

# **TORONTO & REGION REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN**



# WITHIN REACH:

## 2015 Remedial Action Plan Progress Report

1 Introduction

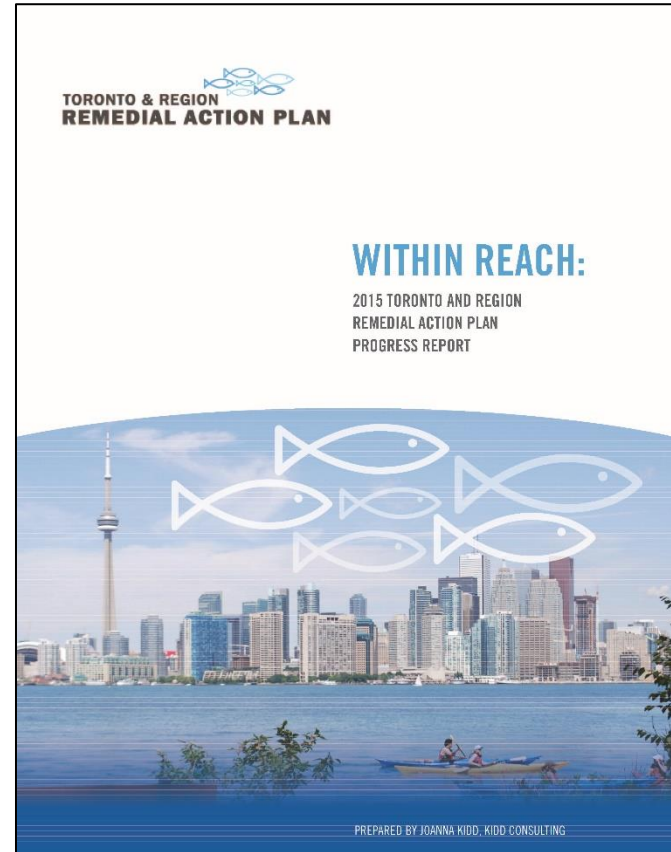
2 Existing Conditions

3 Key Actions Taken 2007-2015

4 Progress Made Since 2007

5 Key Actions for De-Listing  
(2016-2020)

6 Looking Forward to 2020



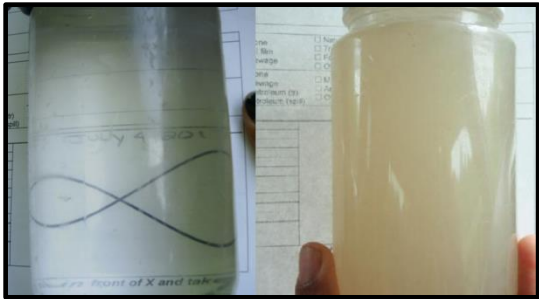
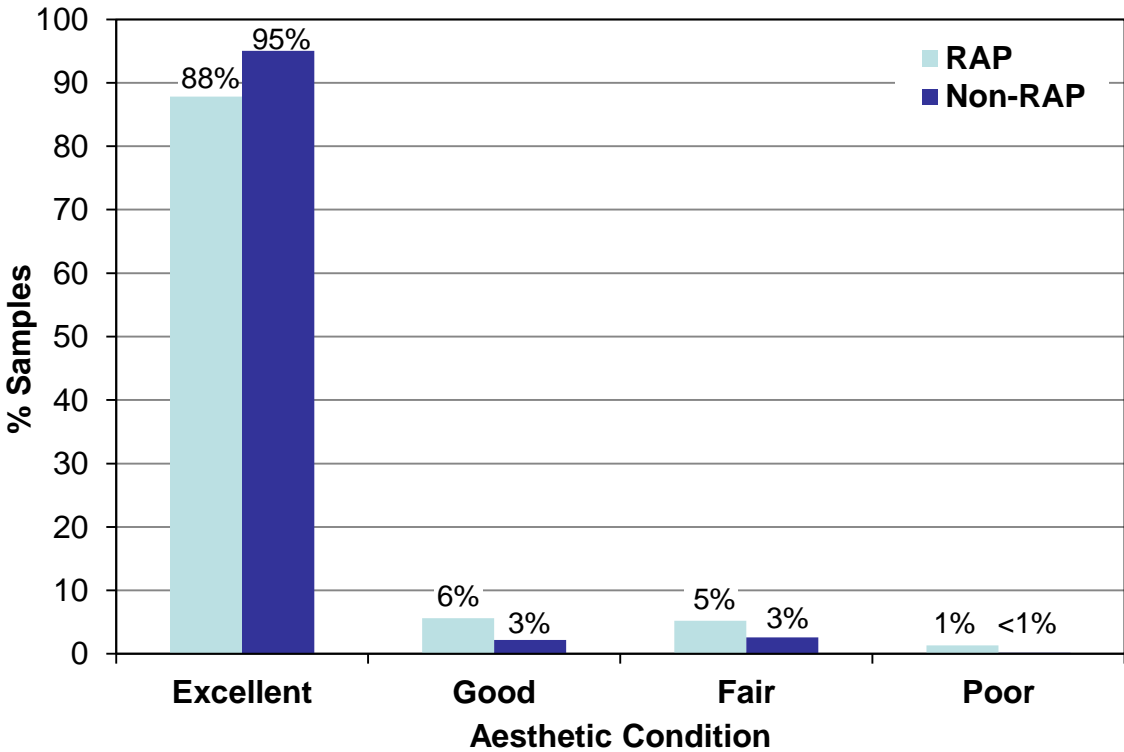
# EXISTING CONDITIONS AND TRENDS



Beneficial Use	1987 Status	2008 Status	2016 Status
Restrictions on fish consumption	IMPAIRED	IMPAIRED	REQUIRES FURTHER ASSESSMENT
Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	IMPAIRED	IMPAIRED	IMPAIRED
Fish tumors and other deformities	REQUIRES FURTHER ASSESSMENT	REQUIRES FURTHER ASSESSMENT	NOT IMPAIRED
Bird or animal deformities or reproductive problems	REQUIRES FURTHER ASSESSMENT	REQUIRES FURTHER ASSESSMENT	NOT IMPAIRED
Degradation of benthos	IMPAIRED	IMPAIRED	NOT IMPAIRED
Restrictions on dredging activities	IMPAIRED	IMPAIRED	NOT IMPAIRED
Eutrophication or undesirable algae	IMPAIRED	IMPAIRED	IMPAIRED
Beach closings	IMPAIRED	IMPAIRED	IMPAIRED
Degradation of aesthetics	IMPAIRED	IMPAIRED	NOT IMPAIRED
Degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton communities	REQUIRES FURTHER ASSESSMENT	REQUIRES FURTHER ASSESSMENT	REQUIRES FURTHER ASSESSMENT
Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	IMPAIRED	IMPAIRED	IMPAIRED

# Degradation of Aesthetics BUI

**NOT  
IMPAIRED**



**RAP Goal:** waters free of any substance that produces a persistent objectionable unnatural deposit, unnatural colour, objectionable odours, or unnatural turbidity.



# PROGRESS MADE SINCE 2007

- Eight of Toronto's 11 waterfront beaches are now Blue Flag.
- Phosphorus levels along the waterfront now meet the RAP target.
- Aesthetics of watercourses & waterfront excellent or good.
- Levels of contaminants in fish continue to decline;
- Creation and restoration of habitats have increased diversity of fish & wildlife species.

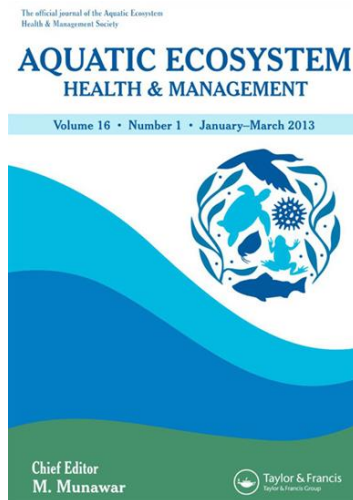




**AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM**  
HEALTH & MANAGEMENT

## **AEHM Special Issue (expected 2018)**

### *Ecosystem Recovery in the Toronto and Region Area of Concern*



- Restrictions on fish consumption
- Phytoplankton & zooplankton communities
- Water quality (eutrophication, beach closures)
- Degradation of aesthetics
- Fish habitat
- Fish populations



# KEY ACTIONS FOR DE-LISTING (2016-2020)



## Focus on remaining BUIs designated as “Impaired”:

- Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae;
- Beach Closings;
- Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations; and
- Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat.



# KEY ACTIONS FOR DE-LISTING (2016-2020)



Beneficial Use	2016 Status	Anticipated Assessment
Restrictions on fish consumption	REQUIRES FURTHER ASSESSMENT	2016 & 2019
Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	IMPAIRED	2017 – fish 2019 – wildlife
Fish tumors and other deformities	NOT IMPAIRED	
Bird or animal deformities or reproductive problems	NOT IMPAIRED	
Degradation of benthos	NOT IMPAIRED	
Restrictions on dredging activities	NOT IMPAIRED	
Eutrophication or undesirable algae	IMPAIRED	2015 & 2020
Beach closings	IMPAIRED	2018
Degradation of aesthetics	NOT IMPAIRED	
Degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton communities	REQUIRES FURTHER ASSESSMENT	2018
Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	IMPAIRED	2017 – fish 2019 – wildlife



# LOOKING TOWARDS 2020



- The Toronto and Region RAP has developed a **workplan** to **complete actions for delisting** the AOC by 2020
- Implement major infrastructure projects, such as the **Don River and Central Waterfront Project**, and the **Don Mouth Naturalization** to improve water quality along the Toronto waterfront.





# LOOKING TOWARDS 2020




## Sharing Good News Stories

### How Toronto's Fish Are Making a Comeback

Conservation efforts have shown impressive results, but there's still more to do.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION.

BY CATHERINE MCINTYRE



**Toronto and Region is a vibrant ecosystem**  
*- an environmental jewel worth protecting and preserving.*

Lake Ontario – a natural wonder of the world and a source of pride for the millions of people who live alongside it. In Toronto and Region, 200,000 hectares of shoreline and 42 km of waterfront connect more than 4 million residents and 11 municipalities.

In the mid 1980s, the governments of Canada and USA identified Toronto and Region waterfront as one of the Great Lakes Areas of Concern (LAOC).


Together, Environment Canada, Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), and Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) are focused on restoring the waterfront through the Remedial Action Plan (RAP).

Over the past three decades, significant work has been done to improve the environmental conditions in the Areas of Concern (AOC) within the Great Lakes.

**Examples of actions taken to protect the waterfront:**

- Protecting wildlife habitat and wetlands; Tommy Thompson Park, Mimico Waterfront Park, Spadina Quay, Rouge Marshes.
- Ensuring swimmable beaches; 8 out of 11 local beaches are open 80% of the swimming season.
- Improving water quality, regulations requiring reduction of harmful elements discharged into the Lake Ontario.
- Enhancing stormwater and sewage infrastructure; construction of City of Toronto's western and eastern Beaches Stormwater Detention Facilities
- Improving fish community, increased number and variety of fish species that are safe to eat.

For more information on AOC environmental targets visit [www.torontorap.ca](http://www.torontorap.ca)



# LOOKING TOWARDS 2020



Toronto RAP  
@RAP\_Toronto

#Beach closings in #Toronto have declined thanks to a substantial reduction in E.coli loadings to #LakeOntWaterfront #swimdrinkfish



11:50 AM - 2 Nov 2016

@RAP\_Toronto  
www.torontorap.ca

Toronto RAP  
@RAP\_Toronto

Creation & restoration of #habitat along streams & #LakeOntWaterfront have increased diversity of #fish & #wildlife species



RETWEETS 6 LIKES 13



8:55 AM - 2 Nov 2016





**THANK YOU**



# Acknowledgements



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada



**Ontario**

Ministry of the Environment  
and Climate Change



**Ontario**

Ministry of Natural Resources  
and Forestry



**TORONTO & REGION  
REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN**