



State/Regional Monitoring Councils: Lake Michigan

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**NWQMC Meeting
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The Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council

Overview

- Background/Objectives
- Primary Activities
- Benefits
- Challenges



Council Background

- Initiated by EPA & USGS
- Inaugural meeting September 1999
- First council based on watershed, rather than political, boundaries
- Broad ecosystem approach -- not only water quality monitoring
- GL Commission – administrative support
- Formal membership guidelines



Membership

- State agencies (8)
- Federal agencies (7)
- Tribal nations/associations (2)
- Business, industry and consultants (2)
- Agriculture (1)
- Local volunteer or environmental groups (2)
- Sea Grant Programs or university-based institutes (4)
- Lake Michigan LaMP Forum (1)
- Local government/planning agencies (4)
- Great Lakes Fishery Commission (1)
- Chair of LaMP Technical Coordinating Committee and Great Lakes Commission (ex officio members)



Objectives

- Document monitoring activities, identify data gaps and contribute to a monitoring plan
- Establish and maintain collaborative partnerships
- Encourage monitoring activities that document data quality and are comparable
- Establish an information network that links basinwide information systems
- Improve awareness of monitoring and Council products



Framework

● Monitoring Networks

- Air
- Aquatic Nuisance Sp.
- Fisheries
- Groundwater
- Land Use
- Open Lake
- Recreational Waters
- Tributaries
- Wetlands
- Wildlife

● Collaboration/ Outreach

- Technical Coordination
- Communication/
Outreach
- Conference Planning



Primary Activities

- **Lake Michigan Monitoring Inventory**
- **Coordinated Tributary Monitoring (2005)**
 - compare with 1994-95 Mass Balance project
 - PCBs, mercury, total phosphorus
- **National Monitoring Network: Lake Michigan Pilot Project**
- **Nearshore Monitoring**



Nearshore Monitoring

- 2010 EPA National Coastal Survey
- USGS Beach Health Initiative
- New Equipment (EPA-GLNPO, IL EPA)
- GLRRIN Nearshore Research Plan
- Botulism Monitoring
- Great Lakes “Muck” Problem
- 2010 is Intensive Monitoring Year for Lake Michigan



Nearshore Monitoring

- Work group has ~ 20 participants (Feds, States, academia)
- Goal: 2010 coordinated monitoring, analysis, data management, & reporting
- Nearshore monitoring inventory
- Development of work group strategic plan
- Work group blog



Benefits

- **Specific project implementation**
 - coordinated tributary monitoring in 2005
 - NMN pilot
 - monitoring inventory
 - nearshore monitoring
- **Information exchange**
- **Communication among resource groups**
- **Mechanism to deal with new initiatives**



Challenges

- **Time/participant engagement**
 - Need to show tangible benefits
- **Scope: focused vs. broad**
- **Competing objectives**
- **Inertia/Entrenched programs**
- **Budget constraints**



For More Information

- **Website:**
<http://wi.water.usgs.gov/lmmcc/>
- **Contacts:**
 - John Hummer (Great Lakes Commission)
 - Charlie Peters (USGS)
 - Gary Kohlhepp (MDEQ)

