



## **Inland wetlands/water: Inland island**

### Description

Islands located in inland lakes, ponds, or rivers, including artificial islands (e.g., nesting islands).

### General Condition of Feature

Inland islands are largely considered to be in fair or good condition in the Southern Lower Peninsula. However, some inland islands are considered degraded.

### Associated Natural Communities

N/A – No defined natural communities

### Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

#### *REPTILES*

eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*)

#### *BIRDS*

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)  
American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*)  
Common Loon (*Gavia immer*)

#### *BIRDS cont.*

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)  
Black-crowned Night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)  
Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)  
Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*)  
Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)

### Associated Threats

#### *HABITAT CONVERSION*

- Industrial, residential, and recreational development

#### *POLLUTION*

- Urban, municipal, and industrial
- Pesticides and herbicides

#### *NON-CONSUMPTIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE USE*

- Non-consumptive recreation: Boat wakes may impact islands. Human use may disrupt wildlife communities.

#### *BIOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS*

- Invasive plants and animals
- Other biological interactions: Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) may affect island communities.

### Conservation Actions Needed [Threats addressed]

#### *LAND, WATER & SPECIES MANAGEMENT*

- Assess management goals to ensure that they provide for a diversity of communities across the landscape. [Other biological interactions]
- Institute invasive species monitoring, prevention and control programs. [Invasive plants and animals]
- Use best management practices for development, management, and recreational activities around lakes, streams, and wetlands to maintain natural shoreline stability (thereby reducing the need for restoration or artificial structures). [Industrial, residential, and recreational development, Non-consumptive recreation]

#### *LAW & POLICY*

- Work with municipalities to promote planning and zoning insuring adequate protection of islands for wildlife. [Industrial, residential, and recreational development]
- Develop new legislation and ordinances, where necessary, to regulate or limit development of islands or draining of surrounding wetlands. Enforce existing regulations concerning draining and development of wetlands and islands. [Industrial, residential, and recreational development]
- Enforce existing and develop new legislation to restrict emissions that contribute to acid rain. [Urban, municipal, and industrial pollution]
- Develop and enforce regulations to curtail recreational activities that cause significant damage. [Non-consumptive recreation]

#### *EDUCATION & AWARENESS*

- Provide information to landowners on less chemically intensive methods of fertilization and pest management. [Pesticides and herbicides]

#### *RECREATION*

- Promote low impact recreational activities (e.g., bird watching) and responsible use of islands. [Non-consumptive recreation]
- Promote responsible watercraft use. [Non-consumptive recreation]

### Research and Survey Needs

- Evaluate the impacts of modifications of natural hydrologic regimes and local water chemistry.

**MICHIGAN'S WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN**  
**TERRESTRIAL SYSTEMS: SOUTHERN LOWER PENINSULA**

- Document the historic and current range of variation among inland islands. This includes variables such as species composition and size.
- Identify invasive species that may degrade the value of inland lakes for wildlife. Develop techniques to control invasive species. Common invasive species include reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).
- Develop best management practices for development, management, and recreational activities around lakes, streams, and wetlands to maintain natural shoreline stability (thereby reducing the need for restoration or artificial structures).
- Examine the impacts of recreational use and aquatic weed control treatments on the value to wildlife of inland islands.

Monitoring

- Track inland island acreage and distribution across the landscape.
- Identify and track floristic composition and diversity.
- Track water level and flow fluctuations and its impacts on vegetation and wildlife.
- Track water quality trends.
- Track the abundance and diversity of indicator species.
- Track the density and distribution of development along island shorelines.
- Track the intensity and temporal distribution of recreational use of islands and shorelines.
- Track the rate of erosion along island shorelines.