



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 in the Western Upper Peninsula are generally considered to be in fair, good, or excellent condition.

Associated Natural Communities

N/A – no native natural communities

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

BIRDS

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

BIRDS cont.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)

Associated Threats

MODIFICATION OF NATURAL PROCESSES

- Altered hydrologic regimes

HABITAT CONVERSION

- Industrial, residential, and recreational development

NON-CONSUMPTIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE USE

- Non-consumptive recreation: Camping and boating may impact island quality.

BIOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS

- Invasive plants and animals

Conservation Actions Needed [Threats addressed]

LAND, WATER, & SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- Manage to approximate natural disturbance regimes by restoring water flow patterns. [Altered hydrologic regimes]
- Develop and implement plans for invasive species control and prevention. [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 for islands and shorelines. [Industrial, residential, and recreational development]
- Develop and enforce regulations to curtail recreational activities that cause significant damage. [Non-consumptive recreation]

RECREATION

- Promote responsible camping and boating use. [Non-consumptive recreation]

Research and Survey Needs

- Evaluate the impacts of modifications of natural hydrologic regimes and local water chemistry.
- A common classification system to define wetlands is needed.
- Document the historic and current range of variation between 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*).
- Examine the impacts of recreational use and aquatic weed control treatments on the value to wildlife of inland islands.
- Determine indicators of condition.
- 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).
- Identify high quality island occurrences.

Monitoring

- Track inland island acreage and distribution across the landscape.
- Identify and track floristic composition and diversity.

**MICHIGAN'S WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN
TERRESTRIAL SYSTEMS: WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA**

- Track water level and flow fluctuations and its impacts on vegetation and wildlife.
- Track water chemistry and 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.