

**Ohio EPA 2008 Integrated Report Section M3
Large River Assessment Unit (LRAU) Results**

LRAU Description

Sandusky River Mainstem (downstream Tymochtee Creek to mouth)

LRAU Size (mi²)

1420.0

Integrated Report Assessment Category: 5

Priority Points: 8

Next Scheduled Monitoring: 2009

Aquatic Life Use (ALU) Assessment

Subcategories of ALU: WWH, MWH-I

Sampling Year(s): 2001, 2002, 2004

Impairment: Yes (4C-Natural or Impoundment)

LRAU Total Length (miles): 65.73

No. Miles Full Attainment: 46.30

LRAU Monitored Miles: 48.70

No. Miles Partial Attainment: 1.00

No. Sites Sampled: 14

No. Miles Non-Attainment: 1.40

% LRAU Attainment (Monitored Miles)

Full	Partial	Non
95.1	2.0	2.9

High Magnitude Causes

Sedimentation/Siltation
Direct Habitat Alterations
Other Flow Regime Alterations

High Magnitude Sources

Dam or Impoundment

Recreation Use Assessment

Subcategory of Use: Primary Contact

Impairment: No (1)

Geometric Mean: 120

No. of Ambient Sites: 3

No. of Ambient Sampling Records: 20

75th %ile: 305

No. of NPDES MOR Sites: 2

No. of NPDES MOR Records: 143

90th %ile: 709

Other:

Public Drinking Water Supply Assessment

Location(s): Sandusky River @ RMs 18.02 [Fremont] and 41.08 [Tiffin-Ohio American Water]

Impairment: Yes (5)

Nitrate Indicator: Impaired

Cause: Nitrate

Pesticide Indicator: Insufficient Data, Watch List

Fish Tissue Assessment

Large River Sampled: Yes Impairment: Yes (5)

Miles Monitored: 65.73 Miles Impaired: 65.73

Pollutant(s): PCBs

Comments

TMDLs for pollutants impairing aquatic life and recreation uses were approved by U.S. EPA on September 29, 2004 for the upper Sandusky River watershed (headwaters to north of Tiffin and covering about 1/2 of the designated mainstem reach). Monitoring in support of the TMDL was conducted in 2001. All aquatic life use impairment within the mainstem assessment unit downstream from Tymochtee Creek is restricted to habitat limited dam pools behind two dams (St. John's and Ballville). Removal of the St. John's dam was completed in November, 2003. 2004 data were collected by the Heidelberg College Water Quality Laboratory to assess the macroinvertebrate community in the free-flowing reaches in the vicinity of the old St. John's dam pool. Besides the historical aquatic life use impairment, the 2004 Integrated Report assessment of fish tissue data documented body burdens of one or more pollutants at levels exceeding the threshold level upon which Ohio Water Quality Standards human health criteria are based which resulted in listing as impaired for fish consumption. A report on the findings of the 2001 biological and water quality survey can be found at (www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/document_index/psdindx.html). The TMDL report can be found at (<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/tmdl/index.html>).