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AREAS OF CONCERN **PENINSULA HARBOUR**

Efforts in Peninsula Harbour 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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As of August 2012, all actions required to restore water quality and ecosystem health were completed in this Area of Concern (AOC).

Why was it listed as an Area of Concern?

Peninsula Harbour was designated an AOC because a review of available data indicated that water quality and environmental health were severely degraded. Further monitoring showed high levels of contaminants in fish and sediment, loss of fish habitat, and degraded fish and benthic communities (worms and insects that live on the lake floor). These problems were caused by discharge of wastewater from the municipal sewage treatment plant and former pulp mill, and associated chemical plant and log booming.

What have we accomplished so far?

In 2012, a \$7 million project placed 15 to 20 centimetres of clean sand on top of the most contaminated sediment in Jellicoe Cove – a process known as thin-layer capping. This was the first project of its kind to be undertaken in the Canadian Great Lakes. Thin-layer capping creates a clean fish habitat, stops the spread of contaminated sediment, and reduces risk to fish, fish-eating birds, mammals and people.

The implementation of federal pulp and paper regulations, and the provincial Municipal Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA) regulations in the mid-1990s, led to process changes and upgrades to the Town of Marathon sewage treatment plant and the local pulp mill. These efforts also significantly improved water quality in the area.

What's left to do?

The issues remaining in the Peninsula Harbour AOC require no further action on behalf of Environment Canada; however, the environment needs time to recover naturally.

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Outlook

A monitoring plan for the sediment remediation project is in place to assess the recovery of ecosystem health. The results will be used to determine whether the AOC will be designated as delisted or as an AOC in Recovery by 2019.

Where can you find more information?

Environment Canada e-mail:
greatlakes-grandslacs@ec.gc.ca

Environment Canada Web site:
www.ec.gc.ca/raps

North Shore of Lake Superior Remedial Action Plans:
www.northshorerap.ca

InfoSuperior:
www.infosuperior.com

PARTNERS

Listed below are participants that contribute to efforts in the Peninsula AOC:

Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation	EcoSuperior Environmental Programs
Ontario Ministry of the Environment	Community Liaison Committee
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Town of Marathon	