## OHIO COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
## POLICY 10 – AREA OF CONCERN REMEDIAL ACTION PLANS

**IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO COORDINATE THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REMEDIAL ACTION PLANS FOR OHIO'S FOUR LAKE ERIE BASIN AREAS OF CONCERN AS IDENTIFIED IN THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION'S (IJC) REPORTS ON GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY.**

Authorities and Administration

In 1974, the Water Quality Board of the International Joint Commission (IJC) began identifying problem areas along the Great Lakes in its reports on Great Lakes water quality. By 1981, many of the problems caused by conventional pollutants had been alleviated by improvements in effluent treatment by both municipal and industrial dischargers. However, persistent environmental quality problems remained in many areas. In 1985, to address the problems at these locations, the IJC requested that the jurisdictions (states and provinces) prepare Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for each of their Areas of Concern (AOCs). This request became a requirement of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in 1987 and a statutory requirement under the Great Lakes Critical Programs Act amendment 33 U.S.C. 1268 to the 1990 CWA.

The Ohio EPA is responsible for the preparation of RAPs for four AOCs identified as highly polluted sites along the Lake Erie shoreline. These areas are the lower Maumee, Black, Cuyahoga and Ashtabula Rivers and harbors. RAPs are the framework to provide a systematic and comprehensive ecosystem approach to restore these areas to beneficial use and to track the effectiveness of remedial activities as they are implemented.

RAPs are to be developed with significant local community involvement. Development/implementation teams include representatives from local, state and federal government agencies, elected officials, industry and business, special interest groups, academia and the general public. Ohio's four RAPs have established active community RAP teams. Stage 1 RAP reports, identifying the impaired uses and sources of pollution, have been completed for all four AOCs.

All of the RAP groups are beginning to develop Stage 2 RAP reports that will recommend remedial actions, identify responsible parties and search for sources of funding. The major task of the Stage 2 process is to accomplish implementation of the identified remedial actions. Where possible, identified remedial actions are already being implemented. More information on RAPs for AOCs is provided in Chapter 6, Special Management Areas.