

Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy

**Monitoring and Surveillance
Workgroup**

Why a M&S Workgroup?

- Under the GLBTS, EC and US EPA agreed to consider new substances that may pose threats to the GL ecosystem, for potential reduction activities.
- GLBTS challenges the Parties to consider:
“whether new substances which present threats to the Great Lakes ecosystem should be considered for inclusion on the Level I or II lists, and whether any other changes should be made.”
- To facilitate the identification of new substances of concern for the GLBTS, there is a need to:
 - ◆ Develop a binational early warning surveillance system to anticipate future substances of ecosystem concern to the GL
 - ◆ Collect human health and environmental data in order to better inform decision-making
 - ◆ Identify substances that are of binational concern to the health and integrity of the GL ecosystem.

Key M&S WG Roles

- Evaluate ongoing M&S of new substances of concern to the GL ecosystem
- Assess and interpret results of M&S multi media programs, for example:
 - NOAA Mussel Watch Program
 - Integrated Air Deposition Network (IADN)
 - National Air Pollution Surveillance Network (NAPS)
 - Ontario Ministry of the Environment programs
 - Great Lakes Fish Monitoring Program
 - GL Fish Contaminant Surveillance Program
 - Canada's Herring Gull Egg Monitoring Program
 - EC water & sediment contaminant monitoring programs
 - Health Canada programs
 - USGS Surveys
 - Muir / Howard Chemical Screening Work
 - M&S projects conducted under Canada's CMP
 - U.S. National Rivers and Streams Study
- Allow exchange of expert information on environmental multi-media monitoring programs
- Consider / identify potential new chemical threats to the GL ecosystem
- Convey chemical threats of binational concern to the Substance/Sector WG and the GLBTS co-chairs
- Seek opportunities to:
 - ♦ Reduce duplication of efforts and to harmonize protocols among GL M&S programs
 - ♦ Allow efficient use of resources and easy comparisons of data across programs

Composition and Leadership

- Led by co-chairs from the U.S. and Canadian governments
- M&S WG co-chairs will be responsible for:
 - ◆ Organizing and facilitating workgroup meetings
 - ◆ Maintaining workgroup membership
 - ◆ Forwarding workgroup decisions to the GLBTS co-chairs for consideration
- Membership is voluntary and open to all GLBTS stakeholders who may:
 - ◆ Join / leave the M&S WG at any time
 - ◆ Name an appropriate substitute
 - ◆ Recruit additional members

Operating Principles

- Co-chairs will be responsible for:
 - ◆ Organizing annual face-to-face meeting with additional teleconferences as warranted
 - ◆ Preparing agendas with input from the WG members
 - ◆ Distributing agendas in advance of the meetings
 - ◆ Generating minutes and distributing to all WG members for review and comment prior to finalization
 - ◆ Communicating decisions and recommendations to the GLBTS co-chairs or appropriate monitoring programs
- M&S WG will continue to exist as long as WG co-chairs deem necessary