**Project Goal**

To develop strategies for conserving and restoring the biological diversity of Lake Huron, including its native species and communities, coastal wetlands, pelagic and nearshore zones, and coastal terrestrial systems.

---

**Enhance ability to implement related plans by providing a lake-wide context for conservation.**

---

**Project Steering and Technical Working Group**

- Michigan Conservation Districts
- Michigan Department of Agriculture
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- The Nature Conservancy
- Michigan Natural Features Inventory
- Michigan Sea Grant
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Parks Canada
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Ontario Ministry of the Environment
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Nature Conservancy Canada
- Union of Ontario Indians
- Chippewa/Ottawa Resource Authority
- Conservation Ontario
- Environment Canada
- Métis Nation of Ontario

Additional Financial Support: Chrysler Foundation, Erb Foundation, Mott Foundation.
Conservation Action Planning (CAP)

Vision

Maintain and restore the viability of native plant and animal communities of Lake Huron by conserving the habitats and processes that sustain them so that all may benefit from their values now and in the future.

Scope

Biodiversity: Lake Huron and associated nearshore and aquatic habitats.

Planning region: Lake Huron basin. This scope focuses on the geographic area that may impact the biological diversity of interest.

Biodiversity Feature Viability Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biodiversity Features</th>
<th>Landscape Context</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Viability Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Open Water Benthic and Pelagic</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>POOR</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Nearshore Zone</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Islands</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Native Migratory Fish</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>POOR</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Coastal Wetlands</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Coastal Terrestrial System</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Aerial Migrants</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lake Huron's overall biodiversity viability rank: FAIR
**Invasive Non-Native Terrestrial and Aquatic Species**

**Housing and Urban Development/Shoreline Alterations**

**Dams and Other Barriers**

**Non-Point Source Pollution**

**Climate Change**

---

**Recommended actions identified to address top threats, improve viability, and fill research gaps**

- Land and water protection
- Land and water management
- Species management
- Education and awareness
- Laws and Policies
- Economic incentives
- Capacity building
- Research

---

**Lake Huron Migratory Fish Mapping**

- 20+ native migratory Lake Huron fishes
- Existing priorities based on only a few species
- Disparate efforts around the basin
- Comprehensive evaluation needed for integrated barrier management

---

**Setting Goals and Priorities for Agricultural Best Management Practices**

Which practices...

How much...

Where...

To what end?
How Much is Enough?

Strategy Findings for Saginaw Bay

- Elevates Saginaw Bay as regionally significant for Lake Huron biodiversity
  - High value and high threat
- Identifies strong conservation capacity
- Highlights ongoing projects that can set an example elsewhere

How Can Findings Advance Work in Saginaw Bay?

- Provides basin-wide context
- Facilitates coordination and knowledge-sharing
- Enhances proposal competitiveness

Lake Huron BCS - Products

- Brief Executive Summary
- 200+ page Technical Report
- Supporting Maps and Data
- Network of Experts and Practitioners
- Collaborative Workspace: http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/lakehuron.bcs
Thank you!

Rachael Franks Taylor
Director of Coastal Conservation
The Nature Conservancy – Michigan/Great Lakes
rachael_taylor@tnc.org
617-532-0964