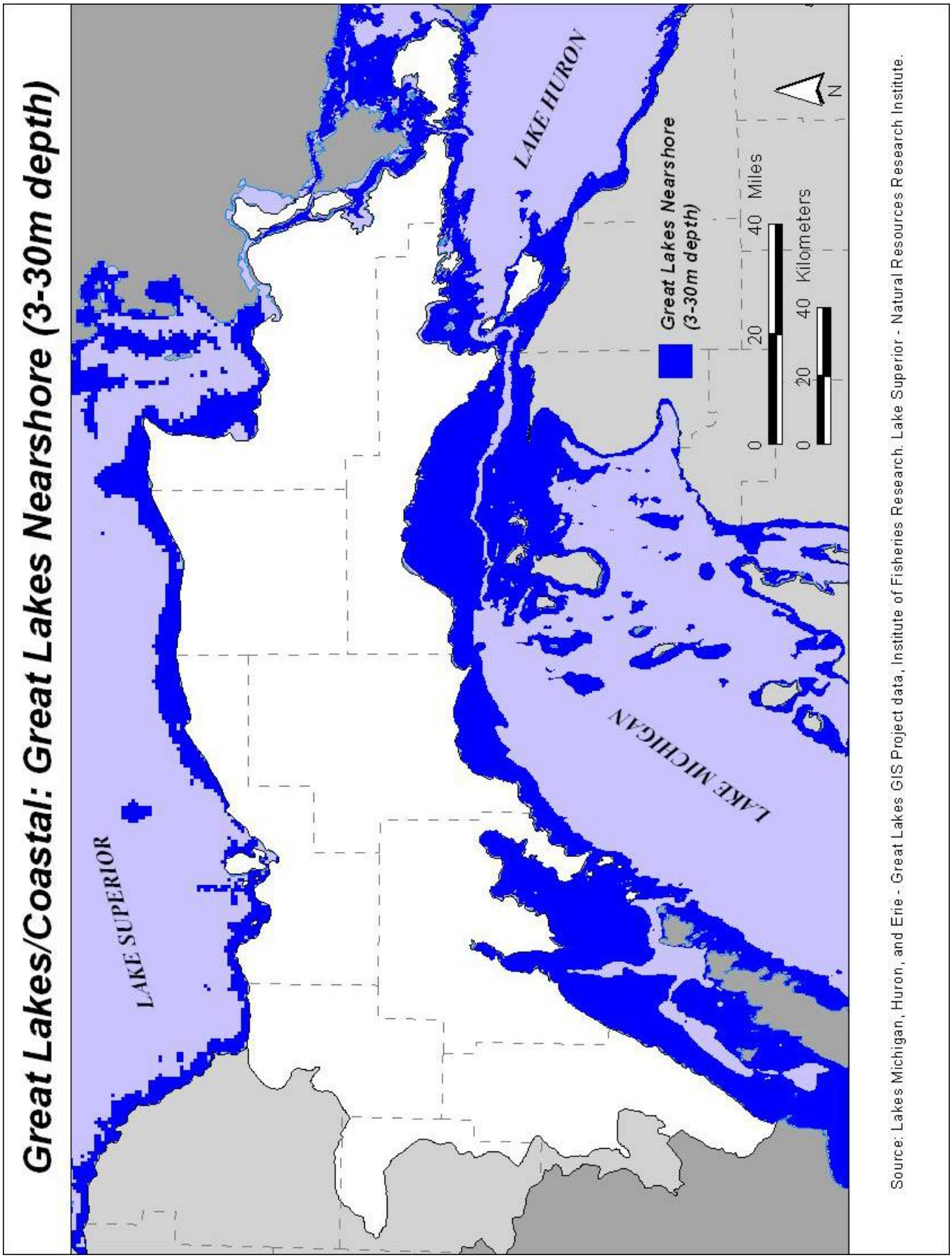
Great Lakes/Coastal: Great Lakes Nearshore (3-30m depth)
LAKE SUPERIOR
LAKE HURON
LAKE MICHIGAN
Great Lakes Nearshore
(3-30m depth)
0
20
40 Miles
0
20
40 Kilometers
N
Source: Lakes Michigan, Huron, and Erie - Great Lakes GIS Project data, Institute of Fisheries Research. Lake Superior - Natural Resources Research Institute.

Great Lakes/Coastal: Great Lakes nearshore

Description

The area of the Great Lakes that range from 3 to 30 meters in depth. This area includes both submergent and emergent aquatic vegetation, but not marshes. Great Lakes are considered to be the Michigan waters of Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and the connecting waterways of the St. Mary's, St. Clair, and Detroit rivers and Lake St. Clair.

General Condition of Feature

Much of the Great Lakes nearshore area in the Eastern Upper Peninsula is considered to be in fair to good condition as terrestrial wildlife habitat (~60%) and about 20% is considered to be in excellent condition. The remaining areas are considered degraded.

Associated Natural Communities

N/A – No defined natural communities

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

BIRDS
Common Loon *(Gavia immer)*
Bald Eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)*

BIRDS cont.
Peregrine Falcon *(Falco peregrinus)*

Associated Threats

HABITAT CONVERSION
- Dredging and channelization: Dredging may pose a localized threat.

POLLUTION
- Urban, municipal, and industrial: Heavy metal contamination impacts Great Lakes systems.

NON-CONSUMPTIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE USE
- Non-consumptive recreation: The use of personal watercraft may impact nearshore systems.

BIOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS
- Invasive plants and animals

Conservation Actions Needed [Threats addressed]

LAND, WATER & SPECIES MANAGEMENT
- Institute invasive species monitoring, prevention and control programs. [Invasive plants and animals]

LAW & POLICY
- Develop new and enforce existing regulations restricting heavy metal contamination in the Great Lakes. [Urban, municipal, and industrial pollution]
- Develop and enforce regulations to curtail recreational activities that cause significant damage. [Non-consumptive recreation]

RECREATION
- Promote responsible watercraft use. [Non-consumptive recreation]

Research and Survey Needs
- Examine the impacts of dredging and deposition of dredge spoil on the value of these systems to wildlife.
- Examine the impacts of recreational use and commercial fishing on the value of these systems to wildlife.
- Identify invasive species that may degrade the value of nearshore systems for wildlife. Develop techniques to control invasive species. Common invasive species include zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*).
- Assess the impacts of contaminants on the wildlife habitat quality of nearshore systems.
- Inventory current and historic avian staging areas. Identify Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and delineate the characteristics that indicate potential IBAs.

Monitoring
- Track the usage of Great Lakes nearshore areas by migrating birds with attention to its use as a staging area.
- Track contaminant inflows and the concentration of contaminants.