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Great Lakes Research

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Hypoxia occurs when water becomes depleted of oxygen. Hypoxic areas that form in Lake Erie impact the lake's ecosystem and pose challenges for drinking water treatment. Hypoxic water can be corrosive and may contain heavy metals like manganese, which is toxic to humans at high levels.

Did you know...

The hypoxic area or "dead zone" in Lake Erie can grow as large as 6,000 square miles, or 63% of the lake surface area.

Learn more here



The City of Cleveland, OH, draws its water from central Lake Erie, an area prone to episodic hypoxia.