

Ecosystem Management and Restoration: Cornwall's Remedial Action Plan

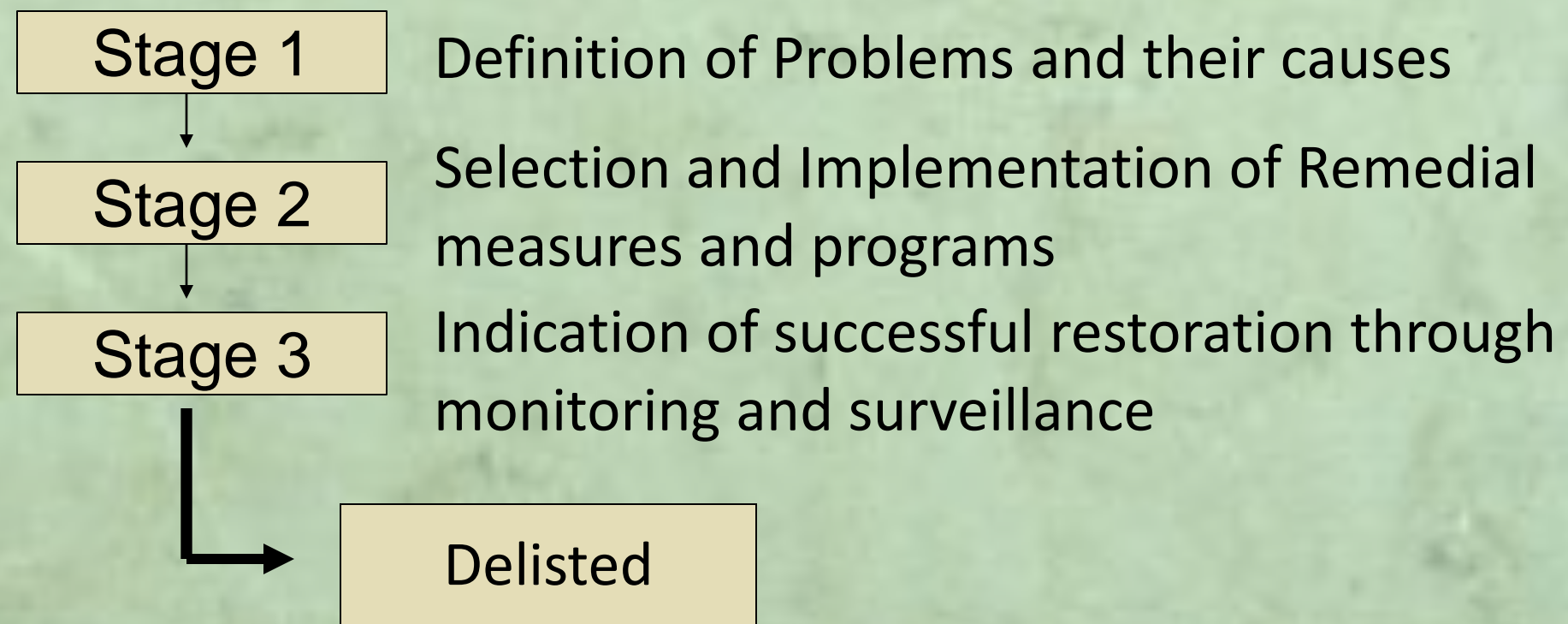
By: Alicia Ritcey

Supervisors: Linda Campbell, Jeff Ridal, and Graham Whitelaw

Research Questions

1. How have the principles of an ecosystem approach and public inclusion to environmental management and restoration been adopted into the St. Lawrence River Area of Concern (AOC)?
2. What will occur to the structures and relationships, which were created through the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) process, once the RAP delists?

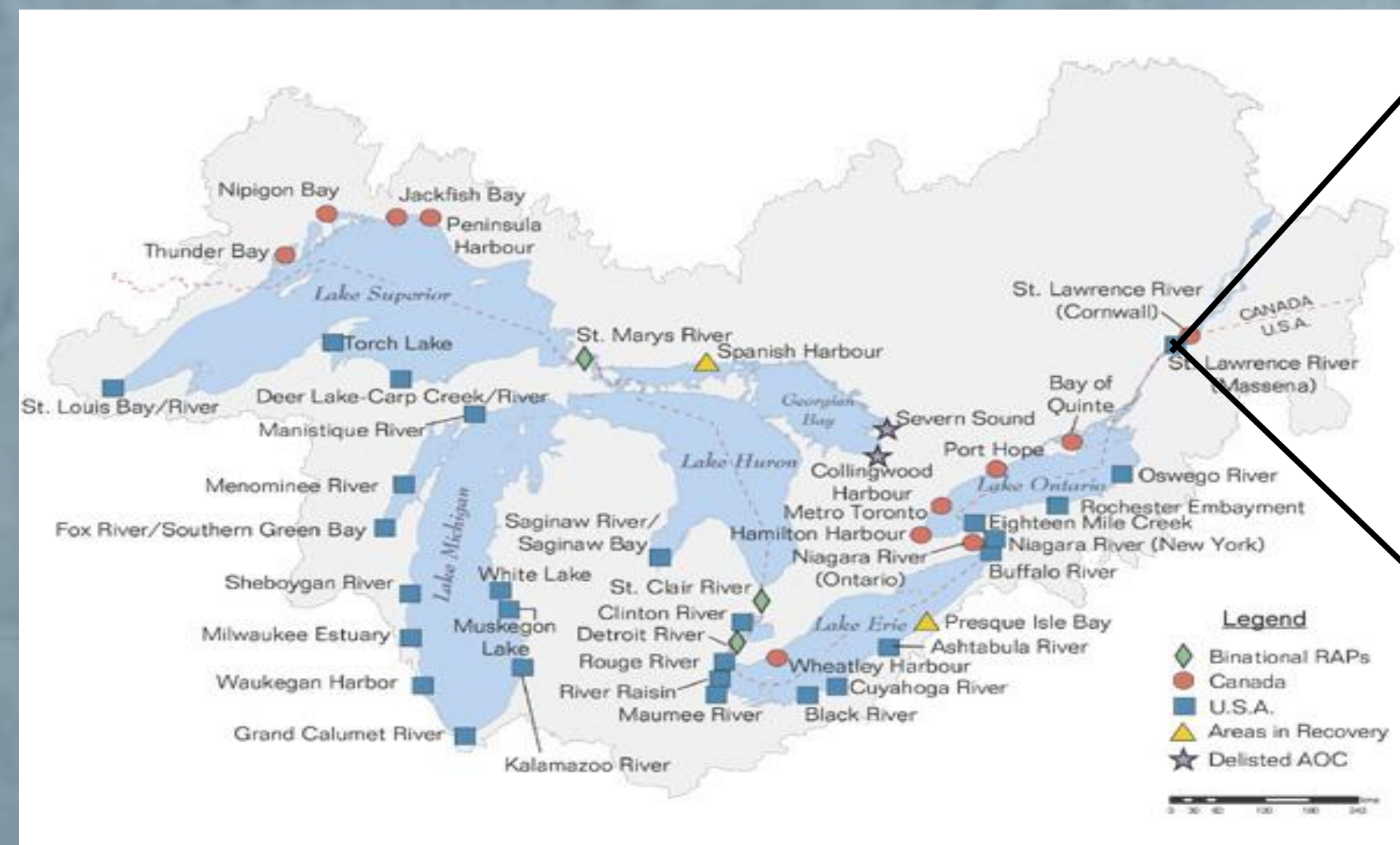
RAP Process for each AOC



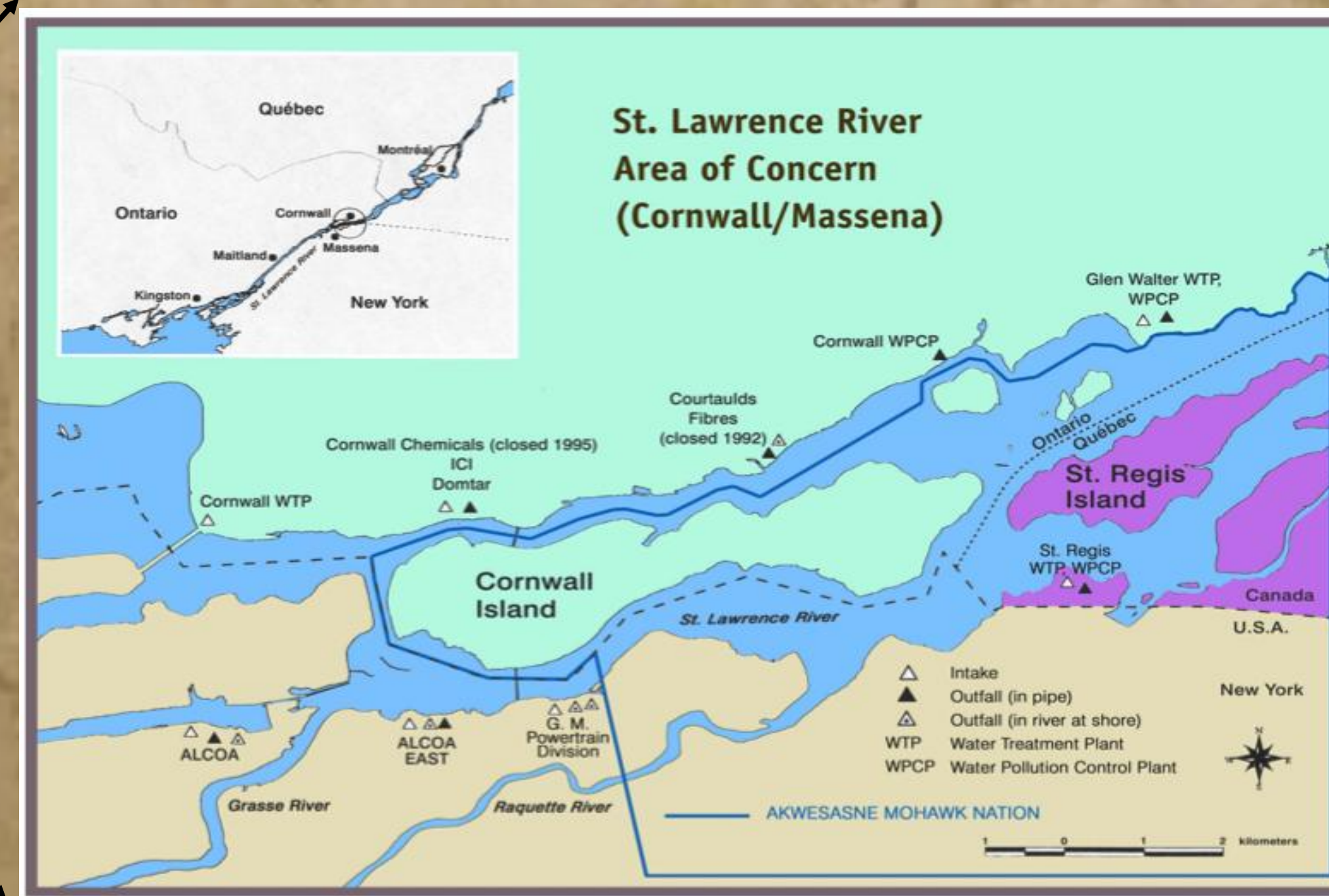
Ecosystem Approach: address every decision about the environment in a manner that considers the potential direct and indirect effects of actions (or inactions) on all parts of the environment: land, water, air, plants, animals (including humans).

Key Terms

Area of Concern: a geographical area with anthropogenic sources (contaminants) that cause or are likely to cause:
(i) impairments to beneficial uses of an area and/or (ii) the area's ability to support aquatic life



Remedial Action Plan: (i) Embody a systematic and comprehensive ecosystem approach to restoring and protecting beneficial use impairments of in the AOCs and (ii) Ongoing public consultation pursuant to the Annex



Cornwall RAP is currently seeking Public consultation on the Stage 3 Report with the aim to delist at the end of 2010.

Stakeholder Recommendations on a Delisted Cornwall

"Something that would be great to see with the whole accomplishment and celebrating with the community in reaching these goals is really embracing how we view our waterfront and celebrate our community and market our community as a positive and environmentally conscientious and clean place to live"

"The RAP program has been a really good learning experience and good model for how to work with local communities... by engaging local community and local partners and people agreeing on the goals they want to achieve by setting some priorities.. that's the true value of the program. We've seen successes and we've seen... increased knowledge, increased expertise, and a sense of ownership"

"Start to look at some of the broader issues that are impacting the St. Lawrence River, get ready for what might happen in different climate change scenarios, and think about ways to adapt to those changes that might be coming."

"Often governments and other things, you know, we are relatively short lived, right, the community then has to keep the vision and that's what the advantage of this is."

"I would hope that there is a rebirth into a new committee...a new committee with a new mandate and a different focus... to continue studies...also have better, or different partnerships"

"With continued good leadership in both environmental groups, councils, and citizens that we can have a post-RAP process that continues to be good."

"A larger organization... [with a] geographical scope of focusing on the river"

Methods

1. Participant Observations: workshops and council meetings
2. Stakeholder Interviews: semi-structured interviews
3. Nvivo Qualitative Interview Analysis
4. Literature Review
5. Government Document Review
6. Comparative data analysis of RAPs

Stakeholder Model of Ecological Governance

