

# Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

GLBTS Status Update  
June 23, 2009

# Background

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, together with its federal agency partners, is developing a new Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- The Initiative begins in 2010 by identifying \$475 million for programs and projects strategically chosen to target the most significant environmental problems in the Great Lakes ecosystem.
- Funds will be used to strategically implement both federal projects and prioritized/competitive grants.

# Five Focus Areas

- Toxic Substances and Areas of Concern
- Invasive Species
- Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution
- Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration
- Accountability, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication, and Partnerships

# Toxic Substances/Areas of Concern

- Restore Areas of Concern/Remediate Contaminated Sediments
- Strategic Pollution Prevention and Reduction Projects
- Protect Human Health through Safer Fish Consumption
- Measuring Progress and Assessing New Toxic Threats

# Restore AOCs/Remediate Contaminated Sediments

Accelerate the rate of sediment clean-up in AOCs and other locations throughout the Great Lakes basin through programs such as the Great Lakes Legacy Act, Water Resources Development Act, and Natural Resource Damage Assessment.

Restore and delist AOCs through strategic actions identified in Remedial Action Plans to restore individual beneficial uses.

# Strategic Pollution Prevention and Reduction Projects

- Implement projects/actions delivering toxic reductions/pollution prevention for substances targeted by the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy
- Sustainable Collection Programs
- Reduce the use of mercury in products and better manage mercury product wastes
- Promote and implement sustainable green practices at the household and community level
- Develop/foster adoption of green chemistry/green engineering practices
- Foster adoption of innovative products that would reduce the use and release of toxic substances

# Protect Human Health through Safer Fish Consumption

Continue to protect Great Lakes fish consumers with sound and sensible advice provided through robust State and tribal fish advisory programs.

Work closely with the Great Lakes medical and health communities to educate the general public regarding the benefits and risks of Great Lakes fish consumption.

# Measuring Progress and Assessing New Toxic Threats

Measure progress in cleaning up toxics in the Great Lakes environment through comprehensive monitoring. Identify significant sources of new toxics through robust surveillance, lab and field studies, and modeling in order to devise and implement effective control strategies.

# Measures of Progress

- AOC beneficial use impairments removed.
- Cubic yards (in millions) of contaminated sediment remediated in the Great Lakes.
- Pollution (in pounds, potentially entering the Great Lakes) reduced through prevention and waste minimization projects.
- Annual percentage decline for the long term trend in average concentrations of Legacy pollutants in Great Lakes wildlife and of atmospheric deposition.

# 2011 and Beyond

- Public Meetings in July
- Plan due to OMB Sept 1