

This abstract is for an invited oral presentation to the 2015 Great Lakes Areas of Concern Conference, Toledo, OH, March 11-12.

Title: Remediation, Restoration, Revitalization (R2R2R): How Great Lakes Communities Benefit from AOC Delisting

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Abstract: Throughout the Great Lakes, remediation and restoration activities in areas of concern (AOC) are providing economic and social benefits (“revitalization”) to coastal communities. However, there is a general lack of documentation and evaluation of benefits that have come from remediation and restoration, even in those cases where revitalization was apparent and economic gains were predicted. To promote more deliberate, cost-effective, and sustainable revitalization outcomes from remediation and restoration, a joint EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD) and Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) workshop was held to review existing case studies to better understand the ways communities are benefitting from AOC remediation and restoration efforts. In this talk, the major findings of the workshop will be presented. We conclude that developing metrics and indicators of ecosystem services and community benefits provided by improved environmental quality in Areas of Concern will yield substantial new information on the benefits received by communities from R2R2R projects, as well as insights on how to improve restoration, remediation and revitalization efforts in Great Lakes Areas of Concern.