

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Protect the Gulf of Mexico



## **Subobjective:**

Prevent water pollution and improve the overall aquatic ecosystem health of coastal waters of the Gulf of Mexico by 0.2 on the “good/fair/poor” scale of the National Coastal Condition Report, a 5-point system in which 1 is poor and 5 is good:

2002 Baseline: fair/poor or 1.9

**2005 Commitment: 2.0**

2008 Target: 2.1

## **Strategic Target:**

-- Reduce releases of nutrients throughout the Mississippi River Basin to reduce the size of the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico:

Baseline: 1996-2000 running average size is 14,128 km<sup>2</sup>

2015 Target: less than 5,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

# Gulf of Mexico



**Measure #: IV-GM-1**

**National Office Lead:** GMPO

**Measure Description:** Percentage of the impaired segments in the 12 priority coastal areas where water and habitat quality is restored to levels that meet state water quality standards.

**Measure #: IV-GM-2**

**National Office Lead:** GMPO

**Measure Description:** Number of additional acres important coastal and marine habitats that are restored, enhanced, or protected, above improvements accomplished through 2003. (USGS 2000 baseline for all Gulf of Mexico coastal wetland habitats - 3,769,370 acres)

**Measure #: IV-GM-3**

**National Office Lead:** GMPO

**Measure Description:** Implement integrated bi-national (U.S. and Mexican Border States) early-warning system to support State and coastal community efforts to manage harmful algal blooms (HABs).

**IV-GM-1**

**IV-GM-2**

**IV-GM-3**

	National Commitment
2002 Baseline	0
2005 Commitment	8% (28 segments)
2005 Midyear	
2005 End-of-Year	
Universe	354 impaired segments

	Commitment
2002 Baseline	0
2005 Commitment	11,000
2005 Midyear	
2005 End-of-Year	
Universe	3.7 million acres

	Commitment
2002 Baseline	n/a
2005 Commitment	n/a
2005 Midyear	
2005 End-of-Year	
Universe	

**2008 Target:** 20% (71 segments)

**2008 Target:** 20,000

**2008 Target:** Begin 2006

# Gulf of Mexico



## Measure #: IV-GM-4

National Office Lead: GMPO

**Measure Description:** Reduce the rate of shellfish-borne *Vibrio vulnificus* illnesses caused by consumption of commercially-harvested raw or undercooked oysters from the average illness rate for the years 1995-1999.

## Measure #: IV-GM-5

National Office Lead: GMPO

**Measure Description:** Establish a Lower Mississippi River Sub Basin Committee (as called for in the Hypoxia Action Plan), select a project watershed in each of the states in the Lower MS River Basin, and implement actions in selected watersheds within the Lower Mississippi River Basin to reduce nitrogen loadings to the Mississippi River.

### IV-GM-4

	Commitment
2002 Baseline	.303/million
2005 Commitment	0.194 million
2005 Midyear	
2005 End-of-Year	
Universe	70,637,188 avg pop

**2008 Target:** By 2007, 0.121/million

### IV-GM-5

	Commitment
2002 Baseline	n/a
2005 Commitment	n/a
2005 Midyear	
2005 End-of-Year	
Universe	

**2008 Target:** By 2006, establish Committee