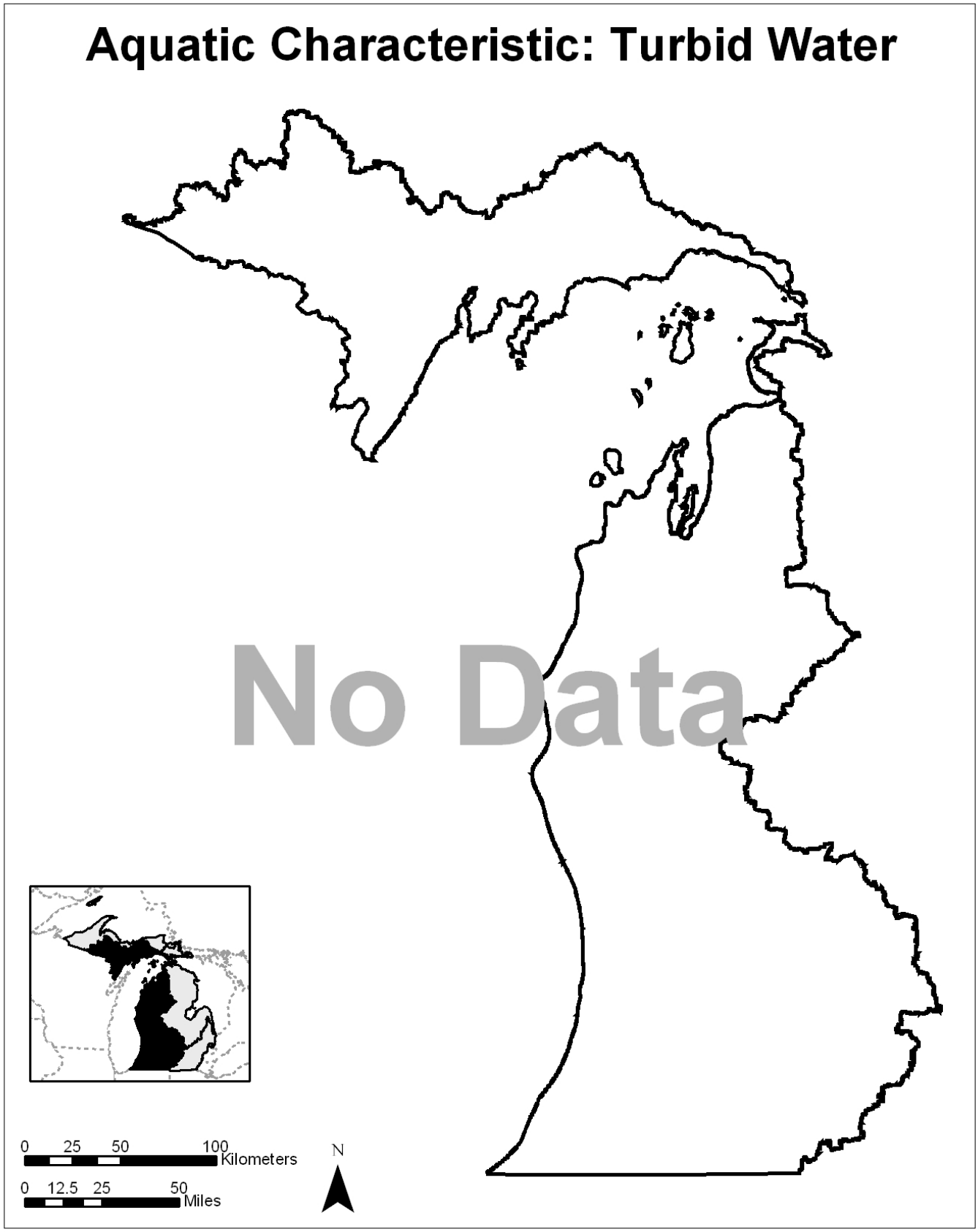
Aquatic Characteristic: Turbid Water



Aquatic Characteristic: Turbid Water

Description

Turbid water is water where the amount of particulate matter suspended in the water column is high, thereby decreasing the amount of light available to aquatic plants and animals.

General Condition of Feature

This habitat is considered 25% in good to excellent condition, 35% in fair condition, and 40% in degraded to very degraded condition.

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

FISH
bigmouth shiner (*Notropis dorsalis*)
spoonhead sculpin (*Cottus ricei*)

FISH cont.
sauger (*Sander canadensis*)

Associated Threats

MODIFICATION OF NATURAL PROCESSES
- Altered hydrologic regimes: Storm-water control
- Climate change: (low threat)
- Fragmentation: Road crossings

POLLUTION
- Altered nutrient inflows
- Altered sediment loads: Bank erosion
- Urban, municipal, and industrial pollution: Industrial effluent

HABITAT CONVERSION
- Dams
- Dredging and channelization: Dredging; Channelization
- Riparian modification: Riparian development; Agriculture
- Wetland modification: Filling

BIOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS
- Invasive plants and animals: Zebra mussels

CONSUMPTIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE USE
- Forestry practices: (low threat)
- Mining practices
- Removal of wildlife

NON-CONSUMPTIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE USE
- Macrophyte removal: "Weed" treatment; Vegetation changes can altered water quality (low threat)

EDUCATION
- Social attitudes: (low threat)

Conservation Actions Needed (Threats addressed)

LAND, WATER & SPECIES MANAGEMENT
- Allow seasonal flooding (altered hydrologic regimes)
- Control and prevent aquatic invasive species introductions and establishments (invasive plants and animals)
- Develop integrated pest management plans (invasive plants and animals)
- Maintain or establish riparian buffers (altered hydrologic regimes, altered sediment loads, riparian modification)
- Maintain or rehabilitate river to original flow path and hydrologic functions (altered hydrologic regimes)
- Manage zebra mussel populations (invasive plants and animals)
- Protect and rehabilitate wetland and floodplain functions (altered hydrologic regimes, fragmentation, riparian modification, wetland modification)
- Reduce use of pesticides and herbicides (pesticides and herbicides)
- Rehabilitate native flora (riparian modification)
- Survey erosion and nutrient loading sites within watersheds and develop strategies to reduce identified problems (altered sediment loads)

LAW & POLICY
- Encourage townships to separate combined sewer systems (altered nutrient inflows)
- Implement ballast control regulations (invasive plants and animals)
- Implement storm water and non-point source best management practices (altered hydrologic regimes, Urban, municipal, and industrial pollution)

- Manage or modify water releases of dams to mimic natural river conditions (altered hydrologic regimes, dams)
- Remove dams to rehabilitate natural hydrology and connection to floodplain (altered hydrologic regimes, dams, fragmentation)
- Restrict dredging and channelization (dredging and channelization)
- Strengthen wetland regulations, mitigation requirements, and enforcement (wetland modification)

EDUCATION & AWARENESS

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

Research and Survey Needs

- Determine effective prevention, control, and survey techniques for aquatic invasive species, especially methods of controlling zebra mussels
- Determine unknown life history requirements for SGCN associated with turbid water
- Map, in GIS, this landscape feature

Monitoring

- Aquatic invasive species
- Macrophyte removals