

News Release

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan

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For immediate release

Three environmental challenges to be removed from impaired list

The Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (BQRAP) Restoration Council is pleased to announce that after years of extensive scientific research three of the environmental challenges identified for the Bay of Quinte are ready to start the process of changing their status to unimpaired. The challenges related to fish populations and habitat and underwater bugs have all met the scientific criteria necessary to change their status. An integral part of this process is public consultation. This is the public's opportunity to provide input about decisions that will affect the future health of the Bay of Quinte.

"Today, the Bay of Quinte is a healthy and vibrant ecosystem, well-known for its world-class walleye and bass fishery. Reaching this milestone, in rehabilitating the Bay, is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our federal, provincial, and municipal partners, as well as, industry, agriculture, the public and local conservation authorities." Terry Murphy, Quinte Conservation, Co-chair BQRAP Restoration Council.

The BQRAP Restoration Council has approved the environmental challenges related to fish populations and habitat and underwater bugs be circulated for a 30 day public comment period. Restoration Council will review and address all comments. Next, the reports will be sent to Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change for final review. At this stage, additional technical review or specific work can be requested, or the reports will be approved. Once approved, the reports are sent to the governments of Canada and Ontario to seek formal concurrence on the status change. Once both governments agree, the three environmental challenges will be considered unimpaired.

"These are exciting times for the Bay of Quinte Restoration Council. After several decades of rehabilitating the Bay we are able to start the process to change the status for a number of the environmental challenges. Now, we must ensure strategies are in place, so the Bay doesn't back slide to conditions that required a remedial action plan in the first place." Glenda Rodgers, Lower Trent Conservation, co-chair BQRAP Restoration Council.

All eleven environmental challenges attributed to the Bay of Quinte have to undergo this process to have their status changed to unimpaired. When this process is complete, the Bay of Quinte can be taken off the Great Lakes Areas of Concern list. In 2016, the environmental challenges - Restrictions on dredging activities and Fish tumours and other deformities were sent to the federal and provincial governments for formal acceptance of their status change.

The final reports and supporting information can be found on the BQRAP web site - www.bqrap.ca. Email your comments about whether you support/do not support the recommendation to change the status of these environmental challenges to unimpaired to - smidlanejones@bqrap.ca
The deadline for comments is: Friday, May 5, 2017

The Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan is in partnership locally with Lower Trent Conservation and Quinte Conservation