Fact Sheet: Loading Analysis Plan – Maumee Watershed Nutrient TMDL

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) is developing a single 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 loading analysis plan is the third step in the new Total Maximum Daily Load development process.

What is a loading analysis plan?

A loading analysis plan (LAP) is a plan prepared by Ohio EPA that lists actions to be taken by the Agency for sampling sites found to be impaired for a beneficial use designation (aquatic life, recreation, and public water supply).

For those sites where the Agency is planning to develop a TMDL, the LAP contains the proposed modeling approach and water quality restoration targets for a watershed study area.

How is the analytical method determined?

Ohio EPA considers numerous factors when deciding how to address impairments in TMDLs. The primary origin of the pollutant, its delivery mechanisms and the water body kinetics involved are all essential in determining which model is most appropriate. The complexity of the model utilized is dependent upon the complexity of the impairment.

When choosing a method, Ohio EPA must also look at any ongoing efforts in the watershed, previous TMDL analyses, the questions to be answered by the model and the amount of effort required to complete it. Additional data may be necessary depending on the selected method and the modeling approach is subject to change based on findings.

The Maumee Watershed Nutrient LAP details the analytical methods that will be used to address recreation use (algae) and public drinking water supply use impairments. Figure 1, on the next page, depicts the assessment units included in this project.

Comments on Outreach Modules

No formal response to comments will be published for input received on the outreach videos posted this summer; however, all of these comments were reviewed and have been considered for this draft LAP and will also be considered and used to inform further steps in the TMDL development process.

Stakeholder Input

The Agency is releasing the LAP for the Maumee Watershed Nutrient TMDL for review and comment and will accept feedback on any aspect of the plan. The LAP is the third step in the TMDL development process. The next step will be the preliminary modeling results, which will also be available for review and comment in early 2022.

Providing Feedback

Comments can be submitted by email to ***EPATMDL@epa.ohio.gov***, faxed to (614) 644-2745 or sent by postal mail to:
TMDL Program
Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Ohio EPA will hold a **virtual outreach event on October 5, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.** to explain the LAP and allow for questions and answers. Please see the following link for registration:
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7185881750445379595

All comments must be submitted to the Agency **no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 8, 2021.**

Stay Involved

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

Contact Information

For more information, contact Melinda Harris at Melinda.Harris@epa.ohio.gov or Paul Gledhill at Paul.Gledhill@epa.ohio.gov.

Where can I learn more?

- The full loading analysis plan is available at ***epa.ohio.gov/dsw/wq***
- More information on the Maumee Watershed Nutrient TMDL is available at: ***epa.ohio.gov/dsw/tmdl/MaumeeRiver#119945358-maumee-watershed-nutrient-tmdl***

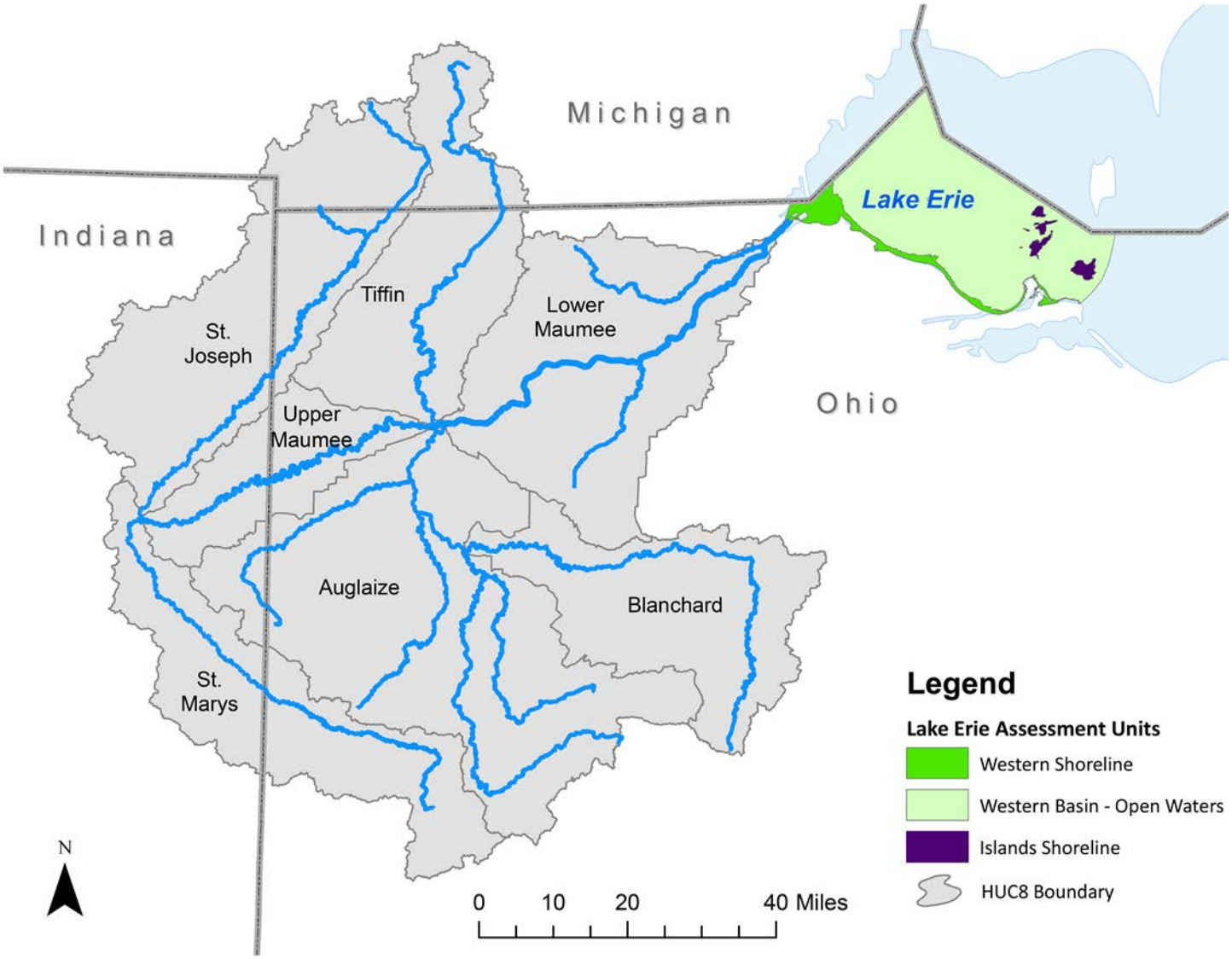

Figure 1 — Map of Ohio's Western Basin of Lake Erie assessment units and the Maumee River watershed.