

SECTION 2—EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Black Lagoon is located within the Trenton Channel of the Detroit River, part of the Detroit River Area of Concern (AOC). Over the past 10 years, several state and federal agencies have worked cooperatively to assess and address potential risks posed by sediments severely contaminated with persistent, bioaccumulative substances. Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) compounds, oil and grease and heavy metals, including mercury, are present at concentrations sufficient to cause acute and/or chronic harm to benthic organisms. Certain fish populations within the Detroit River AOC have accumulated mercury and/or PCBs in their edible tissues, and the State has advised anglers to limit or avoid consuming these fish. Recreational users may ingest or come into direct contact with these contaminants and their activities may cause contaminant re-suspension and transport to downstream locations, including Lake Erie.

The goals for the project are to reduce the risks to human health, wildlife, and aquatic organisms within the Detroit River AOC, restore the aquatic habitat within the Black Lagoon, and prepare the site for recreational and economic redevelopment. Restoring the recreational use and fishery will encourage commercial redevelopment of the urban waterfront, including current plans for constructing a marina to serve recreational boaters, provide increased access to the Detroit River, and overall economic growth for the area. The project will accomplish these goals by dredging and disposing of approximately 73,400 cubic yards of the contaminated sediment from the Black lagoon and placing a layer of sand and gravel over the affected area.

The State will measure the effectiveness of this remediation through the chemical analysis of post-dredging sediment to verify all site specific criteria have been met. In addition, post remediation sediment sampling and toxicity testing will be performed one year following the completion of the remedial activities as a final measure of remedial success.