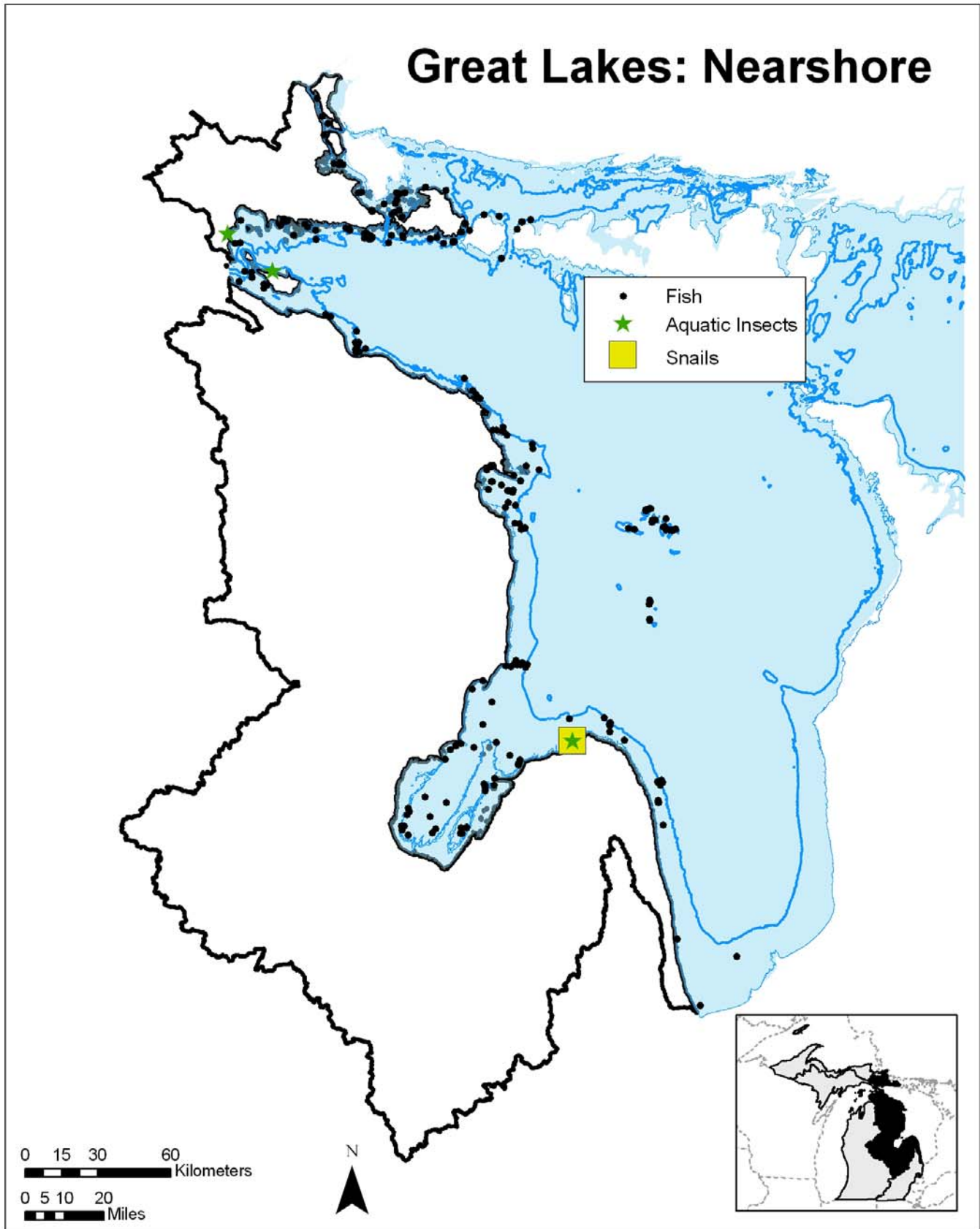


Great Lakes: Nearshore



Great Lakes: Nearshore

Description

Nearshore areas of the Great Lakes range from 3 to 30 meters in depth. This area includes both submergent and emergent aquatic vegetation, but not marshes. For the Lake Huron basin this is considered to be the Michigan waters of Lake Huron and the connecting waterways of the St. Mary's River.

General Condition of Feature

This habitat is considered 70% in good to excellent condition, 20% in fair condition, and 10% in degraded to very degraded condition.

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

SNAILS

Specific associations with this landscape feature were not found in the literature

INSECTS

Specific associations with this landscape feature were not found in the literature

FISH

lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*)
mooneye (*Hiodon tergisus*)
stonecat (*Noturus flavus*)
tadpole madtom (*Noturus gyrinus*)
cisco or lake herring (*Coregonus artedii*)

FISH cont.

shortjaw cisco (*Coregonus zenithicus*)
spoonhead sculpin (*Cottus ricei*)
channel darter (*Percina copelandi*)
river darter (*Percina shumardi*)
sauger (*Sander canadensis*)

AMPHIBIANS

mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus maculosus*)

REPTILES

Specific associations with this landscape feature were not found in the literature

Associated Threats

POLLUTION

- Altered sediment loads: Sedimentation
- Urban, municipal, and industrial pollution: Contaminants; Heavy metals

HABITAT CONVERSION

- Dams
- Dredging and channelization: Dredging channels (low threat)

BIOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS

- Invasive plants and animals: Cormorants; Zebra mussels are changing this area - increased rooted macrophytes because of more light penetration; Round goby; Sea lamprey
- Removal of wildlife

NON-CONSUMPTIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE USE

- Macrophyte removal: (low threat)

Conservation Actions Needed (Threats addressed)

LAND, WATER & SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- Continually improve and implement storm water and non-point source best management practices (Urban, municipal, and industrial pollution)
- Continued vigilance and cooperation on preventing more aquatic invasive species establishments (invasive plants and animals)
- Control and prevent introductions of aquatic invasive species (invasive plants and animals)
- Develop integrated pest management plans (invasive plants and animals)
- Encourage maintaining or restoring riparian vegetation buffers (altered sediment loads)

LAW & POLICY

- Encourage enforcement of permits controlling effluent discharges (Urban, municipal, and industrial pollution)
- Strengthen and enforce water quality laws (Urban, municipal, and industrial pollution)
- Implement ballast control regulations (invasive plants and animals)
- Continue working with planning and zoning regulations and ordinances (altered sediment loads)
- Support development of zoning standards for townships that are not now zoned (altered sediment loads, Urban, municipal, and industrial pollution)

EDUCATION & AWARENESS

- Increase education to boaters, scuba divers, and others on the spread of invasive species and preventative steps (invasive plants and animals)

MICHIGAN'S WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN
AQUATIC SYSTEMS: LAKE HURON BASIN

Research and Survey Needs

- Determine effective prevention, control, and survey techniques for aquatic invasive species
- Continue to work with GLFC Lake Huron Technical Advisory Group implementing Lake Huron aquatic community objectives
- Determine ways to expand education efforts to the public on their stewardship role
- Survey social attitudes and determine effective communication methods

Monitoring

- Aquatic invasive species
- Effluent discharges
- Great Lake tributary water flows