

State of the Bay 2008

An Environmental Report Card on the Status and Trends of Ecosystem Indicators

State of the Bay Report

- Assesses the status and trends of Great Lakes ecosystem health indicators
- Measures progress towards Lower Green Bay and Fox River Remedial Action Plan objectives for water quality, contaminants, drinking water, wildlife, fish, other aquatic life, habitat, and recreational use
- Are conditions getting better, worse, or staying the same?
- The first report was published in 1990 as a capsule report on water quality and condition of water-related resources of Green Bay
- The second report was published in 1993 and drew attention to the fact that the lower Fox River and Green Bay are at the downstream end of a very large drainage basin.
- The third report is being developed as a web site.



Map of the entire Green Bay drainage basin. The Fox-Wolf basin is shaded in yellow. The Area of Concern is shaded on the inset map.

Indicator Assessment for Lower Green Bay

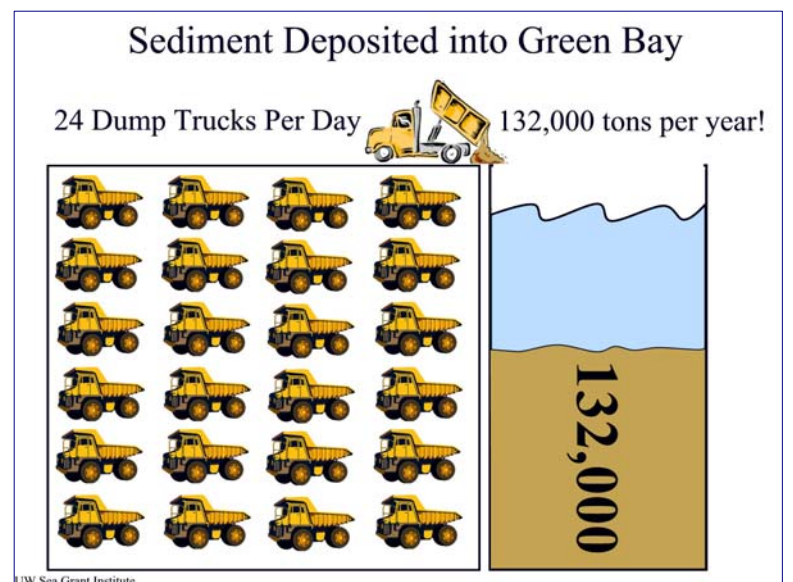
The current status and overall trend for each indicator has been determined based on available data.

Indicator	Current Status Lower Green Bay	Trend
Total Phosphorus (nutrient)	Poor	Deteriorating
Ammonia	Good	Undetermined
Total Suspended Solids	Poor	Unchanging
Chlorophyll <i>a</i> (a measure of algae abundance)	Poor	Unchanging
Water Clarity	Poor	Unchanging
Dissolved Oxygen	Fair	Undetermined
Drinking Water Contamination	Poor	Unchanging
Water Levels	Below Average	Declining
Sport Fishing	Good	Undetermined
Recreational Boating	Good	Undetermined
Beach Health	Fair	Undetermined
Land Cover	Mixed	Deteriorating
Aquatic Invasive Species	Poor	Deteriorating
Benthic Macroinvertebrates	Poor	Unchanging
Coastal Wetlands	Fair	Unchanging
Walleye	Good	Undetermined
Yellow Perch	Mixed	Improving
Spotted Musky	Good	Improving

Status Categories:
Good: The state of the ecosystem component is presently meeting ecosystem objectives or otherwise is in acceptable condition.
Fair: The ecosystem component is currently exhibiting minimally acceptable conditions, but it is not meeting established ecosystem objectives, criteria, or other characteristics or fully acceptable conditions.
Poor: The ecosystem component is severely negatively impacted and it does not display even minimally acceptable conditions.
Mixed: The ecosystem component displays both good and degraded features.
Undetermined: Data are not available or are insufficient to assess the status of the ecosystem component.
Trend Categories:
Improving: Information provided shows the ecosystem component to be changing toward more acceptable conditions.
Unchanging: Information provided shows the ecosystem component to be neither getting better nor worse.
Deteriorating: Information provided shows the ecosystem component to be departing from acceptable conditions.
Undetermined: Data are not available to assess the ecosystem component, so no trend can be identified.

Beneficial Public Uses of the Green Bay Area of Concern are Impaired or Restricted due to Excess Nutrients, Suspended Solids, Contaminants, Land Use Changes and Invasive Species

	Restrictions of Fish and Wildlife Consumption		Restrictions on Dredging Activities
	Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavor		Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae
	Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations		Degradation of Aesthetics
	Fish Tumors and Other Deformities		Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat
	Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproduction Problems		Degradation of Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Populations
	Degradation of Benthos		Beach Closings
= Impaired Use		= Nutrient Impaired Use	



Nutrient and solids loading impact many of the desirable uses of the bay.