Reaching our targets will lead us to our goal of delisting the AOC, which means the ecological benefits of the Lower Menominee River have been restored to an acceptable level. We will achieve this when public uses are no longer impaired by legacy contamination and native plants and wildlife are sustainably protected. With toxic sediments removed and habitat restoration completed, the river is becoming an ever more valuable resource for recreation and the local economy.

The Lower Menominee 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 and citizen groups identified six Beneficial Use Impairments to target here for improving the river. See the progress report inside.

The Lower Menominee River Area of Concern

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Office of Great Waters

To learn more about Lower Menominee River AOC projects and progress visit http://dnr.wi.gov, search "Menominee AOC." For more details, refer to the Area of Concern Remedial Action Plan Updates.

Brochure developed by the UW-Extension Regional Natural Resources Program and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Office of Great Waters. Graphic design by Jeffrey J. Strobel, UW-Extension Environmental Resources Center.
Lower Menominee River AOC – Restoration Status Update

Fall 2018

Tackling AOC problems, known as Beneficial Use Impairments in the Area of Concern program, requires several steps. We must understand the causes and define the extent of the impairments through monitoring, assessment, and data analysis. We then determine the necessary actions to address the problems and implement them.

After decades of hard work, we have completed all the necessary actions for the Menominee. Now, the focus is on formally removing impairments and monitoring fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects to verify that AOC fish and wildlife goals are being met.

This update shows the current status of the removal phases for six impairments in the Lower Menominee River AOC – complete, underway, or not started – and next steps.

## BUI Removal Phases:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Monitor &amp; Assess (MA)</th>
<th>Develop AOC Projects (DP)</th>
<th>Implement Projects (IP)</th>
<th>Verify Results (VR)</th>
<th>Formal BUI Removal (RM)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **Monitor & Assess (MA)**: define the problem, gather data and review literature, consult with experts.
- **Develop AOC Projects (DP)**: engage stakeholders to develop the set of projects that are necessary for reaching AOC goals.
- **Implement Projects (IP)**: take action to improve conditions within the AOC if monitoring data shows goals are not being met.
- **Verify Results (VR)**: after actions have been taken, monitor to determine if target has been met.
- ** Formal BUI Removal (RM)**: targets have been met. BUI removal documentation is being prepared or reviewed, or has been submitted.

### Status of Each Phase:

- Not Started
- Underway
- Complete

## There are health concerns with eating fish and wildlife

There are health concerns with eating fish and wildlife.

- **Fish & wildlife populations are degraded**
  
  **Next Steps:**
  - All goals to restore fish and wildlife populations have been achieved.
  - Results of follow-up maintenance and monitoring indicate that AOC targets are being met.
  - This BUI was proposed for removal in October 2018 with a public review and comment period through November 21, 2018. Formal removal of this BUI is anticipated by the end of 2018.

## Loss of fish and wildlife habitat

- **Water contact through beach use or other recreation is limited**
  
  **Next Steps:**
  - All goals to restore fish and wildlife habitat have been achieved.
  - Results of follow-up maintenance and monitoring indicate that AOC targets are being met.
  - This BUI was proposed for removal in October 2018 with a public review and comment period through November 21, 2018. Formal removal of this BUI is anticipated by the end of 2018.

## Communities of sediment-dwelling organisms are degraded

- **Communities of sediment-dwelling organisms are degraded**
  
  **Next Steps:**
  - All goals to restore fish and wildlife habitat have been achieved.
  - Results of follow-up maintenance and monitoring indicate that AOC targets are being met.
  - This BUI was proposed for removal in October 2018 with a public review and comment period through November 21, 2018. Formal removal of this BUI is anticipated by the end of 2018.

## Monitor and Assess (MA)

- **Dredging activities for commerce or navigation are restricted**
  
  **Next Steps:**
  - All goals to restore fish and wildlife habitat have been achieved.
  - Results of follow-up maintenance and monitoring indicate that AOC targets are being met.
  - This BUI was proposed for removal in October 2018 with a public review and comment period through November 21, 2018. Formal removal of this BUI is anticipated by the end of 2018.

## Implement Projects (IP)

- **Water contact through beach use or other recreation is limited**
  
  **Next Steps:**
  - All goals to restore fish and wildlife habitat have been achieved.
  - Results of follow-up maintenance and monitoring indicate that AOC targets are being met.
  - This BUI was proposed for removal in October 2018 with a public review and comment period through November 21, 2018. Formal removal of this BUI is anticipated by the end of 2018.

## Verify Results (VR)

- **Communities of sediment-dwelling organisms are degraded**
  
  **Next Steps:**
  - All goals to restore fish and wildlife habitat have been achieved.
  - Results of follow-up maintenance and monitoring indicate that AOC targets are being met.
  - This BUI was proposed for removal in October 2018 with a public review and comment period through November 21, 2018. Formal removal of this BUI is anticipated by the end of 2018.

## Formal BUI Removal (RM)

- **BUI REMOVED**
  
  **Next Steps:**
  - All goals to restore fish and wildlife habitat have been achieved.
  - Results of follow-up maintenance and monitoring indicate that AOC targets are being met.
  - This BUI was proposed for removal in October 2018 with a public review and comment period through November 21, 2018. Formal removal of this BUI is anticipated by the end of 2018.

## Restoration Status Update

- **Restoration work on Strawberry Island (top photo) improved habitat for colonial nesting birds, such as these egrets.**

- **Nesting structures for birds and bats (above) and native vegetation plantings (upper right) restored the wetland habitat at South Channel.**

- **Prairie restored at Menekaunee Harbor after the area was dredged to remove polluted sediments (above).**

- **Sturgeon like this one are carefully examined after they pass through the fish elevator installed at the Menominee Dam to help them get upstream to spawn (right).**

- **Dredging activities for commerce or navigation are restricted**

- **Water contact through beach use or other recreation is limited**

- **Communities of sediment-dwelling organisms are degraded**

- **Fish & wildlife populations are degraded**

- **There are health concerns with eating fish and wildlife**

- **BUI REMOVED**