



OAG

Office of the Auditor General

Report Summary

Performance Audit

Office of the Great Lakes (OGL)

Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

Report Number:
751-0321-18

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OGL leads the State's efforts to protect and restore Michigan's waters by working with partners to support sustainable coastal communities, restore degraded waters, manage water quality and quantity, and prevent aquatic invasive species. OGL oversees the Areas of Concern (AOC) Program, which focuses on restoring 14 environmentally-impacted bodies of water in Michigan, and the Coastal Zone Management Program, which focuses on habitat, hazard management, water quality, public access, and community development. OGL expended \$5.6 million and \$4.8 million for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, respectively, and had 23 employees as of July 23, 2018.

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective #1: To assess the effectiveness of OGL's efforts to manage Michigan's AOC Program.			Moderately effective
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
OGL awarded over \$328,000 to one grantee through an informal selection process and with an initially vague work plan (Finding #1).		X	Agrees
OGL did not comply with certain State and federal grant requirements, resulting in reimbursement to grantees for unallowable or unsupported costs totaling \$13,667 (Finding #2).		X	Agrees
Opportunities exist to improve OGL's relationships with public advisory councils in order to restore and remediate Michigan's waters (Finding #3).		X	Agrees
OGL completed only 1 (8%) remedial action plan update during our 54-month audit period (Finding #4).		X	Agrees
For all 5 beneficial use impairment (BUI) removals, OGL did not provide documentation to support who served on the technical teams and whether those individuals explicitly supported the BUI removal (Finding #5).		X	Agrees

Observations Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
The AOC Program was not designed to remove contaminants completely or factor in new AOCs, BUIs, or emerging contaminants (<u>Observation #1</u>).	Not applicable for observations.		

Audit Objective		Conclusion	
Objective #2: To assess OGL's compliance with requirements of the coastal management cooperative agreement.		Complied, with exceptions	
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
See <u>Finding #2</u> , part a.		X	Agrees

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