

## **Beneficial Use Impairments Restoration Goals and Milestones**

### **Name:**

(BUI #1)

Fish Consumption Advisories

### **Reason for listed:**

Original Reason: Advisories issued by MN and WI

Revised Reason: Mercury, PCBs, or Dioxin residue in fish

### **Comments:**

Original Comments: PCBs, Dioxin, Mercury

Revised Comments: Advisories issued by MN and WI

### **IJC Criteria:**

An impairment will be listed when contaminant levels in fish or wildlife populations exceed current standards, objectives or guidelines, or public health advisories are in effect for human consumption of fish or wildlife. Contaminant levels in fish and wildlife must be due to contaminant input from the watershed.

### ***SLR RAP Rationale for Listing:***

Fish samples taken from the St. Louis River and Lake Superior exceed standards established by Minnesota and Wisconsin for the unrestricted consumption of sport fish. Each of the two states issues consumption advisories for various population groups, based on fish species and size classes. Advisories are collectively issued for the presence of mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls. Fish tissue residues of mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls also exceed the .5 mg/kg and .1 mg/kg standards established in the 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement for the protection of aquatic life and fish consuming birds.

### **Proposed Restoration Goal:**

No significant negative impacts on human health resulting from consumption of fish from the AOC (including western Lake Superior) achieved by a dual strategy of residue reduction in the environment and education leading to modified fish consumption patterns. Assurance that consumers of fish from the AOC are not at risk due to consumption patterns and are informed about the potential health benefits of a selected fish diet.

### **Proposed Restoration Milestones:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Milestone</u>
2010	Public education program focusing on the harmful effects of mercury, PCBs and dioxins reaches 100% of the fish consuming public. Improved protection of human health through greater awareness and measurable adjustments in consumption patterns accomplished through contacts with the fishing public and fish consumers.
2020	Only large (trophy sized) sport fish should not be consumed due to their toxicity. Most fish can be consumed with no apparent health risk. For example, walleyes up to X inches are safe to eat Y meals per month [X & Y to be determined]

### ***Rationale for Removing from the List:***

No rationale for removing from the list at this time.

### **Note:**

This BUI should not be lifted until data supports that mercury/PCB residue levels in fish are less than standards established to protect public health.

### **Note, delisting criteria:**

Only large (trophy sized) sport fish result in significant health risks if consumed regularly and fish consumption patterns have been adjusted to minimize contaminant intake and improve health benefits of selected fish consumption.