

Indicators and Information Strategy Team Recommended Near-Term Actions

In 2006

Within available resources, the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force needs to:

- Assess applicability of SOLEC indicators to near term GLRC actions and develop additional indicators as warranted;
- Promote implementation of GLOS observing system improvements for the Huron to Erie Corridor (HEC) (NOAA)
- Convene agency information management specialists under the Regional Data Exchange (RDX) initiative to develop inventories of existing data resources and integrate Internet access approaches;
- Convene LaMP Committee meetings to focus on coordinating monitoring program activities for each Great Lake; and,
- Convene public affairs specialists to develop a comprehensive communication plan for Regional Collaboration activities.

In 2007

Seek additional federal appropriations of \$14.0 million to augment state and local funding to:

- Implement basin-wide “high value” SOLEC indicators with emphasis on land use/cover and conversions and implement specific new indicators [additional \$1.0 million to USEPA]
- Collect and process satellite imagery under the NOAA C-CAP program to evaluate recent watershed and coastal land use changes [\$0.5 million to NOAA];
- Implement basin-wide wetlands indicators developed under the Great Lakes Wetlands Consortium [\$0.5 million through USEPA];
- Implement GLOS improvements under IOOS to monitor conditions in the nearshore and tributary river mouths including nutrient loadings, pathogens and harmful algal bloom and implement continuous hydrodynamic models for the HEC [\$ 4.0 million through NOAA];
- Implement monitoring coordinating councils for each Great Lake to integrate monitoring program plans between federal, state, local, Native American and non-governmental entities, with funding provided to state and others [\$ 0.5 million through USEPA];
- Implement interagency data sharing agreements and implement integrated web service functions as a function of GLIN (or equivalent) [\$0.3 million through USEPA];
- Implement the GLRC comprehensive communication plan [\$ 0.2 million through USEPA]; and,
- Conduct focused research activities to support GLRC restoration activities as follows:
 - Stand-up the Great Lakes Research Office to implement a coordinated research plan to support Great Lakes restoration activities [\$ 0.6 million to NOAA];
 - Initiate demonstrations of ballast water treatment technologies [\$ 0.4 million to NOAA];
 - Initiate process-based, statistical forecasts of beach closures [\$ 1.0 million to USGS];
 - Initiate investigations for risk assessments for water intake contamination [\$ 1.0 million to USGS/USEPA];
 - Continue development of process-based statistical forecasts of harmful algal blooms [\$ 0.5 million to NOAA];
 - Develop coupled bio-physical models to forecast fish recruitment [\$ 0.5 million to USGS];
 - Continue development of contaminant treatment and sediment separation technologies and research into beneficial use options under the DOER program [\$ 0.5 million to USACE]
 - Enhance research on delisting targets for AOCs [additional \$ 0.2 million to USEPA];
 - Apply lake-wide mass balance models to each Great Lake to assess progress in reduction of priority chemicals, including in fish tissue [additional \$ 1.0 million to USEPA];
 - Continue research on chemical properties, exposure and long-term effects on human health [additional \$ 0.5 million to ATSDR / USEPA]; and
 - Enhance research on air deposition sources and links to Great Lakes wildlife and exposures, including mercury, through the Great Waters Program [additional \$ 0.8 million to USEPA].

In 2008

Seek additional federal appropriations in the amount of \$14.0 million to continue and expand the activities outlined above, with the objective of meeting the strategic plans outlined in the Indicators and Information Strategy Team chapter of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration report.