

CLEAN WATER

ASIWPCA

Strategic Plan

CHARTING A COURSE TO CLEAN WATER: 2012

ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND INTERSTATE WATER
POLLUTION CONTROL ADMINISTRATORS

ASIWPCA

Charting A Course To Clean Water:

Strategic Plan



Clockwise from top left: MT's Clark Fork River; Monitoring water quality in MO; Canoeing in upstate SC; Sampling macroinvertebrate aquatic life in the Susquehanna River basin; Enjoying a drink of water in MO



Founded in 1961, the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA) is a national, nonpartisan professional organization. ASIWPCA members are the State, Interstate, and Territorial officials who are responsible for the implementation of water quality protection programs throughout the nation.

In addition to serving as a liaison among these officials, ASIWPCA facilitates their communication with the Federal government and promotes public education. Long before the enactment of the Clean Water Act, State and Interstate professionals were working to protect and improve water quality. They continue to lead the way in creating and realizing a vision for clean water in America.

For more information, visit www.asiwpc.org



ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND INTERSTATE WATER
POLLUTION CONTROL ADMINISTRATORS

Strategic Plan

Summary

Goal 1: **Everywhere in the United States, everyone has clean water.**

- Restore at least 25% of currently impaired waters to their designated uses by 2012.
- Improve the quality of at least 10% of unimpaired waters by 2012.
- Assess, restore, and protect priority groundwater resources.

Goal 2: **Base decisions on sound science.**

- Assess at least 50% of the nation's surface water by 2012.

Goal 3: **Enhance citizen awareness and involvement.**

- Double the percentage of Americans who correctly answer basic questions about watersheds and water quality issues by 2012.
- Increase the number of Americans who participate in World Water Monitoring Day to 1,000,000 by 2012.

Goal 4: **Ensure pollution control and prevention for nonpoint sources as well as point sources.**

- **Nonpoint sources:** Decrease by 25% the number of waterbody impairments caused solely by nonpoint source pollution such as runoff from agriculture, construction, and city streets by 2012.
- **Point sources:** Decrease by 25% the number of waterbody impairments caused solely by point source pollution such as discharge from pipes from industry and sewage treatment plants by 2012.
- **Mixed point and nonpoint source pollution:** Decrease by 25% the number of waterbody impairments caused by a combination of point and nonpoint sources by 2012.

Program Funding:

ASIWPCA is committed to doing its part to ensure that funding at all levels of government is sufficient to attain national water quality goals. Funds must, at the very least, be kept constant in real terms.

Introduction

In 2002, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the nation's Clean Water Act. Over the past 30 years, State and Interstate agencies have worked successfully to reduce pollutants entering America's waters and to restore them for drinking water, recreation, and fishing. Much has been done, yet much remains to be accomplished.

In the 30th anniversary year, the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA) rededicated and recommitted itself to the goal of Clean Water Everywhere for Everyone through this Strategic Plan. Within this document are the goals, objectives, and performance measures we recognize as critical to our continuing effort to provide clean water for all our citizens. The Association recognizes that it cannot achieve this alone. To accomplish our ambitious agenda, ASIWPCA will need to enhance and establish partnerships with other agencies at the Federal, State, and local levels and with an active and engaged citizenry. ASIWPCA's members call upon individuals, organizations, and agencies across the nation to join in this effort.



Clockwise from top left: Youth monitors inspect bug populations as part of PA's annual Watershed Snapshot; Volunteers with MO River Relief load trash for disposal during 2001 Missouri River Clean-Up; VA Department of Environmental Quality staff train local wastewater treatment plant operators in laboratory analysis techniques



Goal 1:

Everywhere in the United States, everyone has clean water.

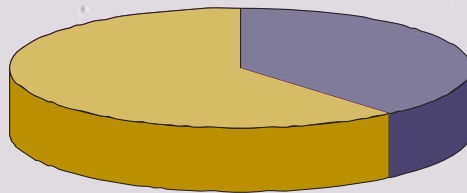
- Restore at least 25% of currently impaired waters to their designated uses by 2012.
- Improve the quality of at least 10% of unimpaired waters by 2012.
- Assess, restore, and protect priority groundwater resources.

Many of our nation's waters do not fully meet their designated uses (i.e. are impaired). This means that there are times we can't swim, eat the fish, drink the water, etc. According to USEPA's 2000 *National Water Quality Inventory*, 39% of assessed rivers and streams, 45% of assessed lakes (including reservoirs and ponds), 51% of assessed estuaries, 14% of assessed ocean shoreline miles, and 78% of assessed Great Lakes shoreline miles are impaired. Our significant challenge as managers of water quality is to increase the number of our waters that achieve their designated uses. As discussed under Goal 2, less than half of the nation's total waters have been assessed. The following graphs only reflect impairments for these assessed waters.

Assessed River/Stream Miles Meeting Designated Uses

Unimpaired waters fully meet their uses.

Unimpaired 61%
(426,633 miles)

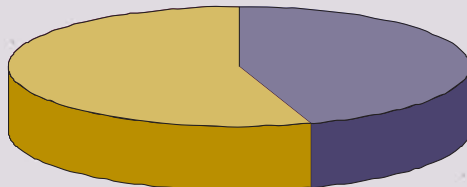


Impaired 39%
(269,258 miles)

Assessed Lake Acres Meeting Designated Uses

Unimpaired waters fully meet their uses.

Unimpaired 55%
(9,375,891 Acres)

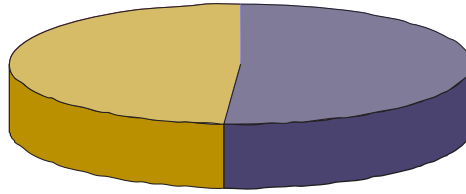


Impaired 45%
(7,702,370 Acres)

Assessed Estuarine Square Miles Meeting Designated Uses

Unimpaired waters fully meet their uses.

Unimpaired 49%
(14,873 sq. miles)

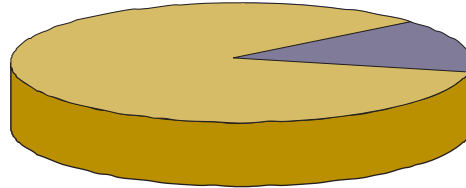


Impaired 51%
(15,676 sq. miles)

Assessed Ocean Shoreline Miles Meeting Designated Uses

Unimpaired waters fully meet their uses.

Unimpaired 86%
(2,755 miles)

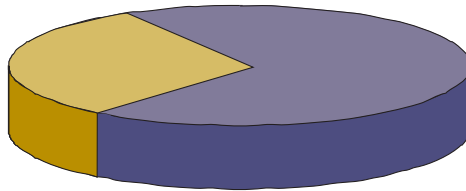


Impaired 14%
(434 miles)

Assessed Great Lakes Shoreline Miles Meeting Designated Uses

Unimpaired waters fully meet their uses.

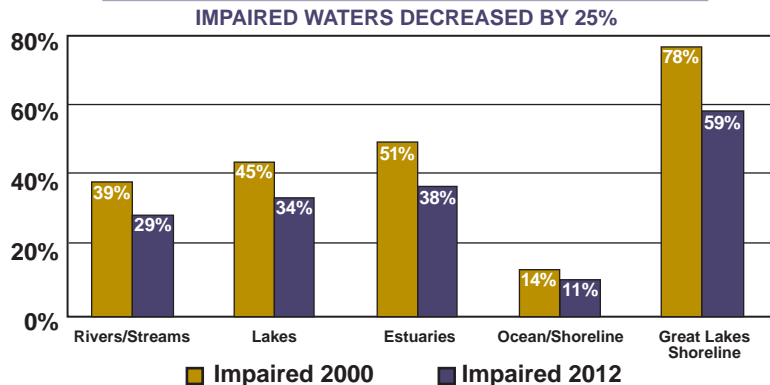
Unimpaired 22%
(1,095 miles)



Impaired 78%
(3,955 miles)

To achieve the goal of clean water everywhere for everyone, the members of ASIWPCA commit themselves to restoring 25% of impaired waters to their designated uses by 2012 and to improving the quality of an additional 10% of assessed waters that already meet their designated uses. We will guard against the degradation of currently unassessed and unimpaired waters. Additionally, we are mindful of the critical and essential role of our groundwater resources. We will assess, restore, and protect our priority groundwater resources.

ASIWPCA Goals for % Assessed Waters Impaired* in 2012



*Impaired Waters do not fully meet their designated uses.

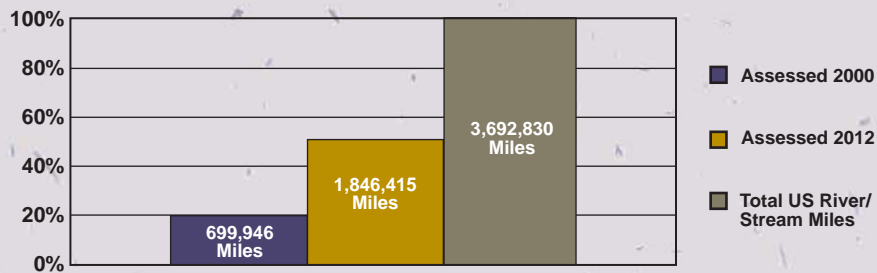
Goal 2:

Base decisions on sound science.

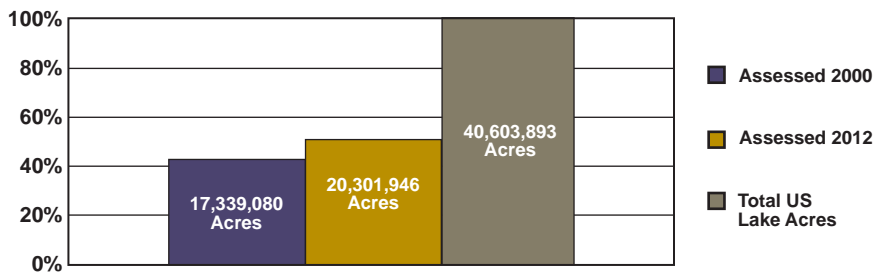
- Assess at least 50% of the nation's surface water by 2012.

ASIWPCA recognizes the regulatory implications of many of our water quality programs on communities and businesses throughout our individual States. That is why we insist that our decisions and programs be grounded in the best available science. Good information from State assessments of waters must be at the heart of every water quality program. Currently in the contiguous States, only 19% of total river/stream miles, 43% of lake acres, 36% of estuarine square miles, and 6% of ocean shoreline miles are assessed. 92% of Great Lakes shoreline miles are assessed. The member States of ASIWPCA agree that, by 2012, at least 50% of our surface water will be assessed using the best available science. For the Great Lakes, ASIWPCA will strive for assessment of 96% of shoreline miles.

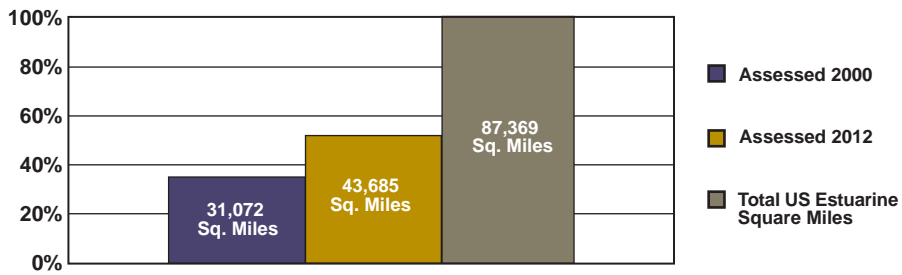
ASIWPCA Goals for River/Stream Miles that are Assessed by 2012



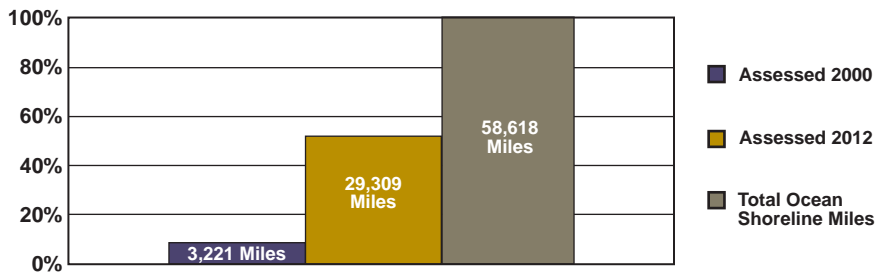
ASIWPCA Goals for Lake Acres that are Assessed by 2012



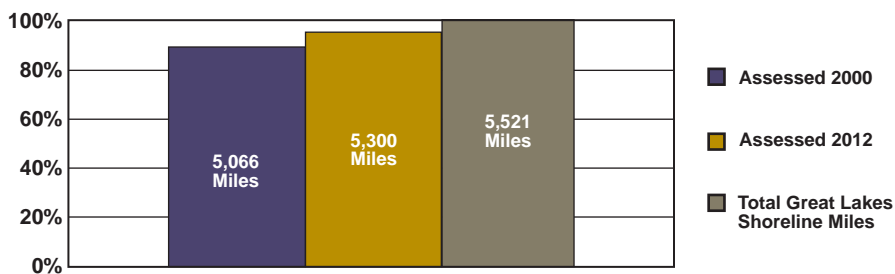
ASIWPCA Goals for Estuarine Square Miles that are Assessed by 2012



ASIWPCA Goals for Ocean Shoreline Miles that are Assessed by 2012



ASIWPCA Goals for Great Lakes Shoreline Miles that are Assessed by 2012



Goal 3:

Enhance citizen awareness and involvement

- Double the percentage of Americans who correctly answer basic questions about watersheds and water quality issues by 2012.
- Increase the number of Americans who participate in World Water Monitoring Day to 1,000,000 by 2012.

The members of ASIWPCA believe that individual awareness, commitment, and responsibility are essential to accomplishing their water quality goals. According to an April 2001 survey by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, 84% of Americans surveyed worry a “great deal” or a “fair amount” about “pollution of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.” However, a National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF)/Roper survey in 1998 found that only 41% of respondents selected the correct definition of a watershed from a multiple choice question. Only 22% correctly selected runoff as the most common cause of water pollution. And only 16% correctly selected individuals dumping motor oil into a storm drain or onto the ground as the primary source of oil in the nation’s waters. The members of ASIWPCA will work to double the percentage of Americans who correctly answer such questions.

Question:

What is a watershed?

Answer:

The land area from which water drains into a waterbody. The watershed for a large waterbody may encompass a number of smaller watersheds.

Personal commitment to improving and protecting water quality is crucial to the nation's success in achieving its water quality goals. In October of 2002, more than 75,000 Americans participated in National Water Monitoring Day. ASIWPCA was a major partner in organizing this event in which volunteers and professional water monitors alike took to the nation's rivers, lakes, and other waterbodies to test water quality. That event will expand globally to become World Water Monitoring Day in 2003. In 2003, ASIWPCA intends to double the number of Americans who participate to 150,000 and to double it again to 300,000 in 2005. ASIWPCA's goal for 2012 is for 1,000,000 Americans to take part in World Water Monitoring Day. (Additional information on World Water Monitoring Day is available at www.asiwPCA.org.)



Question:

What is the most common cause of pollution in waterbodies?

Answer:

Nonpoint source pollution, which is runoff from farm fields, construction sites, city streets, parking lots, backyards, etc.

Clockwise from top left: Volunteers in Maine's Portage Lake Buffer Project plant perennials to buffer nonpoint source pollution; Student volunteer helps clean up the Ohio River for Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission's 2002 River Sweep; Students in Michigan test water samples as part of National Water Monitoring Day

Goal 4:

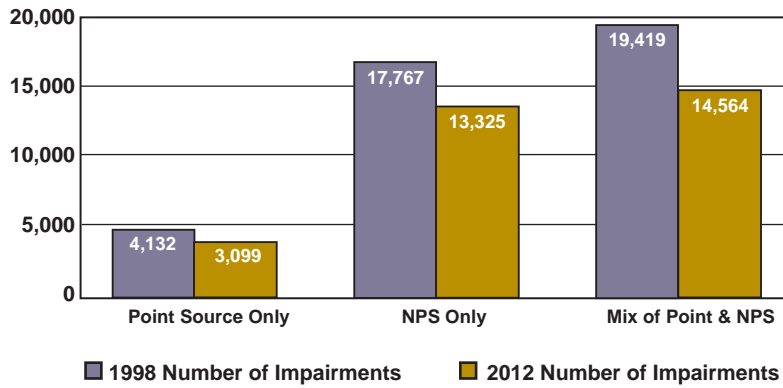
Ensure pollution control and prevention for nonpoint sources as well as point sources.

- Nonpoint sources: Decrease by 25% the number of waterbody impairments caused solely by nonpoint source pollution such as runoff from agriculture, construction, and city streets by 2012.
- Point sources: Decrease by 25% the number of waterbody impairments caused solely by point source pollution such as discharge from pipes from industry and sewage treatment plants by 2012.
- Mixed point and nonpoint source pollution: Decrease by 25% the number of waterbody impairments caused by a combination of point and nonpoint sources by 2012.

Controlling and preventing the pollution of water requires the management of discharges from both point sources (e.g. discharge pipes) and nonpoint sources (diffuse sources that do not enter the water from a specific outlet but are carried into the water in runoff, usually from a storm). The members of ASIWPCA are dedicated to maintaining progress with point source dischargers in reducing and eliminating polluting discharges. ASIWPCA will also pursue the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for land uses contributing nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. To do so, the Association commits to working with the public as well as other agencies and organizations to effectively manage NPS, including the air emissions that contribute to water quality impairment.

Specifically, the number of waterbody impairments* that are caused solely by point sources will decrease by at least 25% from the 1998 figure of 4,132 to 3,099 or less by 2012. The number of waterbody impairments that are caused solely by nonpoint sources will decrease by at least 25% from the 1998 figure of 17,767 to 13,325 or less by 2012. And the number of waterbody impairments that are caused by a mix of point and nonpoint sources will decrease by at least 25% from the 1998 figure of 19,419 to 14,564 or less by 2012.

ASIWPCA Goals for Decreasing Waterbody Impairments by Source by 2012



* Waterbody impairments, as measured by waters listed on 1998 303(d) lists, require total maximum daily load assessments. A waterbody can be impaired by one or more pollutants that cause it to fail to meet its designated uses.

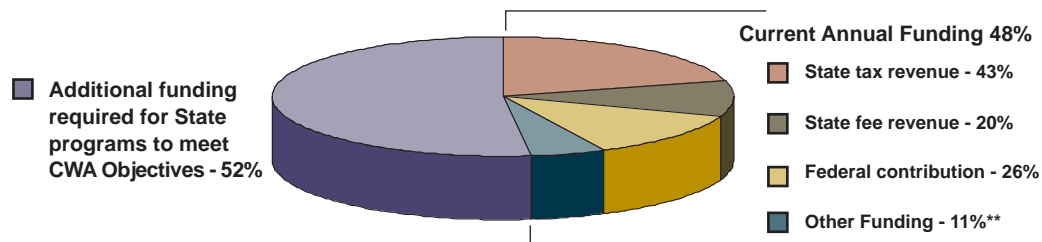
Program Funding

This strategic plan lays out ASIWPCA's goals for restoring impaired waters, protecting and improving unimpaired waters, basing decisions on sound science, enhancing citizen awareness and involvement, and maximizing pollution control and prevention for both nonpoint and point sources of pollution. Achieving these ambitious goals will require a substantial fiscal investment nationally.

State water quality programs are currently funded at approximately half of the level required to meet their Clean Water Act objectives (2002 *State Water Quality Management Resource Analysis*). Though States have primary responsibility for implementing the key programs that are mandated by the Federal Clean Water Act, they do not receive the funding that is needed to meet the legislation's objectives.

Currently, about 25% of State expenditures on water quality programs come from the Federal government. Given the Federal government's role in issuing regulatory mandates that States must implement, the Federal government should, at the very least, maintain its current level of support for State water quality programs. No single level of government can provide all of the necessary resources, and ASIWPCA is committed to doing its part to ensure that funding at all levels of government is sufficient to attain our water quality goals.

Current Annual Funding vs. Additional Funding Required for State Programs to Meet Clean Water Act (CWA) Objectives*



* *The State Water Quality Management Resource Analysis estimates, based on 1999 data, that national funding of State programs ranges from \$722 million to \$805 million per year. The Analysis estimates that the additional funding required nationally for State programs to meet CWA objectives ranges from \$735 million to \$960 million per year. Percentages of funding by source do not include the 4% of the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund that is allocated to States for administering that fund.*

** *Other funding includes bond funds, restricted trusts, special funds, and special taxes.*

The impact of this combined investment must be maximized by using efficient and flexible mechanisms such as the trading of pollution abatement credits and requirements that can be tailored to local conditions. In addition, agencies at all levels of government must cooperate to resolve water quality problems that result from or are exacerbated by interactions among air, land, and water pollution. Cross-media measures such as landfill caps and air emission controls support improvements in water quality.

The members of ASIWPCA will report our progress in achieving our strategic goals at the same interval as we publish our water quality assessments. Visit the ASIWPCA Website at www.asiwpc.org to follow our success.

Glossary of Key Terms

Designated Uses: The uses identified in State water quality standards that must be achieved and/or maintained under State and Federal requirements. Uses include fishing, swimming, water supply, and irrigation.

Estuaries: Regions of mixing between river/stream and ocean water. River flow and tides mix fresh and salt water.

Impaired waters: Waters that fail to meet their designated uses. Total maximum daily load (TMDL) assessments must be conducted for such waters in accordance with the Clean Water Act.

Nonpoint source pollution: Pollution washed from the land to waterbodies in runoff from rain or snow. Common nonpoint sources include city streets and parks, agriculture, forestry, construction, and mining.

Point source pollution: Pollution from a single identifiable source of discharge. Examples include pipes, ditches, and ships. Though most pollution from farms is considered nonpoint source pollution, certain large animal feeding operations are regulated as point sources.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL): The maximum amount of a particular pollutant that a water can receive while still meeting its designated uses. TMDL assessments identify the sources of a particular pollutant and allocate reductions in its discharge to the various sources of that pollutant. The ultimate goal is to decrease discharges of the pollutant so that the water meets the standards associated with its designated uses.

Unimpaired waters: Waters that meet their designated uses.

Watershed: The land area from which water drains into a stream or other waterbody. The watershed for a large waterbody may contain a number of smaller watersheds.

ASIWPCA extends its sincere appreciation to all of the State and Interstate members who developed this Strategic Plan. Special appreciation is extended to ASIWPCA's President, Dr. Karen Smith (AZ), and to the Chairs of the Strategic Planning Committee, Martha Kirkpatrick (ME) and Art Baggett (CA) for their leadership and dedication to the strategic planning process. The Association also thanks Brian Van Wye (ASIWPCA) for his work on this project.

The Association wishes to recognize and thank the California State Water Resources Control Board for printing this document and Sharon Perrin-Norton for her layout and design of the publication.



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