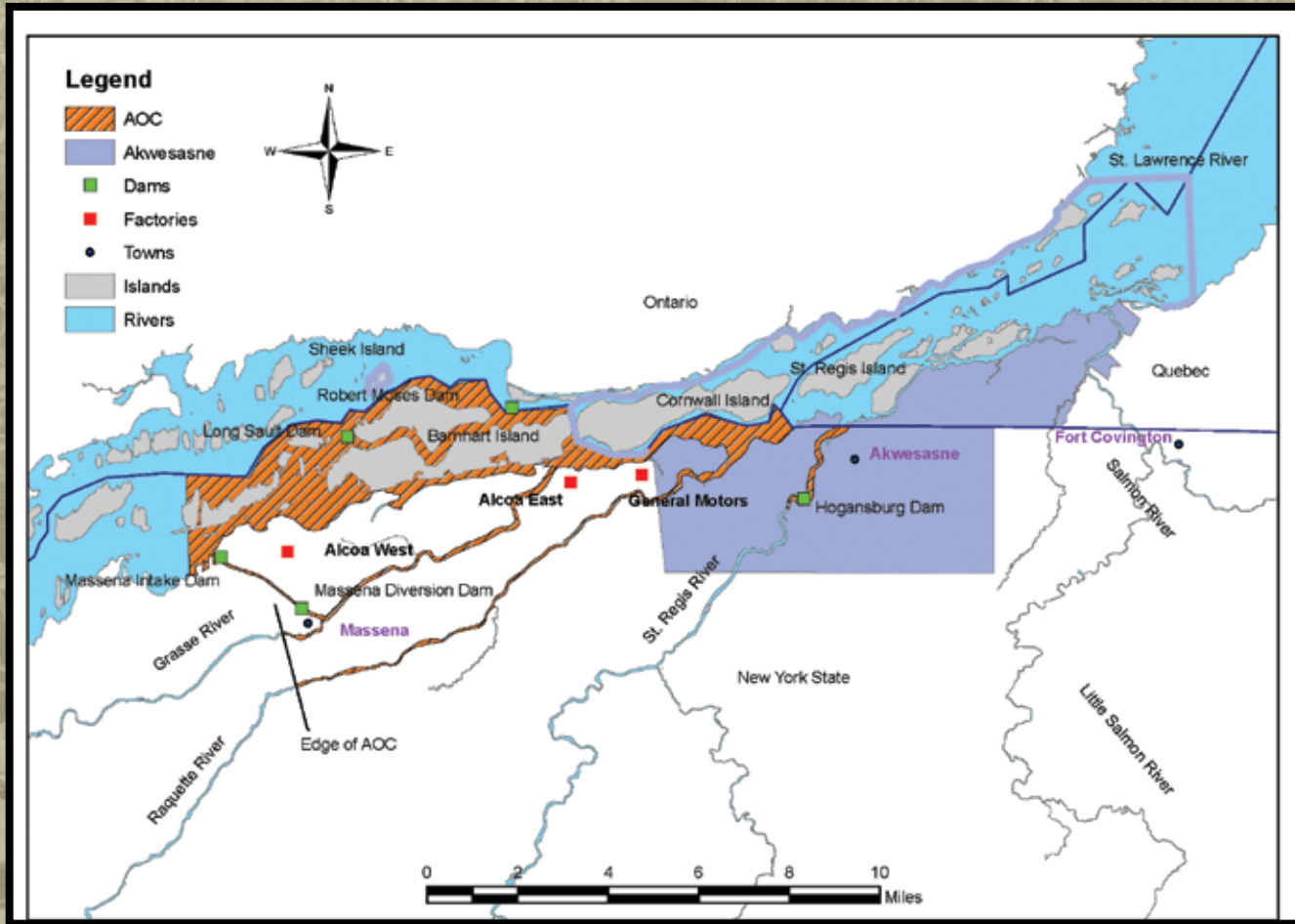


# St. Lawrence River Massena/Akwesasne Area of Concern (AOC)

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Environment Division



# BUUI

## Beneficial Use Impairments

*Massena/Akwesasne  
Area of Concern (AOC)*



**U.S.E.P.A.**

St. Lawrence River AOC

<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/stlawrence.html>



**SRMT Environment Division**

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Helping Build a Better Tomorrow

In 1972, the United States and Canada signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). It affirms the importance of restoring and maintaining the integrity of the Great Lakes as an essential water boundary. The GLWQA also identified 43 Areas of Concern (AOC) within the Great Lakes river basin. These are environmentally impacted areas, according to 14 Beneficial Use Impairments (BUI). The St. Lawrence

River AOC is one of only five bi-nationally recognized sites with jurisdiction on both sides of the border and is the only AOC in the United States that includes a Native American tribal territory. The Massena/Akwesasne jurisdiction is shared between the United States, New York State and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and at Cornwall between Canada, Ontario, Quebec and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. The shared goal among these international agencies is the

complete delisting of the St. Lawrence River as an AOC. This will be accomplished only when the BUIs no longer exist at the site. In 2010, SRMT was awarded a \$1,229,415, three year grant through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) to study BUIs at the Massena/Akwesasne site. The following is a summary of the studies targeted to take place over a three year period.

### *Avian*

- field monitoring of reproductive success of common tern, black tern, osprey, herons and cormorants
- chemical analysis of osprey and common tern blood and egg samples

### *Turtles*

- population surveys
- hatching success and deformities
- tissue analysis

### *Freshwater Mussel*

- population surveys
- tissue analysis

### *Furbearer*

- chemical analysis of muskrat, beaver, mink, otter and raccoon
- winter tracking surveys
- field observations of deformities and reproductive problems

### *Fish Tumor*

- chemical analysis of brown bullhead liver for PCBs and PAHs

### *Other Studies*

- ongoing benthic monitoring
- sturgeon habitat restoration and contaminant analysis

1	Restrictions on fish & wildlife consumption	<i>Impaired</i>
3	Degradation of fish & wildlife populations	<i>Impaired</i>
4	Fish tumors or other deformities	<i>Unknown/Needs further assessment</i>
5	Bird or animal deformities or reproductive problems	<i>Unknown/Needs further assessment</i>
6	Degradation of benthos	<i>Unknown/Needs further assessment</i>
13	Degradation of phytoplankton & zooplankton populations	<i>Unknown/Needs further assessment</i>
14	Loss of fish & wildlife habitat	<i>Unknown/Needs further assessment</i>
15	Transboundary impacts*	<i>Impaired</i>

## **BUIs for St. Lawrence River AOC at Massena/Akwesasne**

\* St. Lawrence River AOC Only