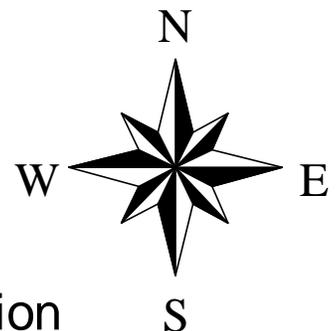


# Lake Ontario Islands Wildlife Management Area Management Plan



February 2002  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE  
LAKE ONTARIO ISLANDS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Table of Contents

Introduction 1

Background 1

    I. Geography 1

        a. Location and General Description 1

        b. History 2

        c. Recreational and Cultural Base 2

    II. Natural Environment 3

        a. Geology, Soils and Vegetative Cover 3

        b. Water Resources and Environmental Setting 3

        c. Wildlife Resources 3

        d. Aquatic Resources 4

Goals and Objectives 5

    Goals 5

    Objectives 5

Implementation 6

    I. Security and Access 6

        a. Posting and Patrolling 6

        b. Access 6

    II. Wildlife Management 7

        a. Monitoring Colonial Waterbirds 7

        b. Research 7

        c. Double-crested Cormorant Management 7

        d. Habitat Manipulation 8

    III. Public Use 8

        a. Information and Education 8

        b. Development of Use Facilities 9

    IV. Public Input- Search Conference 10

References Cited 12

## MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE LAKE ONTARIO ISLANDS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

### INTRODUCTION:

In December of 1998, the Department of Environmental Conservation acquired Little Galloo Island as a gift from Phillips Petroleum Corporation. The acquisition of this nationally recognized colonial waterbird colony, added to three existing properties and greatly enhanced the potential of the Department to provide for the protection, management and public use of an exceptional resource. The Department decided to treat all four parcels as one Wildlife Management Area to facilitate the coordinated management of all four offshore parcels. By consolidating these Lake Ontario holdings, opportunities for promoting public use and enjoyment are also enhanced. This Management Plan covers activities and actions to be undertaken during a five year period through 2006, with revisions and updates to be considered thereafter.

It should be noted, that LOIWMA fits within the larger “eastern basin ecosystem” of Lake Ontario. Management of the state Area will consider and be compatible with the larger eastern basin ecosystem of which it is a part. While this plan is specific to LOIWMA, many references to the eastern basin are made, to place the management of the WMA within the context of “the bigger picture”. Indeed, a November 2000 community based “Search Conference” identified numerous potential actions to be considered in a broader basin context.

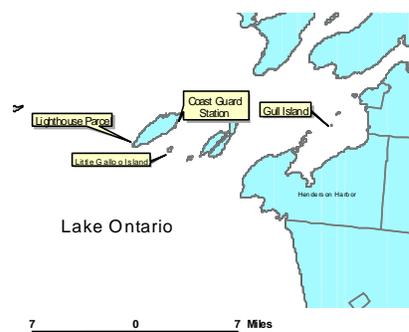
### BACKGROUND:

#### I. GEOGRAPHY

##### *a. Location and General Description*

The Lake Ontario Islands Wildlife Management Area (LOIWMA) is situated in the eastern basin of Lake Ontario, in Jefferson County, New York (Figure 1). The WMA is comprised of four parcels including Little Galloo Island (43 acres), Gull Island (1 acre), and two holdings on Galloo Island (20 acres). Little Galloo island is a spectacular colonial water bird rookery with the largest ring billed gull colony in North America, and New York’s only Caspian tern colony. Double-crested cormorant, herring gull, great black-backed gull and black-crowned night heron also nest on the island. Little Galloo is designated as an Important Bird area by the National Audubon Society, and is listed as a Significant Habitat by New York State. Little Galloo Island is also under consideration for a state Bird Conservation Area Program designation. Gull Island is also used by nesting colonial waterbirds and contains a stable population of black-crowned night heron and herring gulls. The two parcels on Galloo Island are former Coast Guard properties which include an old lighthouse site on the southwest end of the island and an old Coast Guard station on the east side of the Island. The lighthouse itself is not held in State ownership.

Figure 1. Lake Ontario Islands WMA



*b. History*

While mainland Jefferson County is relatively rich in history, there is little historical information written about the islands in eastern Lake Ontario. Hough (1854) provides some information on Macomb's original purchase and subsequent ownership of the islands, but little else. According to Hough's account, all of the islands in the St. Lawrence River and eastern Lake Ontario were included in Macomb's purchase, but patents for these lands were not issued for many years. In 1823 Elisha Camp was issued patents for most of Galloo, Little Galloo and Calf Islands along with several other islands. The lighthouse parcel on Little Galloo Island, now in New York ownership, had previously been patented to the United States of America in 1819 for construction of a lighthouse. The eastern basin islands are specifically referenced as having "little importance" in the history of the town of Hounsfield, having been used "almost exclusively for agriculture", in Emerson's (1898) *Our County and its People, A Descriptive Work on Jefferson County, New York*. A review of Robinson's *Atlas of Jefferson County, New York*, published in 1888 indicates that structures were present on both Little Galloo and Galloo Islands. The Coast Guard station site, was acquired by the United States of America in 1934 for its use as a boat station.

*c. Recreational and Cultural Base*

The waters of the eastern basin support significant recreational fishing, sailing and general boating activity. Marinas are established at many locations particularly at Henderson Harbor, Sackets Harbor, Chaumont Bay and Mud Bay. Bait and tackle shops are present in the Henderson Harbor, Dexter, Chaumont and Cape Vincent areas. There are many charter fishing services operating in the eastern basin and in nearby central basin and St Lawrence River waters.

Little Galloo Island has been off-limits to the general public in recent years while in private ownership. Phillips Petroleum Corporation has used the island for fall waterfowl hunting and continues to retain the rights to this activity through 2018. As part of the new Lake Ontario Islands Wildlife Management Area access will continue to be restricted to protect the islands value as one of the premier colonial waterbird nesting areas in North America. Limited, unintrusive public use opportunities will be developed, however to accommodate public interest in visiting the island as a "Watchable Wildlife" site. Substantial information and educational outreach opportunities related to this significant waterbird resource are also recognized.

Gull Island has been posted as a Wildlife Management Area for a number of years. Because of its small size, dense vegetation, and colonial waterbird use, summer use of the island by people has been inconsequential. Some birders undoubtedly approach the island to view nesting birds, and anglers frequently fish from boats nearby. Primary public use of Gull Island is by a small number of waterfowl hunters during the fall.

The two parcels on Galloo Island are not currently suitable for public use. The lighthouse parcel is inaccessible by boat due to shoals, and the abandoned Coast Guard station no longer has suitable dockage for access. Additionally, the remaining Coast Guard station structures are in poor repair and the former residence building is known to contain asbestos.

## II. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### *a. Geology, Soils and Vegetative Cover*

Geologically, the eastern basin islands are part of a larger area formed from what is referred to as Galloo Rock outcrop (Soil Survey of Jefferson County 1989). Shorelines on the State owned parcels are typically rock or cobble shore and the thin overlying inland soils tend to be comprised loam or clay. On Little Galloo Island, substantial organic material is also present from years of guano deposition by nesting birds.

The vegetation found on Gull Island includes woody species such as black willow, cottonwood, ash, staghorn sumac and silky dogwood. Herbaceous plants include jewelweed, cow parsnip, stinging nettle, nightshade, wild mustard and Virginia creeper (NYSDEC 1994). Detailed vegetative surveys have not been conducted on the Galloo Island or Little Galloo sites. No rare threatened or endangered plant species are known to occur on the WMA. A complete inventory of the vegetative resources of the four parcels is planned for the summers of 2001 and 2002.

### *b. Water Resources and Environmental Setting*

Lake Ontario is the lowermost of Great Lakes, with a surface area of over 7,500 square miles and a maximum depth of over 800 feet. The eastern basin, often called the Kingston Basin in Canada, is a relatively small (800 square miles), shallow (maximum depth less than 200 feet) area north and east of the Main Duck Sill which runs from Stony Point, New York to Prince Edward Point, Ontario (44E 54' N). The Basin extends to the Lake Ontario outlet to the St Lawrence River at Tibbets Point, New York - Wolfe Island, Ontario (44E 06' N). Roughly half of the area is under U.S. jurisdiction. The area contains a series of rocky points, islands and shoals. There are several bays, the largest of which are Henderson Bay, Black River Bay, Chaumont and Guffin Bays. Wetlands occupy the more protected areas of the bays. The bays are considered mesotrophic, open lake areas are oligotrophic. The open lake area is thermally stratified in summer, although thermocline depth is highly variable due to internal seiche action.

Eastern Lake Ontario islands and their adjacent shoals are considered to be significant coastal fish and wildlife habitat by the New York Department of State. These islands and shoals are considered to comprise a rare ecosystem in New York State and serve as important habitat for colonial waterbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds and warmwater fishes. In addition to Little Galloo Island; Calf Island, Fox - Grenadier Islands/Shoal and Stony Point-Limebarrel Shoal are rated "Irreplaceable", in terms of fish and wildlife value. Under the 1998 New York Department of Environmental Conservation and Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation plan for Conserving Open Space in New York State, Eastern Lake Ontario Islands are considered unique, and are listed as a priority project

### *c. Wildlife Resources*

As noted above, the eastern basin islands and adjacent waters are considered a significant habitat for colonial waterbirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds. On LOIWMA itself, the most significant wildlife use is by colonial waterbirds. Both Little Galloo and Gull Islands support breeding colonies of several colonial nesting species. The most recent population estimates for each colonial species are contained in Table I:

Table I: Number of *Pairs* of Breeding Birds on Little Galloo and Gull Islands in 2000

Species	Little Galloo Island	Gull Island
Ring-billed Gull	53,000	0
Herring Gull	275	45
Gr. Black-backed Gull	12	0
Double-crested Cormorant	5,119	0*
Caspian Tern	1,350	0
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	20

\* 478 cormorant nests were removed from Gull Island in 1999 under a USFWS depredation permit issued for maintenance of habitat for Black-crowned night heron.

Use of the State owned LOIWMA parcels by shorebirds and waterfowl is primarily limited to migration with significant use of adjacent shallow water habitat by waterfowl, and some resting/feeding activity by shorebirds. No mammalian species have been observed on either Little Galloo or Gull Islands, but several mainland mammal species are known to exist on Galloo Island.

#### *d. Aquatic Resources*

Smallmouth bass are the most abundant and widespread Eastern Basin sport fish despite significant declines in recent years (Chrisman and Eckert 1999). It is still the most sought-after sport fish, attracting over 35,000 directed angler trips in 1998 (McCullough and Einhouse 1999). Walleye have increased in abundance and become a significant part of the fish community and fishery in the last decade. They are now the second most commonly sought and harvested sport fish in Lake Ontario's eastern basin (McCullough and Einhouse 1999). Northern pike and largemouth bass are locally abundant in protected bays and provide a small directed fishery. Chinook salmon and lake trout are seasonally abundant and provide a high profile fishery. Steelhead (rainbow trout) provide a noteworthy tributary fishery from fall through early spring. The trout and salmon fishery is less numerically significant in the Eastern Basin than in the adjacent Central Basin and is a relatively small fraction of Eastern Basin fishing effort.

Yellow perch are the most commonly harvested pan fish, although harvests are currently well below historical levels. Brown bullhead also provide substantial harvest opportunity (McCullough and Einhouse 1999).

Alewife abundance has declined dramatically in recent years (Lantry and Shaver 1998). Nonetheless alewife are present in the basin from late spring through fall and remain an important food source for most piscivores. Minnows such as spottail shiners and bluntnose minnows are also significant prey items. Crayfish are the major prey of smallmouth bass.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

The Department has adopted the following Goal for the management of the eastern basin of Lake Ontario:

*Improve the benefits people derive from Lake Ontario's eastern basin ecosystem by: 1) restoring the structure and function of the warmwater fish community, 2) reducing the negative impacts of double-crested cormorants on nesting habitats and other colonial waterbird species, 3) improve the quality of smallmouth bass and other fisheries, and 4) foster a greater appreciation for Great Lakes colonial waterbird resources.*

The following complimentary Goals and Objectives have been established for managing the Lake Ontario Islands Wildlife Management Area.

**Goals:**

- I Protect, maintain and manage the diversity of colonial waterbirds nesting on Little Galloo and Gull Islands to, 1) enhance their suitability for the full range of colonial waterbird species found within the Lake Ontario eastern basin, and 2) in support of the goal established for the eastern basin fisheries and colonial waterbird resources.
- II) Improve public appreciation, use, and enjoyment of the LOIWMA colonial waterbird resource through development of appropriate use facilities and opportunities to accomplish unintrusive use.
- III) Foster and promote greater appreciation for the unique resources of the LOIWMA and the eastern basin to allow for improved social and economic benefit to local communities and New York State residents.

**Objectives:**

- Ia) Limit disturbance to colonial waterbirds on Little Galloo and Gull Islands through posting, consolidation of research and management activities and other protective measures.
- Ib) Annually monitor the status of colonial waterbird species using the LOIWMA to detect long term trends in abundance.
- Ic) Conduct research and management activities as necessary to ensure suitable balance exists to support a diverse compliment of colonial nesting species and a healthy recreational fishery.
- IIa) By March, 2002, assess the potential for desirable, unintrusive public use facilities that allow for access to the LOIWMA resource.
- IIb) By June, 2004, construct appropriate use facilities to meet identified demands for access to LOIWMA resources.

- IIIa) With public input, finalize the Draft LOIWMA Management Plan by June, 2001.
- IIIb) Develop and distribute periodic informational material about LOIWMA, its unique resources, and opportunities for enjoyment, (eg kiosks at shoreline access points, interpretive brochure), by May, 2004.
- IIIc) Promote colonial waterbird related research activities by universities and other qualified interests to further our understanding of the ecology of the eastern basin.

## **IMPLEMENTATION: (THE PLAN)**

### **I SECURITY AND ACCESS**

#### *a. Posting and Patrolling*

The unique colonial waterbird resources found on Little Galloo and Gull Islands merit protection from unregulated disturbance. Colonial nesting species are prone to colony abandonment from both repetitive and inappropriate levels of disturbance. Both islands will initially be designated and posted as “restricted access” sites to limit disruptions which might jeopardize use of the islands by colonial nesting species. Public use of the two islands at times other than the bird nesting season will be considered if compatible with the goals of this plan. The lighthouse site on Galloo Island will be posted similarly to the two smaller islands, although access to this location is very limited due to surrounding shoals. The Department is currently studying deed restrictions and public use potential of the old Coast Guard station to determine its best use designation. Posting of the parcels will be done annually as necessary, and patrolling will occur as part of the local Environmental Conservation Officers routine boat patrol.

#### *b. Access*

Access to the LOIWMA is understandably, limited to boaters. Use facilities on the Area itself, will be provided within the capacity of the Area to support use while maintaining the quality of the resource. Department sponsored research and management activities will continue and will accommodate interested individuals and media within available logistical constraints. Access to legitimate university and private researchers will also be granted for approved projects. Public access, though limited will include designated colonial waterbird viewing moorings and potentially, viewing blinds on Little Galloo Island, and safe harbor/dockage at the old Coast guard site. Additionally, day use facilities may be developed, if allowed by deed, at the Coast Guard site. Preliminary results of a Cornell “situation analysis” study on potential desirable public use of the WMA suggest that local communities do not consider the State WMA to have a high public use potential (Schusler and Decker 2000), but the more recent community based “Search Conference has confirmed public desire for viewing and safe harbor facilities(Schusler and Decker 2001). Final decisions on the development of additional public access facilities will be made based on Search Conference recommendations and public input on the Draft plan.

## II WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

### a. *Monitoring Colonial Waterbirds*

The most outstanding feature of LOIWMA is the colonial waterbird colony on Little Galloo Island. Although the diversity of nesting species is relatively small at six, the sheer number of birds using the island, some 60,000 pairs, is unique in the Great Lakes system. Maintaining this colony of nesting birds and its diversity is a focus of this plan. Annual counts and estimates for each species (with the exception of ring-billed gulls, which due to numbers, will be censused every five years) will be conducted to understand long term population trends. Productivity estimates as commenced in 1999 will continue annually for all species nesting on the island.

Gull Island, although a much smaller waterbird nesting site, will be monitored similar to Little Galloo Island. Annual counts of nesting species and productivity estimates will be completed.

The two parcels contained on Galloo Island have little potential for nesting colonial waterbirds. Each will annually be inspected for potential use by colonial species.

### b. *Research*

LOIWMA is well suited to host a variety of research activities in addition to those currently ongoing. From a biological perspective, questions about individual species, interactions between waterbird species, and developing a better understanding of the overall colony and its role in the ecosystem, are all topics worthy of further pursuit. Additionally, dense concentrations of nesting waterbirds can be a good barometer of ecosystem conditions. The recent Type E botulism outbreak on Lake Erie could spread to Lake Ontario for example. The development of a monitoring plan to watch for this and other diseases potentially occurring on Lake Ontario, is advisable. Qualified researchers wishing to study these various aspects of the colony will be encouraged to do so.

Ongoing research is currently directed at the impacts of double-crested cormorants on warm water fish stocks, and the impacts of cormorant management strategies on the overall colony. These studies will continue through at least 2,004. Research initiated in 2000 includes a three year cormorant satellite telemetry study to gain information about natural movements and colony abandonment due to management activities.

### c. *Double-crested Cormorant Management*

Double-crested cormorant management within the eastern basin has become a significant political, social and biological issue over the past several years. Growing cormorant populations have displaced black-crowned night heron from Little Galloo Island and could threaten their continued existence on Gull Island. Continued expansion of the cormorant population also has increased the potential for colonization of new sites, raising concerns about private property and potential impacts to other colonial waterbird colonies. Following the results of studies conducted in 1998 which established a link between reduced smallmouth bass numbers and cormorant predation, the Department, in 1999, initiated a management program to reduce cormorant numbers. The current management program has a goal of restricting cormorant nesting to only Little Galloo Island within U.S. waters of the eastern basin, and reducing the nesting population on Little Galloo to 1,500 pairs by 2004. The techniques used in 1999 included removal of cormorant nests from Gull and privately owned Bass Island, and the oiling of all accessible cormorant nests on Little

Galloo Island to reduce hatching success. The management program continued in 2000. Because cormorants are a federally protected species, USFWS depredation permits are required and obtained annually. The Department intends to continue to manage cormorants in the eastern basin toward the goal of 1,500 nesting pairs. The Department may also seek additional authority to remove adult cormorants from the Little Galloo colony if necessary to reach the population goal within five years.

d. *Habitat Manipulation*

Habitat management activities on LOIWMA will be limited, particularly on the parcels supporting waterbird colonies. Habitat alterations designed to favor less abundant species will be considered as necessary to meet the waterbird objectives of the plan. Such actions might include, maintenance of shrub cover on Gull Island for BCNH nesting, experimental re-establishment of woody species on Little Galloo, and erection of various exclusion devices to maintain nest sites for species being “out-competed” by other, more numerous nesters.

Limited habitat management actions are being considered for the lighthouse and Coast Guard sites on Galloo Island. On these sites, establishment of perennial wildlife food and cover will be considered along with minor clearing and dressing to accommodate wildlife related use.

### III PUBLIC USE

a. *Information and Education*

The importance of LOIWMA's colonial waterbird resources is apparently not well known or understood by the general public. Results of a “Situation Analysis” study conducted by Schusler and Decker (2000) suggested that many local residents do not view the LOIWMA resource positively from an economic or social perspective. Some who were interviewed, however, did see potential for improved social and economic benefit from this resource. When queried about the biological significance of the eastern basin's waterbird resource, many who were interviewed, similarly did not express a positive perception. Part of the reason for this negative perception relates to the controversy over cormorants and their real and perceived impacts to the recreational fishery. Continued steps towards resolving the cormorant issue will be necessary to effectively assess the informational and educational potential of LOIWMA. In addition, little direct attention has been focussed on providing the public with positive, accurate information about the waterbird resource, and even less toward promoting it.

The results of the Search Conference which followed the “Situation Analysis”, did yield a strong recognition of the value of waterbird resources within the basin. More information about and promotion of these resources will be initiated as a result.

Communications efforts under this plan are being developed within the following time line.

1. February 2000; review preliminary results of qualitative interviews conducted by Cornell's Human Dimensions Research Unit to identify key communications and education issues.[COMPLETED]

2. February 2000; provide input to Cornell researchers to continue quantitative inquiry on the potential for an improved community view of the LOIWMA resource.[COMPLETED]
3. November 2000; initiate public dialogue on the draft LOIWMA plan, and invite input to the planning process.[SEARCH CONFERENCE- COMPLETED]
4. June 2001; finalize the LOIWMA plan with included public input.
5. June 2000-2005; produce and distribute periodic LOIWMA information, in a variety of media formats, (brochures, kiosks, slide programs, popular articles, etc.) based on needs identified in 1&2 above.
6. May 2001-2005; continue to maintain open dialogue with local publics on LOIWMA management and foster partnerships aimed at appreciation of LOIWMA resources.

In addition to the communications actions highlighted above, the eastern basin Search Conference yielded eight “action planning templates” related to a broader recognition of the eastern basin resource (Appendix I) . These actions include efforts relative to community planning, ecosystem management, education, resource use and tourism. Each extends beyond the physical boundaries of the State WMA, and would include development by outside parties, with DEC serving as a partner rather than as the lead. The Department remains a willing partner in the development and implementation of these actions.

b. *Development of Use Facilities*

A number of opportunities exist to enhance or maintain public use of the Lake Ontario Islands parcels and/or waters of the basin. Several of the “action plans” identified in the Search Conference confirm a need and desire for beneficial use facilities or activities which might improve the overall quality of the eastern basin experience. Specific to the category of “use”, the following actions and time-lines have been incorporated into the plan.

1. June 2002, Install two mooring buoys in proximity to Little Galloo Island for use by boaters wishing to view colonial waterbirds on the island.
2. June 2002, In cooperation with NY Parks and Recreation, establish channel markers into Gill Harbor (old Coast Guard Station) on Galloo Island to provide safe harbor to boaters on the lake’s open waters.
3. March-June 2002, Assess the feasibility, costs and compatibility of constructing a public waterbird viewing structure on Little Galloo Island. If feasible, seek funding resources for construction in 2003.
4. May-July 2002, Explore the possibility of establishing perennial wildlife food/cover demonstration plantings on the Galloo Island Parcels.
5. May-September 2003, Develop if permitted by deed, a use facility on the Galloo Island sites to include limited dockage (old Coast Guard station), wildlife viewing signage and primitive overnight accommodations (by permit).

#### IV PUBLIC INPUT- SEARCH CONFERENCE

As noted throughout this Management Plan, the Lake Ontario Islands Search Conference was designed to provide public guidance to the development of this Management Plan by creating a community view of desirable outcomes within the basin. In total eighteen “action templates” were produced, with eight (noted in III, Public Use) to be pursued by a lead entity other than NYDEC. The remaining ten, while not articulated verbatim in this plan, have been incorporated into the text, planned actions or are a part of other Regional program work planning. For reference, they are listed below with NYDEC comment.

##### Action Statement

Commit DEC to an ecosystem wide approach to the management of all species in ecological balance to ensure management accommodates public interests.

##### Comment

The **goals and objectives** adopted for LOIWMA attempt to reflect an ecosystem approach to the management of the WMA and surrounding waters of the basin. Admittedly, they do not include many of the resource issues found along the shoreline (Eg. Shorebird use, dune erosion, nonpoint pollution, etc.), but do nest within broader NYDEC management objectives.

##### Action Statement

Maintain a diversity of fish species through the use of existing fish stocking programs to provide a quality fishery.

##### Comment

Existing fish stocking and management programs are scheduled to continue into the future.

##### Action Statement

Review and react to F&WS report (Cormorant Management DEIS) due in 2001.

##### Comment

NYDEC has been involved in providing comments to the Fish and Wildlife Service throughout the DEIS process and will review and comment on the document when available.

##### Action Statement

Conduct an inventory of ecological resources of the State owned islands in the eastern basin of Lake Ontario.

##### Comment

The fish and wildlife resources of the LOIWMA are well documented currently. Improved baseline inventory of the flora are scheduled for 2001 and 2002.

##### Action Statement

Reduce balance and control the number of double-crested cormorants for the benefit of the flora and fauna of the eastern basin.

Comment

NYDEC intends to continue with the long term management program identified in its 2000 EIS. We will continue to work cooperatively with the Fish and Wildlife Service and officials from the Canadian government to ensure the most productive results over time.

Action Statement

Ensure appropriate use and access facilities and opportunities are include in the NYSDEC LOIWMA plan regarding the eastern basin islands.

Comment

Each of the use and access proposals made by Search Conference participants are incorporated within the Management plan.

Action Statement

Establish a marked and usable safe harbor at Galloo Island (Gill Harbor) in spring 2001.

Comment

Referenced within the plan, channel markers will be installed by New York State OPRHP by summer boating season 2002.

Action Statement

Gill Harbor (Coast Guard site) use facilities

Comment

Development of use facilities is retained within the management plan contingent on legal determination of deed restrictions.

Action Statement

Establish anchor buoys (with signage) to provide view of bird populations of Little Galloo and Gull Islands.

Comment

Anchor buoys (2) are scheduled for placement at Little Galloo Island by mid June 2002. NYDEC will publicize availability for use, signage will follow at a later date. No buoys are planned for Gull Island due to lesser viewing opportunity. Gull Island resources will also be better publicized, however for near shore boater awareness.

Action Statement

Long range Little Galloo Island waterbird viewing opportunities (dock and platform).

Comment

A feasibility study on the potential for a dock and waterbird viewing platform on Little Galloo Island has been incorporated into the management plan.

**REFERENCES CITED**

Chrisman, J.R. and Eckert, T.H. 1999. Population Trends Among Smallmouth Bass in the Eastern Basin. *In* Final Report: To Assess the Impact of Double-crested Cormorant Predation on the Smallmouth Bass and Other Fishes of the Eastern Basin of Lake Ontario. NYSDEC Special Report.

Emerson, E.C. 1898. Our County and Its People- A descriptive Work on Jefferson County, New York. The Boston History Company.

Hough, F.B. 1854. History of Jefferson County, New York. Sterling and Riddell, Watertown, NY.

Lantry, B.F. and Shaver, T. 1998. The Status of the Pelagic Prey Fish in Lake Ontario 1997. NYSDEC Annual Report to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Lake Ontario Committee.

McCullough, R.D. and Einhouse, D.W. 1999. Lake Ontario-Eastern Basin Creel Survey. *In* Final Report: To Assess to the Impact of Double-crested Cormorant Predation on to the Smallmouth Bass and Other Fishes of to the Eastern Basin of Lake Ontario. NYSDEC Special Report.

NYSDEC. 1994. Gull Island Wildlife Management Area Biodiversity Inventory Final Report. New York Natural Heritage Program, Latham, NY.

Robinson's Atlas of Jefferson County, New York. 1888. E. Robinson, Publisher. 82 & 84 Nassau St., New York, NY.

Schusler, T.M. and D.J. Decker. 2000. Lake Ontario Islands Wildlife Management Area Situation Analysis; Interim Report from Phase I of Inquiry. Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Schusler, T.M. and D.J. Decker. 2001. Lake Ontario Islands Search Conference Summary Report. Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

USDA-SCS. 1989. Soil Survey of Jefferson County, New York.

## Eastern Lake Ontario Basin Search Conference Action Planning Template - COMMUNITY PLANNING

Action Statement To protect, enhance, and/or prevent deterioration of resources along the shore of Eastern Basin communities.

### Action Strategy -- Sequence of Activities

Create a council of governments

- ST { - Contact each jurisdiction and request a representative.
- ST { - Convene meeting to discuss concept.
- ST { - Reach consensus of need and direction.
- ST { - Pull together information needed.
- ST { - Develop list of resources and players to involve.
- LT { - Convene larger meeting to report out recommendations.
- LT { - Create COG.
- LT { - Develop regulations to protect, enhance, and/or prevent deterioration of resources along shore of Eastern Basin communities.

<u>Others to involve</u>		<u>Identify Information Needed</u>	<u>Resources Needed</u>
Ellisburgh Henderson Hounsfield Brownville Lyme Cape Vincent Clayton Alexandria	Ellisburgh Mannsville Sackets Dexter Brownville Glen Park Chaumont Cape Vincent Clayton Alex Bay	All involved jurisdictions S Which have/lack regs S How they are implemented S Geographic boundary S Procedural how to	S Staffing and T/A S Research S Resources  Jeff Co Planning?
Jefferson County, DEC			

<u>Immediate Actions</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>	<u>Date</u>
S Contact JCP Dept for list of jurisdictional contacts and list of who has zoning. S Contact each jurisdiction and request a rep. S Contact Black River St. Lawrence Resource Conservation and Development office to see what they available to the process.	Gary  Bill	11/16/00  11/13/00

Meeting Coordinator/Key Contact Person(s) <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-top: 5px;"/>	Next Meeting <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-top: 5px;"/>
---	--

**Eastern Lake Ontario Basin Search Conference  
Action Planning Template - ECOSYSTEM MGMT**

<u>Action Statement</u> Develop a proactive approach to eliminate or reduce bio-accumulation of toxins.
---

<u>Action Strategy -- Sequence of Activities</u>
--

- |   |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use brownfields program more effectively to clean up Black River and Sandy Creek sites.</li> <li>2. Control agricultural run-off.</li> <li>3. Control bilge dumping.</li> <li>4. Issue more public advisories.</li> <li>5. Explore biologically sensitive ways to clean up toxins present in lake.</li> </ol> |
|---|

<u>Others to involve</u>	<u>Identify Information Needed</u>	<u>Resources Needed</u>
Towns, villages, county Industry Agriculture	Document point and area sources  Maintain water quality testing/sampling program	

<u>Immediate Actions</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>	<u>Date</u>
.		

Meeting Coordinator/Key Contact Person(s)	Next Meeting
<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-top: 50px;"/>	<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-top: 50px;"/>

## Eastern Lake Ontario Basin Search Conference Action Planning Template - EDUCATION

Action Statement    Long term: Set up and maintain a remote video camera link from Little Galloo to create an awareness of the bird populations on the islands.

### Action Strategy -- Sequence of Activities

1. Research technical specifications -- Solar power? Battery power? Size? \*Still photos\*
2. Research cost
3. Seeking funding -- Grants? Fines?
4. Set up web site
5. Advertise
6. Maintenance
7. Develop classroom activity package to coordinate with photos
  - a) Connections with existing information

<u>Others to involve</u>	<u>Identify Information Needed</u>	<u>Resources Needed</u>
Local internet provider DEC Coop Ext Cornell Lab of Ornithology (\$, "citizen science program") Sea Grant Montezuma NWF (for technical info)	Camera specs Size -- how intrusive would camera be	Web server Technology info Camera Power supply

<u>Immediate Actions</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>	<u>Date</u>
Contact Cornell Ornithology	Molly Thompson	

Meeting Coordinator/Key Contact Person(s)  Molly _____	Next Meeting  <u>In Next Months</u>
--	---

## Eastern Lake Ontario Basin Search Conference Action Planning Template - EDUCATION

Action Statement    Short term: Take advantage of existing Jefferson County Environmental Awareness Days to incorporate a new educational component that includes the Eastern Lake Ontario Basin.

Action Strategy -- Sequence of Activities

1. Contact Coop. Ext.
2. Arrange planning meeting w/existing participants to discuss proposed changes
3. Location change (from Sportsmans Club to Westcotts State Park)
4. Incorporate new informational stations -- recruit new presenters related to islands and lake ecology
  - a) Little Galloo
  - b) Fishery -- fish inventory
  - c) Smallmouth bass
  - d) Birds
  - e) History -- Geology -- 1/2 of NYS shoreline of Lake Ontario
  - f) Dunes
5. Outreach/marketing -- Increase quality; outreach early to schools about changes to program

Program occurs each September

<u>Others to involve</u>	<u>Identify Information Needed</u>	<u>Resources Needed</u>
BOCES Cooperative Ext. Existing Env Days Committee Sea Grant Nature Conservancy State Parks/Westcotts DEC -- source of presenters Charter captains Schools	Teacher list Previous presenters State Parks -- facilities and availability	Using existing Environmental Days structure and resources

<u>Immediate Actions</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>	<u>Date</u>
Contact existing Coop. Ext. committee and schedule meeting date Contact Wescotts Beach State Park -- date availability etc. Try to arrange meeting before end of 2000	Bill Butler  Molly Thompson	Immediate  Immediate

<u>Meeting Coordinator/Key Contact Person(s)</u>	<u>Next Meeting</u>
<u>Bill -- get all people together from planning committee</u>	<u>Before end of DEC 2000</u>

## Eastern Lake Ontario Basin Search Conference Action Planning Template - EDUCATION

Action Statement    Short term: Signage -- Through the use of signage highlight the Eastern Lake Ontario Basin, including examples of fish and wildlife.

Action Strategy -- Sequence of Activities

1. Develop message
2. Inventory existing educational signage that we could add to or enhance
3. Inventory additional locations for new signage
4. Contact both public and private sites for signs

<u>Others to involve</u>	<u>Identify Information Needed</u>	<u>Resources Needed</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discovery Center -- Seaway Trail</li> <li>2. Private site owners</li> <li>3. Parks</li> <li>4. Nature Conservancy</li> <li>5. Towns</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sites</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Signs</li> <li>2. Designers</li> <li>3. Labor</li> </ol>

<u>Immediate Actions</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>	<u>Date</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Map that includes state islands added to existing kiosks</li> <li>2. Find out about local overlook</li> <li>3. Find more areas where existing signs can be added to and new ones built</li> </ol>		

Meeting Coordinator/Key Contact Person(s)	Next Meeting

## Eastern Lake Ontario Basin Search Conference Action Planning Template - RESOURCE USE

Action Statement    Establish an Eastern Basin recreational issues working group/partnership.

Action Strategy -- Sequence of Activities

Identify stakeholders and individuals who should be involved.

<u>Others to involve</u>	<u>Identify Information Needed</u>	<u>Resources Needed</u>
Search conference participants and others identified in process of stakeholder identified in process of stakeholder identification  _____ Resource	Stakeholder list  Articulate mission and "authority" of group	Time commitment from participants  Fax, mailing, administrative function

<u>Immediate Actions</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>	<u>Date</u>
Meet when search conference group re-convenes	TBA	A couple of months
<u>Meeting Coordinator/Key Contact Person(s)</u>  TBA _____		<u>Next Meeting</u>  _____

**Eastern Lake Ontario Basin Search Conference  
Action Planning Template - TOURISM**

Action Statement    Begin research for development of Eastern Basin tourism diversity plan.

Action Strategy -- Sequence of Activities

- ! Develop local inventory of resources
- ! Organize analysis of niche markets (SWOT)
- ! Prioritize developments and opportunities

<u>Others to involve</u>	<u>Identify Information Needed</u>	<u>Resources Needed</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>! Experts in niche markets     Part./Media/Web</li> <li>! Resource managers</li> <li>! Affinity partners</li> <li>! Data holders</li> <li>! Local college</li> <li>! Local related agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>! Questionnaire input from partners</li> <li>! Market info for each niche</li> <li>! Economic value of activities</li> <li>! ? models for similar efforts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>! Access to national data</li> <li>! Staff/volunteer time to assemble</li> <li>! Basic \$ for office or paid research</li> </ul>

<u>Immediate Actions</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>	<u>Date</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>! Write a project description -- score of work</li> <li>! Collect resource data currently available</li> </ul>	GDY TIITC	2001

<u>Meeting Coordinator/Key Contact Person(s)</u>	<u>Next Meeting</u>

## Eastern Lake Ontario Basin Search Conference Action Planning Template - TOURISM

Action Statement    Make the Eastern Basin a premier destination for resource-based tourism, emphasizing a diversity of activities.

Action Strategy -- Sequence of Activities

- ! Develop Eastern Basin tourism plan focused on prioritizing development of future diverse tourism options
- ! Share opportunities/gap with private sector
- ! Develop public and private infrastructure to support tourism activities identified
- ! Implement marketing programs targeting tourism activities identified
- ! Educate tourism industry in new skills needed and public sector providers
- ! Focus existing public resources on accomplishing plan

<u>Others to involve</u>	<u>Identify Information Needed</u>	<u>Resources Needed</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>! DEC</li> <li>! Private tourism operators</li> <li>! Resource managers</li> <li>! Government and agencies</li> <li>! Affinity partners</li> <li>! Investors \$</li> <li>! Non-profits</li> <li>! Colleges/schools</li> <li>! Coop Extension</li> </ul>	<p>(See research objective)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>! \$</li> <li>! Access to recreational areas</li> <li>! Infrastructure (rooms, roads, F&amp;B, etc., etc.)</li> <li>S Private investment</li> <li>S State/Fed assistance programs and incentives</li> </ul>

<u>Immediate Actions</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>	<u>Date</u>
<p>Begin research -- See page #2</p> <p>Utilize existing forums to convey information and develop interest</p> <p>Facilitate process to bring public/private funders together to create tourism development fund</p>	<p>JCJDC TIITC C of C's</p> <p>Coop Extension</p>	<p>Begun &amp; ongoing</p>
<p>Meeting Coordinator/Key Contact Person(s)</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	<p style="text-align: right;">Next Meeting</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	