



## 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

No data available.

### Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

#### *FISH*

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

#### *FISH cont.*

- sauger (*Sander canadensis*)

### Associated Threats

#### *POLLUTION*

- Altered nutrient inflows: Eutrophication caused loss of sauger in Torch Lake

#### *HABITAT CONVERSION*

- Dams

#### *BIOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS*

- Invasive plants and animals: Potentially introduction of zebra mussels

### Conservation Actions Needed (Threats addressed)

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

- Control and prevent aquatic invasive species introductions and establishments (invasive plants and animals)
- Protect and rehabilitate wetland and floodplain functions (altered nutrient inflows)

#### *LAW & POLICY*

- Continued vigilance and cooperation on preventing more aquatic invasive species establishments (invasive plants and animals)
- Encourage townships to separate combined sewer systems (altered nutrient inflows)
- Manage or modify lake-level controls or water releases of dams to mimic natural river conditions (dams)
- Remove dams to rehabilitate natural hydrology (dams)
- Remove lake-level control structures (dams)
- Upgrade septic systems (altered nutrient inflows)
- Use best management practices (altered nutrient inflows)

#### *EDUCATION & AWARENESS*

- Educate the public on the use of and reasons for maintaining septic systems (altered nutrient inflows)

### 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
- Determine the condition of turbid waters in the Lake Superior basin
- Map, in GIS, this landscape feature

### Monitoring

- Aquatic invasive species
- Dam operations
- Dissolved oxygen
- Macrophyte removals
- Nutrient loadings