

Priority 2 Goals

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Priority 2 Settlement and Goal Purpose

- **Priority 2 is intended to replace, protect, enhance the natural resources and services that have been lost.**
 - “... projects that restore and enhance aquatic resources, wildlife, habitat, fishing, resource improvement, and outdoor recreational opportunities in the East Metropolitan Area and in downstream areas of the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers.”
- **The Priority 2 goals need to reflect the settlement language and will be used to guide the development of the project evaluation criteria and the RFP process.**
 - **Any proposed project must contribute to meeting at least one of the Priority 2 goals.**



Early Work Group Priority 2 Goals

Priority 2 – Natural Resource Restoration, Protection, and Enhancement

- Restore, protect, and enhance aquatic resources, wildlife, and habitats.
- Reduce fish tissue contamination and remove PFAS-based fish consumption advisories.
- Improve and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities.



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DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

Eat Fish Often?

A Minnesota Guide to Eating Fish

Safe Eating Guidelines

Most fish are healthy to eat. Fish are a great way to get protein and good fats, but any fish (store-bought or locally-caught) could have contaminants such as mercury that can harm human health – especially children and fetuses.

Statewide Safe-Eating Guidelines

Goal 1: Resource and Habitat Restoration

Original Goal - Resource and Habitat Restoration:

- Restore, protect, and enhance aquatic resources, wildlife, and habitats.

Revised Goal:

- Restore, protect, and enhance aquatic **and terrestrial** resources, wildlife, and habitats.

Explanation:

- The examples of projects that could be supported through Priority 2 in the settlement include terrestrial areas, so this update helps ensure consistency with the Settlement.



Goal 2: Recreational Fishing

Original Goal - Recreational Fishing:

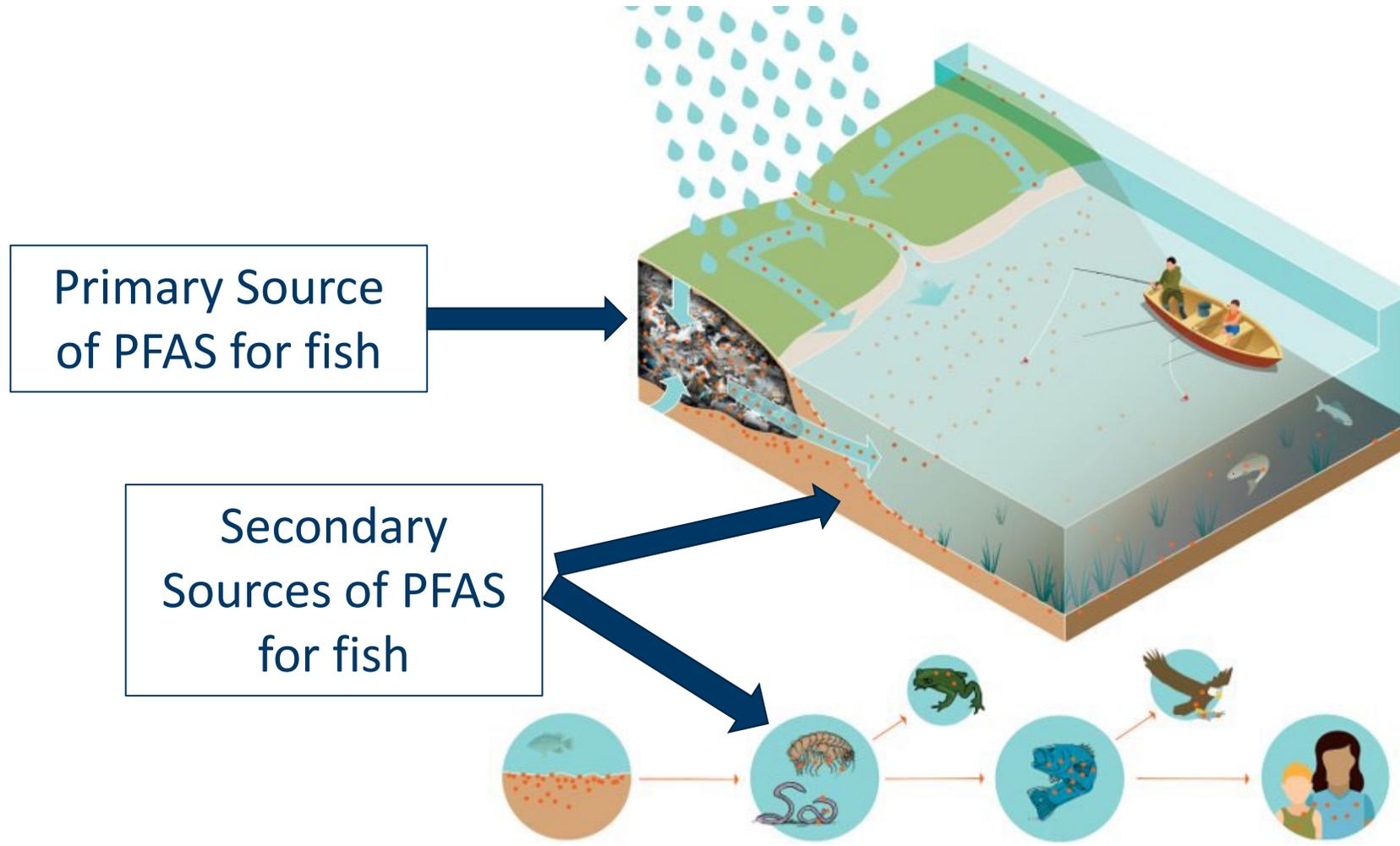
- Reduce fish tissue contamination and remove PFAS-based fish consumption advisories.

Too costly to achieve under Priority 2:

- To achieve this goal, all major sources of PFAS exposure to fish in any given water body must be mitigated
 - Primary sources: Releases of PFAS to surface and groundwater (the latter of which can resurface to expose fish); remediation work has been on going for many years and will continue
 - Secondary sources: Releases of PFAS from contaminated sediment that has accumulated for decades, and PFAS in prey species that live in contaminated sediments



PFAS Sources



Goal 2: Recreational Fishing

Original Goal – Recreational Fishing:

- Reduce fish tissue contamination and remove PFAS-based fish consumption advisories.

Revised Goal:

- ~~Reduce~~ Increase understanding of fish tissue contamination, ~~remove~~ improve communication about PFAS-based fish consumption advisories, and identify and enhance alternative, non-contaminated fishing areas.

Explanation:

- With this revised goal, the Agencies can help improve the public's ability to safely enjoy fishing in the region.
- Note: Projects that focus on fish habitat improvements are not excluded from Priority 2 as a result of these changes; instead, such projects would fall under Goal 1.



Goal 3: Recreation Enhancement

Original Goal - Recreation Enhancement:

- Improve and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities.

Revised Goal:

- Improve and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities and access for the public, including populations experiencing inequities and/or disparities.

Explanation:

- This update was to ensure equity and environmental justice concerns were explicitly considered in the use of Priority 2 funds.



Revised Priority 2 Settlement Goals

Goal 1 – Resource and Habitat Restoration

- Restore, protect, and enhance aquatic and terrestrial resources, wildlife, and habitats.

Goal 2 – Recreational Fishing Improvement

- Increase understanding of fish tissue contamination, improve communication about PFAS-based fish consumption advisories, and identify and enhance alternative, non-contaminated fishing areas.

Goal 3 – Recreation Improvement

- Improve and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities and access for the public, including populations experiencing inequities and/or disparities.

*Revised language in green



Goal 1 – Resource and Habitat Restoration

- Land protection, habitat restoration, nesting improvements, surface water quality improvements

Goal 2 – Recreational Fishing Improvement

- Sampling fish tissue in surface water, public communications about fish consumption advisories

Goal 3 – Recreation Improvement

- Construct accessible boat launches, accessible trails, bird watching platforms, etc. with a focus on underserved areas

Feedback From Work Group Members

- Questions, concerns or feedback on the settlement goals and revisions?
- Are important priorities addressed?
- Is there anything missing?

