The tide is turning for the Sheboygan River. Toxic sediments have been removed and habitat restoration work has been completed in much of the Area of Concern (AOC). The river is becoming a more valuable resource for recreation and the local economy, as fish and wildlife benefit and public enjoyment opportunities improve.

The Sheboygan River was designated an Area of Concern (AOC) in the 1980s because contaminated river sediment impaired public benefits such as fish consumption, healthy fisheries, shipping channels, and wildlife habitat.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and citizen groups identified nine Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) to target here for improving the river.
Sheboygan River AOC – Restoration Status Update

Summer 2013

More than $80 million was invested in cleaning up contaminated sediments and restoring fish and wildlife habitat in 2011 and 2012 in the Sheboygan AOC. Since all actions deemed necessary for achieving AOC goals have now been completed, monitoring will be conducted in the next 3 to 5 years (timelines depend on individual BUIs) to verify that AOC goals are being met. It may take time for the natural system to recover following cleanup actions and habitat restoration.

Once all AOC goals have been met, then the AOC can be taken off the list of AOCs (“delisted”). If one or more of the goals are not being met after 3 to 5 years, the AOC will continue to be monitored while further investigation occurs to understand the reasons for not meeting the goals.

This update shows the current status (Summer 2013) of the removal phases for nine impairments of the Sheboygan River AOC – complete, underway, not started, or not required – and the next steps.

### BUI Removal Phases:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status of Each Phase:</th>
<th>Monitor &amp; Assess</th>
<th>Data Under Review</th>
<th>Develop AOC Projects</th>
<th>Implement Projects</th>
<th>Verify Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>not required</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>DR</td>
<td>DP</td>
<td>IP</td>
<td>VR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not started</td>
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<tr>
<td>underway</td>
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<tr>
<td>complete</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Populations of sediment-dwelling organisms are degraded

**Next Steps:**
- Verify that dredging sites are completed according to cleanup plans.
- Analyze data from 2012 study.
- Repeat 2012 study in 2014 to strengthen the data and inform work that is occurring in other AOCs.

### Fish & wildlife populations are degraded

**Next Steps:**
- Monitor dredging sites according to cleanup plans.
- Maintain projects that were completed in 2013 through 2015.
- Pursue funding to conduct verification monitoring, complete a Fish and Wildlife Plan.
- Monitor and assess Superfund remediated floodplains and sediments to evaluate species recovery from contamination.

### Excessive nutrients cause undesirable algae

**Next Steps:**
- Target met; develop a proposal to remove the BUI and seek public input on the decision.

### Small organisms living in the water are degraded

**Next Steps:**
- Analyze data from 2012 study.
- Repeat the 2012 study in 2014 to strengthen the data and inform work that is occurring in other AOCs.
- If 2012 data show an impairment, conduct further tests to better understand the cause(s).

### Fish & wildlife habitat is poor

**Next Steps:**
- Maintain projects that were completed in 2013 through 2015.
- Complete a Fish and Wildlife Plan to describe the fish and wildlife projects and the goals they helped meet.
- Pursue funding to conduct verification monitoring.

### There are health concerns with eating fish & wildlife

**Next Steps:**
- Sample on the current 5-year rotation to assess the consumption advisory.
- Monitor and assess Superfund remediated floodplains and sediments to evaluate species recovery from contamination.
- Repeat wildlife tissue data collection in 2015 or 2016 concurrently with next fish tissue collection.

### There is increased potential for fish tumors & deformities

**Next Steps:**
- Monitor dredging sites according to cleanup plans.
- Conduct reference study to determine if 2012 tumor sampling results are comparable to non-AOC site rates.
- Analyze data from Spring 2013 tumor sampling at a non-AOC site.

### Targets Reached

![Targets Reached](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

RETURN TO PROCESS STEPS IF TARGETS NOT REACHED