

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# FY 2010 National Water Program End of Year Performance by Subobjective

The following chapters provide a summary of the progress made toward accomplishing environmental and program goals for each subobjective described in the FY 2010 *National Water Program Guidance*. Each subobjective chapter includes the following information:

- A brief summary of overall performance in 2010 and the previous four years for measures under each subobjective.
- A description of performance highlights, including what commitments were met and what factors contributed to success.
- A description of management challenges, if appropriate, identifying key factors that led to measures not being met and next steps to improve performance for the future.

Each subobjective section focuses primarily on measures with FY 2010 commitments. Indicator measures are discussed where trends significantly differ from previous year's results. Annual Commitment System (ACS) measure codes are provided in the text in parentheses.

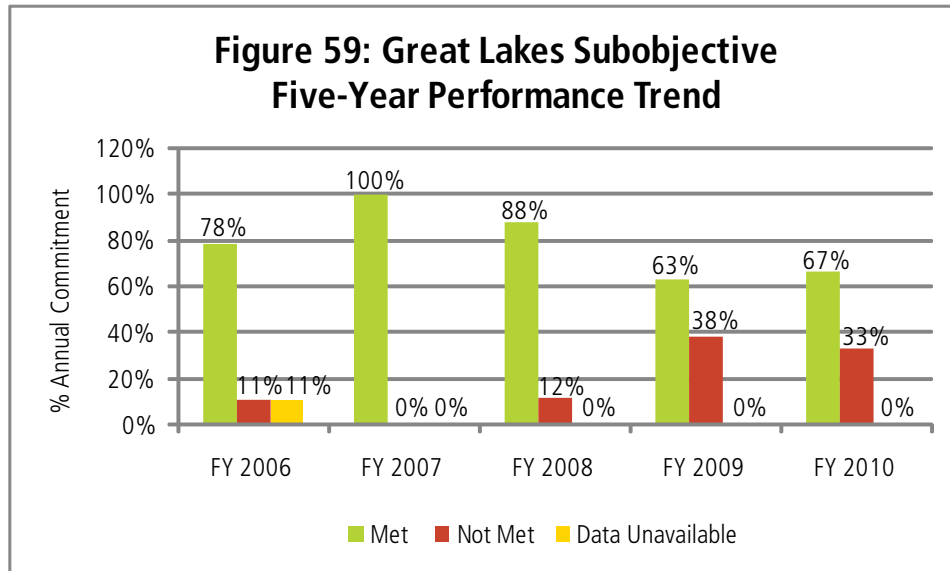
## Key for Reading Performance Measure Charts and Tables

For all charts with national trend results, commitments are reflected by trend lines and results by vertical bars. For charts with regional FY 2010 results, a dotted line indicates the national FY 2010 commitment for that particular measure. Although regions use the national commitment as a point of reference in setting their annual commitments, regional commitments may vary based on different conditions. Green bars in both national and regional charts identify commitments met, and red bars identify measures not met.

For the measure summary tables in each subobjective chapter, a green "up" arrow means that a measure met its FY 2010 commitment, and a red "down" arrow indicates that the annual commitment was not met. The letter "I" means that the measure is an indicator measure and did not have an annual commitment for FY 2010. Measures without data or not reporting in FY 2010 are indicated by "Data Unavailable." An "LT" symbol notes that the measure has a long-term goal and does not have an annual commitment. A gold star (★) in the past trends column highlights that the measure has met its annual commitment 100% of the time over the past four or five years. And finally, the appendix number represents the page in Appendix D (D-00) on the website where additional details about the measure can be found, and the figure number is the number of the chart in the chapter.

 **Subobjective: Great Lakes**

The Great Lakes National Program Office met 67% (six of nine) of their performance commitments in 2010. This represents an improved level of performance for the Great Lakes National Program over 2009. (Figure 59)



FY 2010 ACS Code	Measure Description	Met/Not Met (I = Indicator) (Data Unavailable = No Data/Not Reporting) (LT = Long-Term Target)	Past Trends/ # of Years Met	Appendix Page Number (D-0)/ Figure Number
<b>Subobjective 4.3.3 Great Lakes</b>				
4.3.3	Improve health—Great Lakes ecosystem	▼	4/5	D-43/Fig. 60
SP-29	Reduce PCBs in Great Lakes fish	▲	4/4 ★	D-43
SP-30	Reduce PCBs in Great Lakes air	▲	5/5	D-44
SP-31	Restore Areas of Concern (AOCs)	▼	1/5	D-44
SP-32	Remediate cubic yards of contaminated sediment	▲	5/5 ★	D-44/Fig. 61
GL-1	Permitted discharges reflect standards	▲	3/5	D-45
GL-2	CSO permits consistent with national policy	▲	4/5	D-46
GL-3	High priority—Great Lakes beaches	▲	5/5 ★	D-46
GL-4a	Great Lakes near term actions on track	I		D-47
GL-5	Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) restored	▼	0/2	D-47

## FY 2010 Performance Highlights and Management Challenges

EPA's Great Lakes annual performance goal assesses the overall progress U.S. environmental programs are making in protecting and restoring the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes ecosystem. This is measured using the Great Lakes Index, a tool for assessing the overall condition of the Great Lakes that is based on a set of selected ecosystem indicators (i.e., coastal wetlands, phosphorus concentrations, Area of Concern [AOC] sediment contamination, benthic health, fish tissue contamination, beach closures, drinking water quality, and air toxics deposition). Improvements in the Great Lakes Index measures would indicate that fewer toxins are entering the food chain, ecosystem and human health are better protected, fish are safer to eat, water is safer to drink, and beaches are safer for swimming.

From a baseline score of 20 in 2002, the Great Lakes Index declined in 2010 from a score of 23.9 to 22.7 in 2010 (4.3.3) (Figure 60). The decline was not indicative of an overall decline in ecosystem health but rather, an underlying problem with reporting on the beaches component of the index. This problem (an unanticipated adjustment in the number of beaches reported by a state) will be addressed in the future by using a more appropriate measure, one linked directly to national beach reporting.

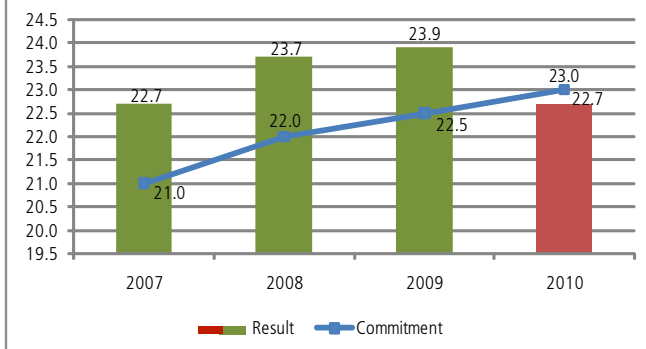
The results of analyses reported in 2010 indicated that average long-term total PCB concentrations in whole Great Lakes top predator fish at sites on each Great Lake declined more than 43% annually between 2000 and 2008, meeting the target for declines in concentration trends (SP-29).

PCBs were banned in the 1970s and continue to degrade. Contaminated sediment remediation (including Legacy Act and Superfund) is removing additional PCBs from the environment. Based on Lake Michigan data, current concentrations in lake trout are approximately eight times the wildlife protection value (0.16 parts per million [ppm]), and current concentrations in game fish fillets are approximately 10 times the unlimited consumption level for protection of human health (0.05 ppm).

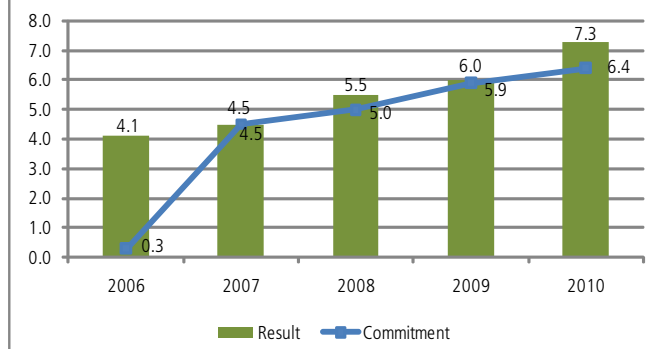
Atmospheric deposition has been shown to be a significant source of pollutants in the Great Lakes. Average long-term concentrations of PCBs in U.S. air measured at stations on Lakes Superior, Michigan, and Erie decreased more than 7% annually, meeting the targeted commitment (SP-30).

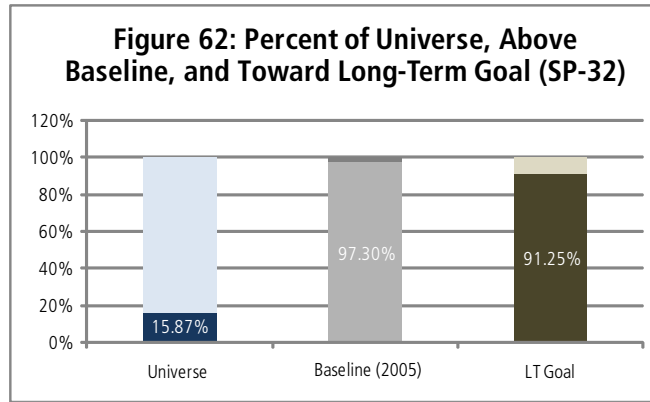
A prominent source of pollution in the Great Lakes is contaminated sediments. Data for 2009, which became available in FY 2010, reported the remediation of more than 1.3 million cubic yards of contaminated sediments through the combined efforts of EPA, states, and other partners. Having remediated almost 7.3 million cubic yards of contaminated sediments through 2009, this is the fifth consecutive year that the Great Lakes National Program Office has met its commitments for this measure (SP-32) (Figure 61). As of 2010, the Great Lakes Program has achieved approximately 90% of its 2014 goal of 8 million acres. The volume of sediments remediated to date represents about 16% of the estimated universe of contaminated sediments in the Great Lakes basin (Figure 62).

**Figure 60: Improve Health in the Great Lakes Ecosystem by Fiscal Year (Subobjective 4.3.3)**



**Figure 61: Remediate Cubic Yards Contaminated Sediment in the Great Lakes by Fiscal Year (SP-32)**





The Great Lakes Program met its 2010 commitment for the percentage of NPDES-permitted dischargers to the Great Lakes and its tributaries that have permit limits reflecting Great Lakes Water Quality Guidance water quality standards (GL-1) (commitment =96%; result = 97%).

The Agency met its 2010 commitment of 135 combined sewer overflow (CSO) permits in the Great Lakes basin that are consistent with national CSO policy (GL-2). Regions 2, 3, and 5 met 88% (23 of 26), 100% (1 of 1), and 90% (114 of 127) of their universes, respectively.

Each year for the past five years, 100% of all high-priority Great Lakes beaches where states and local agencies have put water quality monitoring and public notification programs into place complied with the U.S. National Beaches Guidance.

A key Strategic Target for the Great Lakes National Program Office is to restore and de-list AOCs within the Great Lakes basin. A de-listing indicates that the area meets the public’s vision for that area and that it is no longer among the most polluted areas in the Great Lakes. EPA and its partners failed to meet its commitment for three (cumulative) AOC de-listings through 2010; none were de-listed over the past year (SP-31) (Figure 63). De-listing has been delayed largely because of the lag time between environmental cleanup (such as the five completed Legacy Act sediment remediations) and monitored environmental response. EPA is increasing staff and funding for the program and is systematically working with states to address beneficial use impairments through target setting and de-listings.

**Figure 63**

