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## AREAS OF CONCERN BAY OF QUINTE

*Efforts in the Bay of Quinte are undertaken in a partnership between the Government of Canada, other levels of government and non-government groups, including members of the public.*

*Undertaking environmental restoration requires a large amount of scientific and technical expertise, local knowledge and hard work. One agency or group cannot engage in such a large task on its own, without the help of others.*



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The contributions of federal, provincial and local agencies, local industries, and others continue to have a positive impact upon the water quality and ecosystem health within the Bay of Quinte Area of Concern (AOC).

### Why was it listed as an Area of Concern?

The Bay of Quinte was designated an AOC because a review of available data indicated that water quality and environmental health were severely degraded. Further monitoring showed excess nutrient runoff from agricultural lands, as well as stormwater and wastewater treatment plant discharges that caused excessive algae growth and bacterial contamination in the waters of the Bay. Development along the shoreline contributed to a loss of wildlife habitat and sediment contamination from historical activities led to high levels of contaminants in fish.

### What have we accomplished?

Through the combined efforts of the project partners, major accomplishments have been realized in the Bay of Quinte.

- Direct discharges of industrial waste have been substantially decreased as a result of the implementation of federal pulp and paper regulations and of the provincial Municipal Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA) regulations in the mid-1990s. This reduction has led to process changes and upgrades to the treatment processes at local industries and within municipal wastewater plants.
- Phosphorus loads have been reduced from 215 kilograms per day to 15 kilograms per day at sewage treatment plants bordering directly on the Bay.
- More than 27,000 hectares of farmland have been converted from conventional to conservation tillage, and phosphorus inputs from rural sources have been lowered by more than 16,000 kilograms annually.

- The implementation of the Habitat Enhancement Program, which involves public and private landowners, has led to the planting of native trees, shrubs and grasses along 40 kilometres of shoreline, as well as the rehabilitation or protection of 800 hectares of wetlands.

As a result of these combined efforts, the numbers of nearshore and open-water fish, coastal wetland fish, amphibians and marsh-breeding birds are now present in numbers consistent with a stable, diverse and healthy aquatic ecosystem.

### What's left to do?

Moving forward, further work is required to develop and implement long-term management strategies to protect the Bay from excess nutrients. Continued monitoring of the effects of various remedial actions on the area's water quality and fish and wildlife habitat will also be a priority.

### Outlook

All actions to finalize the clean-up of the Bay of Quinte AOC are expected to be completed in the next five years. As a result, it is anticipated that this AOC will be delisted by 2019.

### Where can you find more information?

Environment Canada E-mail:  
[greatlakes-grandlacs@ec.gc.ca](mailto:greatlakes-grandlacs@ec.gc.ca)

Environment Canada Web site:  
[www.ec.gc.ca/raps](http://www.ec.gc.ca/raps)

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan:  
[www.bqrap.ca](http://www.bqrap.ca)

### PARTNERS

Listed below are participants that contribute to efforts in the Bay of Quinte AOC:

Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
City of Belleville	Ontario Ministry of the Environment
City of Quinte West	Parks Canada – Trent Severn Waterway
County of Prince Edward	Queen's University
Department of National Defence	Quinte Conservation Association
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Quinte Watershed Cleanup Inc.
Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit	Shoreline landowners
Lower Trent Conservation Authority	St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte	Town of Deseronto
Municipality of Tweed	Town of Greater Napanee
Ontario Federation of Agriculture	University of Toronto Scarborough
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food	

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