



Lake Characteristic: Wave-Washed Shore

Description

Wave-washed shores are areas of lakes with constant wind-generated wave energy in relatively shallow water with natural substrates and with the absence of human altered shorelines. These areas are found primarily in the Great Lakes and large inland lakes.

General Condition of Feature

This habitat is considered 85% in good to excellent condition, 15% in fair condition, and a small percentage is in degraded to very degraded condition.

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

INSECTS

stygian shadowdragon (*Neurocordulia
yamaskanensis*)

FISH

lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*)

Associated Threats

MODIFICATION OF NATURAL PROCESSES

- Climate change: May be affecting water levels: (low threat)

HABITAT CONVERSION

- Dredging and channelization: Increasing shoreline development pressure; Dredging
- Riparian modifications: Any alteration or development - this is especially important for walleye recruitment; Development

BIOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS

- Invasive plants and animals: (low threat)

Conservation Actions Needed (Threats addressed)

LAND, WATER & SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- Maintain or establish riparian buffers of at least 50 ft., but 500 ft. or wider maximizes conservation benefits (riparian modifications)
- Soften or remove hard stream and shoreline structures (riparian modifications)
- Use natural materials or soft engineering instead of hard structures for shoreline modification (riparian modifications)

LAW & POLICY

- Enact and enforce shoreline protection regulations (riparian modifications)
- Encourage clustered development rather than evenly spaced home lots (riparian modifications)
- Encourage green space planning (riparian modifications)
- Ensure best management practices are applied (riparian modifications)
- Restrict beach grooming (riparian modifications)
- Restrict dredging and channelization activities, especially during spawning and migration seasons and around mussel beds (dredging and channelization)
- Work with local governments to develop and refine planning and zoning regulations and ordinances that consider natural processes (riparian modifications)
- Work with local officials on setback and buffer ordinances (riparian modifications)

Research and Survey Needs

- Determine other species that use wave-washed shores
- Determine the amount of hard shoreline modification
- Establish effective methods of communication with the public and their stewardship role

Monitoring

- Dredging and channelization
- Land use changes
- Nearshore dredging
- Riparian modifications
- Shoreline modification