

Fact Sheet: Maumee Watershed Nutrient Draft Total Maximum Daily Load Report

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) is developing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report for the Maumee Watershed to address shoreline and open water impairments in the Western Basin of Lake Erie caused by cyanobacteria harmful algal blooms (HABs). The draft TMDL report is the fifth step in Ohio's TMDL development process.

What is the draft TMDL report?

The draft TMDL report identifies the links between the waterbody use impairment, sources of impairment, and the pollutant load reductions needed to meet applicable water quality standards. Ohio and Federal law require the following to be included in the draft TMDL report:

- An estimate of the total amount of each pollutant that causes water quality impairment from all sources.
- Description of the applicable state water quality standard.
- Numeric water quality target.
- The loading capacity of a waterbody for the applicable pollutant.
- Load allocations – the amount of pollutant allowed from nonpoint sources.
- Wasteload allocations – the amount of pollutant allowed from point sources.
- Margin of safety – the amount of pollutant load reserved due to various uncertainties.
- Seasonal variations.
- Reasonable assurances – assurance that nonpoint source control measures will achieve expected load reductions.
- Public participation – there should be full and meaningful public participation in the TMDL development process and that calculations to establish TMDLs must be subject to public review.

The draft TMDL report proposes total phosphorus TMDL allocations for the Maumee watershed to address impairments to recreation use (due to algae), public drinking water supply use, and aquatic life use impairments, as well as the proposed implementation strategies. Figure 1 depicts the Lake Erie assessment units included in this project and shows the Maumee watershed.

Analysis Methods and Results

The draft TMDL report describes the methods for evaluating existing loads and allocations using an empirical mass balance method. There is also an evaluation of the method's ability to account for heterogeneity in the Maumee watershed. The methods detail the information considered for allocating load to different sources, the margin of safety, and the allowance for future growth. The results present the wasteload and load allocations needed to achieve the TMDL.

Implementation Strategy

The implementation strategy in the draft TMDL report has been expanded upon from the preliminary implementation strategy presented in the preliminary modeling results. A timeline was established with specific milestones and dates for biennial

Stakeholder Input

The comment period for the Maumee Watershed Nutrient Draft TMDL ended on March 8, 2023. The official draft TMDL report is the fifth step in Ohio's TMDL development process. The next step will be the final TMDL report, which will be submitted to U.S. EPA for approval in mid-2023.

Stay Involved

Subscribe to updates on TMDL projects at:
https://ohioepa.custhelp.com/app/utils/login_form/redirect/account%252Fprofile.

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progress reports. The implementation strategy includes a description of the first three biennial progress reports and the milestones that will be examined within these reports.

Reasonable Assurances

The draft TMDL report demonstrates that there is reasonable assurance that the nonpoint source allocations in this TMDL can be met. Reasonable assurances are informed by the history of HABs in Lake Erie. Water quality issues in the Great Lakes have led to commitments and planning efforts that provide a foundation for phosphorus management. A detailed review of the ongoing actions to reduce phosphorus is presented, with examples of successful efforts. The reasonable assurances are supported by progress evaluations that provide a framework for accountability.

Where can I learn more?

- [Draft TMDL Report](#)
- [Preliminary Modeling Results \(PMR\)](#)
- [Loading analysis plan \(LAP\)](#)
- [Maumee Watershed Nutrient TMDL Project webpage](#)

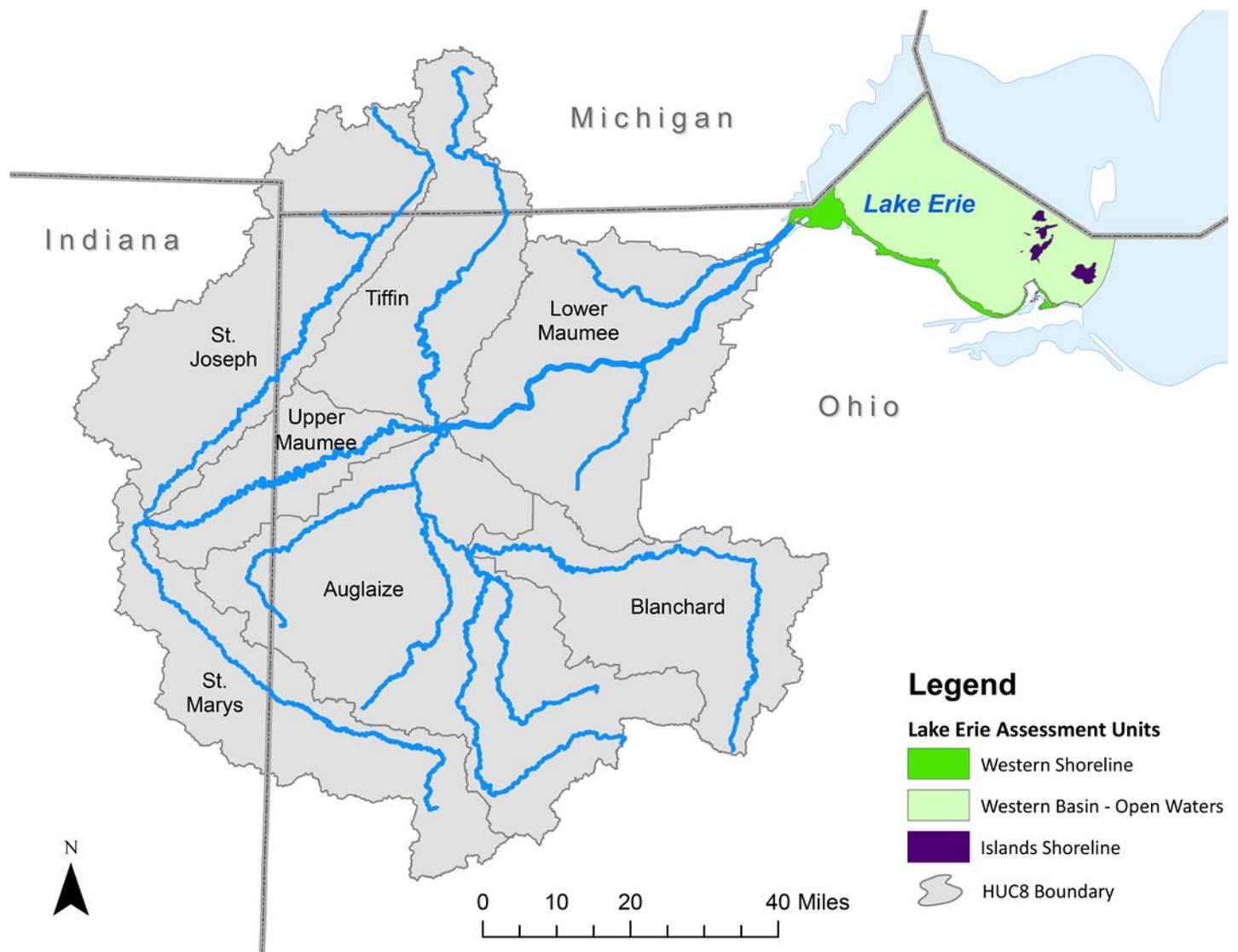


Figure 1 — Map of Ohio's Western Basin of Lake Erie assessment units and the Maumee River watershed.