these limitations. Caution should be exercised by outside researchers not familiar with each agency's collection and analysis methods to avoid misinterpretation.
- All data provided from the PMA exercise is reported with the caveat that it is a working dataset based on the best available information. The intention, as designed, is for the HTG to continuously refine the data as new information becomes available and prioritizations are subject to change. Use of the PMA information should be done with this understanding and consultation with HTG co-chairs to ensure proper interpretation of the most recent dataset is highly advised.
- The HTG strongly encourages outside researchers to contact and involve the HTG in the use of any specific data contained in this report. Coordination with the HTG can only enhance the final output or publication and benefit all parties involved.
- Any data intended for publication should be reviewed by the HTG and written permission received from the agency responsible for the data collection.

Acknowledgements

The HTG would like to acknowledge and thank the many contributors to the work presented in this report. As this report is mostly an overview of projects underway in the Lake Erie basin, it is impossible to identify every project and every individual involved. If you are involved in a habitat-related project in the Lake Erie basin and would like your work to be represented in the project table, please contact a member of the Habitat Task Group.