

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

PRESQUE ISLE BAY DELISTING

April 25, 2013

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1972 bestowed joint stewardship between the U.S. and Canada to protect the world's largest surface freshwater system and its significance as a critical source of drinking water for 40 million people, importance to transportation and the foundation for billions of dollars in trade, agriculture and recreation; and

WHEREAS, a 1987 amendment to the agreement created a process for identifying and restoring geographical Areas of Concern (AOC) through 14 beneficial use impairments; and

WHEREAS, as a result of public concern for the health of the bay, in 1991 the U.S. Department of State designated Presque Isle Bay, Erie, Pennsylvania the 43rd AOC under the agreement based on two beneficial use impairments, restrictions on dredging activities and fish tumors or other deformities; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was responsible for developing quantifiable targets to measure progress towards restoring the AOC and creating a Presque Isle Bay Public Advisory Committee (PAC) with representatives from industry, government, academia and non-profit organizations to provide guidance throughout the process; and

WHEREAS, the improvements to the City of Erie's wastewater collection, conveyance and treatment system, a reduction in sewer overflows and stormwater runoff and less industrial use and watershed initiatives by local environmental groups contributed to better sediment quality along with improved health of local fish within the AOC, and resulted in the redesignation of Presque Isle Bay to the Recovery Stage in 2002; and

WHEREAS, after comprehensive studies on the restrictions on dredging activities and fish tumors or other deformities, both of the restrictions were removed; and

WHEREAS, the Presque Isle Bay PAC voted in favor of petitioning for delisting from the AOC, and upon review, Presque Isle Bay was omitted from the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement's AOC in 2013, the second removal to ever occur in the United States.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Corbett, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby recognize and congratulate staff from DEP's Great Lakes and Northwest Regional Offices, Coastal Resources Management Program and the representatives from industry, government, academia and non-profit organizations who provided guidance throughout the process; and honor the "Presque Isle Bay Delisting" in Pennsylvania.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this third day of April in the Year of our Lord two thousand and thirteen, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Corbett".

TOM CORBETT
Governor

