

## Beach Sanitary Survey

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National Beach Conference  
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## Overview

- Great Lakes Initiative
- Beach Sanitary Survey



## Great Lakes Initiative

- President Bush 2004
  - EPA and nine other federal agencies administer some 140 programs that fund and implement environmental programs in the Great Lakes basin. Although there has been significant progress, the work of cleaning up the lakes and preventing further problems has not always been coordinated.
- EPA Administrator lead
- Why – to accomplish what

## Great Lakes Initiative

- President Bush 2004
  - Collaboration partners rallied around a shared vision of a restored, sustainable Great Lakes ecosystem. This has generated optimism and a spirit of cooperation. While the Collaboration is a U.S. effort, its members do everything possible to synchronize it's efforts with those of our Canadian partners.
  - Why – to accomplish what

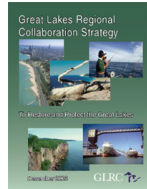
## Great Lakes Initiative

- President Bush 2004
  - Following the Conveners Meeting, the issue area strategy teams began their work. These eight teams were organized using priorities identified by the Council of Great Lakes Governors. The priorities are:
    - Aquatic invasive species
    - Habitat conservation and species management
    - Near-shore waters and coastal areas (Coastal health)
    - Areas of concern
    - Non-point sources
    - Toxic pollutants
    - Sound information base and representative indicators
    - Sustainability
- Draft for comment in July 2005
- Final published in December 2005

## Great Lakes Initiative - Summary

- In December 2004, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration of National Significance (GLRC) was launched, creating a unique partnership of key members from federal, state, and local governments, tribes, and other stakeholders for the purpose of developing a strategic action plan. This strategic plan was intended to build upon the extensive regional efforts to date, working together toward a common goal of restoring and protecting the Great Lakes ecosystem for this and future generations. An Executive Committee made up of senior elected and appointed officials from different levels of government has helped guide the GLRC over the past year as the strategic plan has been developed. Eight Strategy Teams, each focusing on a different issue affecting the Great Lakes basin, began work in January 2005 to develop recommendations for action. The plan has been finalized and was released on December 12, 2005 in Chicago, Illinois.

## Great Lakes Initiative - Images



## What is goal of Collaboration?

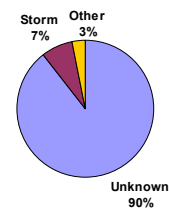
- 9 areas to be covered
  - List of 9 major
- No funding authorized

## Arent GL states already performing SS at beaches?

- Sources figure
- BEACH Act eligible activity (\*word choice\*)
- Currently not standardized or shared
- Collaboration for models
- Steps to remediation

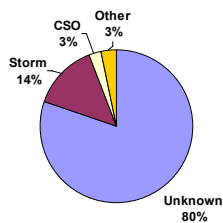
## What are sources - figure?

Reported Sources Causing Beach Actions  
in Great Lakes States in 2005  
(1,481 actions)



## What are sources - figure?

Reported Sources Causing Beach Actions in 2005  
(5,104 actions nationwide)



## What are sources - figure?

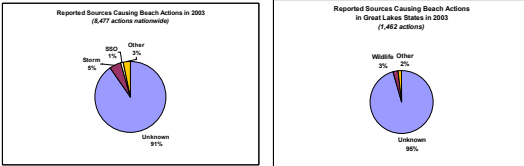
Reported Sources Causing Beach Actions in 2004  
(11,861 actions nationwide)



Reported Sources Causing Beach Actions  
in Great Lakes States in 2004  
(2,381 actions)



## What are sources - figure?



## What are BSS tasks?

- Create a common approach to identify sources,
- collect information,
- share information to assess
- Take steps to improve local beach conditions and GL water quality

## What are goals?

- Develop the final sanitary survey form and beta-test the sanitary surveys at a Great Lakes beach;
- Develop grant criteria and award grants, if funding is available, to states to pilot and/or implement sanitary surveys in their beach programs; and
- Evaluate pilot studies, publish a final beach sanitary survey, and provide technical assistance for implementing beach sanitary surveys.

## What is a Beach Sanitary Survey?

- Sanitary surveys are typically associated with drinking water and shellfish programs. They can also be used at beaches to:
  - Identify persistent problems where beaches do not meet water quality standards;
  - Identify sources of pollution;
  - Assess the magnitude of pollution; and
  - Suggest appropriate actions to control pollution and identify priority locations for sampling.

## What is a Beach Sanitary Survey?

- Sanitary surveys help state and local water program managers ascertain local beach contamination and evaluate conditions that pose risks to human health at recreational beaches.
- means the written evaluation report of all environmental factors, including actual and potential pollution sources, which have a bearing on the water quality in a shellfish growing area.

## How does this fit with BEACH Act?

- States to monitor and notify
- CWA 406
- Part of state program
- Already collected with monitoring, help with modeling

### What is status of Great Lakes?

- 8 states, XX counties

### What is utility of BSS?

- Common data fields collected
- Share data
- Apply to beaches and Great Lakes

### What are short term goals of BSS?

- Increased awareness
- Standardized form
- Increased actions to reduce sources
- Reduce swimmer related illness

### What has been accomplished?

- Workgroup Great Lake state and local
- Draft Routine On-site Assessment
  - Weather conditions, debris, source contributions
- Draft Annual Beach Sanitary Survey
  - Water quality over past year
- Draft Five Year Beach Sanitary Survey
- Draft Beach Sanitary Survey Guidance
- Pre-pilot this summer with 8 states
- Announced \$500,000 Grants in GLNPO RFP

### Where is project headed?

- Award grants
  - to assist beach managers with developing and implementing beach sanitary surveys at their beaches
- Develop electronic tools
  - Electronic tools to assist beach managers with compiling, storing, and sharing beach sanitary survey data
- Receive feedback from grant recipients
- Publish final guidance

### Need state help with participation

- State implementation in their beach mon & not programs
- Participation with electronic data (state portal?)