

Presidents Executive Order for the Great Lakes

**A Presentation to the
NOAA Science Advisory Board**

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Purpose

- Requested informational update to the SAB on a unique approach for Regional, Interagency Coordination.
 - Provide a model for an Ecosystem Approach in other regions
 - Lessons to be learned for implementation of the Ocean Action Plan

Key Issues for SAB

- **Ecosystem Approach requires involvement of federal agencies, states, tribes, local decision-makers and stakeholders**
- **The Great Lakes are now accomplishing this under the Presidents Executive Order**
- **This process provides a model for other regions and for the Presidents Dec. 17 Executive Order creating a cabinet-level Committee on Ocean Policy.**
- **Requires Extensive NOAA Coordination and mechanisms for timely integration into the NOAA PPBES process**

Presidents Executive Order

May 18, 2004

*Establishment of Great Lakes Interagency
Task Force and Promotion of a Regional
Collaboration of National Significance for
the Great Lakes*

Presidents Executive Order

- *Great Lakes are a 'National Treasure'*
- *140 Federal Programs*
- *International*
- *A Number of Intergovernmental Bodies, agreements and treaties*
- *Requires Federal Government to fund effective, coordinated and environmentally sound activities in the Great Lakes*
- *Defined 'Great Lakes' as the drainage basin.*

Presidents Executive Order – Congressional ‘Prompts’

- *GAO Report on 140 Federal Programs*
- *Senate Bill : “Great Lakes Environmental Restoration Act” \$6B/10 years*
- *House Bill: “ Great Lakes Restoration Financing Act of 2003’ \$4B/5 years*

Presidents Executive Order

- (i) Establish a process for Collaboration of Feds with states, local communities, tribes, regional bodies and other interests on policies, strategies, plans, programs **and priorities** etc
- (ii) Include Canada and other Bi-national bodies

Presidents Executive Order

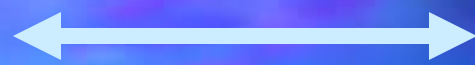
- (iv) Develop **outcome based goals** for the Great Lakes relying upon, among other things, existing data and **science-based** indicators of water quality and related environmental factors. These goals shall focus on outcomes such as cleaner water, sustainable fisheries, and biodiversity of the Great Lakes system and ensure that Federal policies, strategies, projects and priorities **support measurable results.**

Task Force
(9 Departments,
CEQ)

Convenors
(Feds, States, Tribes,
Cities)

Working Group
(11 Agencies)

8 Strategic Teams
(Feds, States, Tribes,
Cities, NGOs,
stakeholders, etc)



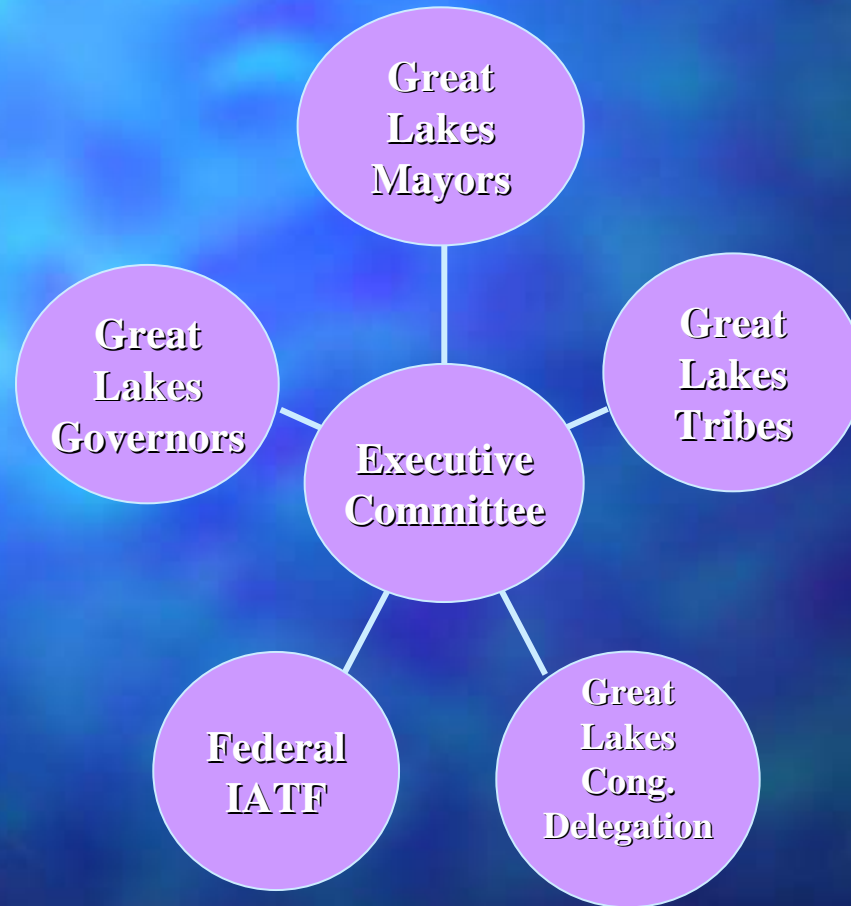
Federal coordination:
Policies, strategies, projects,
priorities for restoration,
protection, research, observing
systems:...
Outcome-based goals and
measurable results

**Regional
Collaboration of
National Significance**

Great Lakes Regional Collaboration



GLRC Executive Committee Creates the Final Strategy



GLRC Schedule

- **December 2004** **Collaboration kick-off**
- **January 2005** **Strategy Teams began work**
- **May** **Report to Congress**
- **July 2005** **Draft Strategy released to public**
- **July/August 2005** **Six public meetings**
- **September 9, 2005** **Public comment period ended**
- **December 12, 2005** **Final Action Plan released**

Declaration

- Purpose – To declare broad support for the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration.
- Who signs – All Conveners attending December 3rd meeting including members of the Federal Cabinet, Governors, Mayors, Tribes, the Congressional Delegation and other State and local elected officials.



WH CEQ VADM



Kirk Daley Ehlers

Governors

Leavitt

Framework – Goals

- **Three goals of GLRC**
 - 1. Develop a Great Lakes Restoration and Protection Strategy building on existing collaborative efforts already in place that ‘informs future implementation of programs and funding throughout the region’.**
 - 2. Serve as a forum to address near term regional issues.**
 - 3. Create an oversight forum to coordinate and enhance implementation of the Strategy.**

Issue Area Strategy Teams

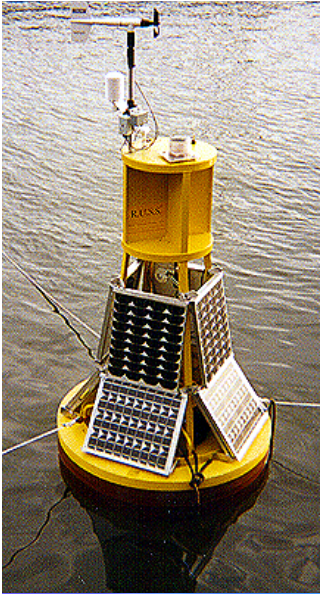
- **Great Lakes Governors' Priorities used as a starting point.**
- **Eight Strategy Teams include:**
 - Aquatic Invasive Species
 - Habitat/Species
 - Coastal Health
 - Areas of Concern
 - Nonpoint Source
 - Toxic Pollutants
 - Indicators and Information
 - Sustainable Development



Issue Area Strategy Teams

Invasive Species Strategy Team

- (i) Addresses Governors' Priority: "Stop the introduction and spread of non-native aquatic invasive species."
- (ii) Issues to be covered include, but are not limited to: ballast water management, National Invasive Species Act/Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act present and future implementation, the Illinois carp barriers and exploration of other potential barriers, rapid response protocols and strategies, prevention and mitigation procedures, outreach and education, and applied research.



Issue Area Strategy Teams

Indicators and Information Strategy Team

- (i) Addresses Governors' Priority: "Standardize and enhance the methods by which information is collected, recorded and shared within the region."
- (ii) Issues to be covered include, but are not limited to: indicators, monitoring, data standards, reporting of environmental information, Great Lakes Integrated Coastal Observing System (GLICOS), Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs), and the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) process. Emphasis will be on strengthening decision-support systems.

How the Strategy Teams Worked

Approximately 1,500 individuals participated:

- **Local, state, and federal governments**
- **Tribal Nations**
- **Academic institutions, non-profit organizations**
- **Business, agriculture and environmental organizations**

Each team drafted a five-page chapter.

Each chapter identified four to five priority recommendations.

Public Comment Process

- Sixty-day public comment period ended September 9th
- Comments were submitted via:
 - GLRC Web Site,
 - Snail mail, or
 - At one of the six Public Meetings

**Great Lakes Regional
Collaboration Strategy
To Restore and Protect
the Great Lakes**



December, 2005



**65 Page Executive
Summary**

**37 Primary
Recommendations**

~500 Page Report

~\$20 B Cost

Sound Information Base and Representative Indicators

- **Better coordinate the collection of critical information regarding the Great Lakes ecosystem and support the U.S. Integrated Earth Observation System (IEOS) and the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) as key components of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS)**
- **Promote the continued development of science-based indicators, including those developed through the SOLEC process**
- **Double funding for Great Lakes research over the next five years**
- **Establish a regional information management infrastructure**
- **Create a Great Lakes communications workgroup to manage scientific and technical information**

**Federal Near-term (52)
Action Items**

**NOAA has lead or Co-lead
on 12 of these**

Great Lakes Federal Interagency Task Force Near Term Actions

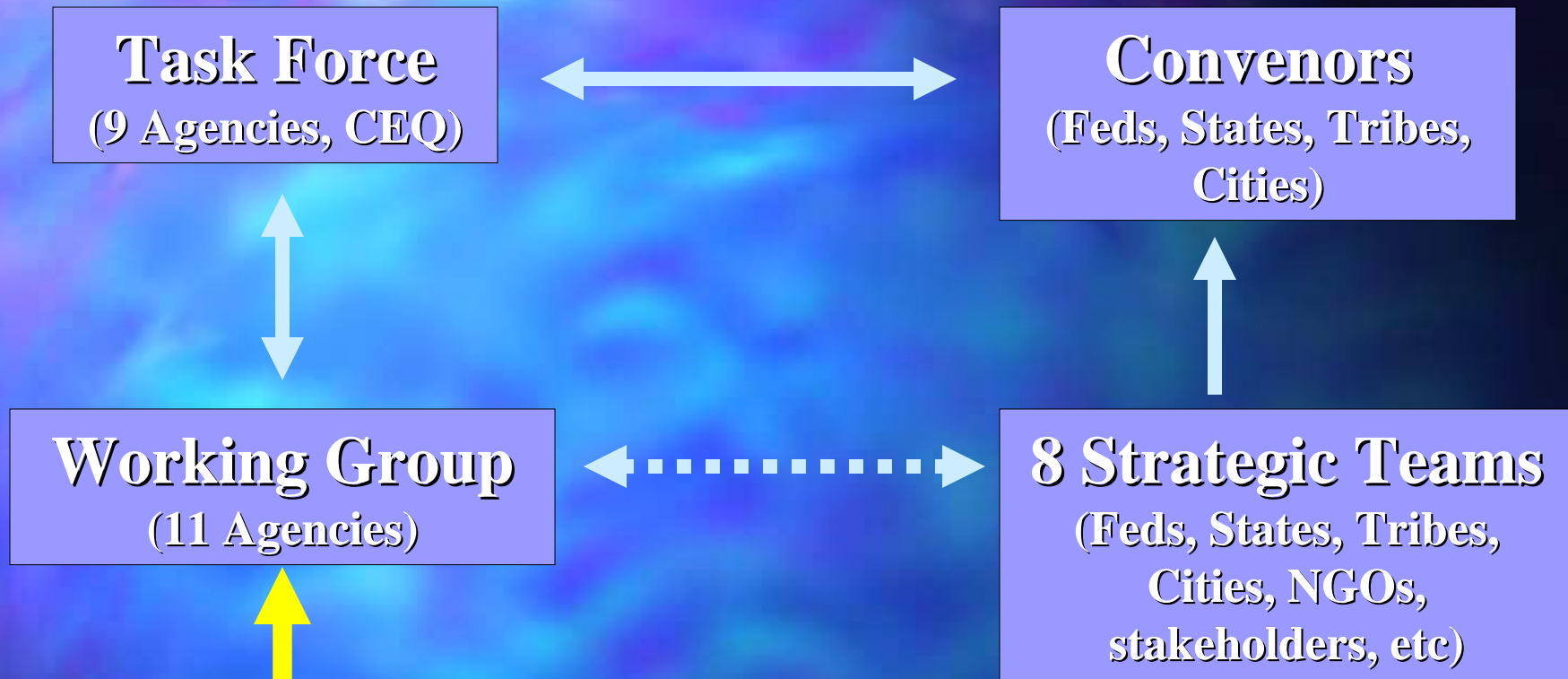
Indicators and Information

- **The Federal Interagency Task Force will review its monitoring programs to ensure effective and efficient gathering and reporting of data. Lead: All**
- **Under the Regional Data Exchange (RDX) initiative, NOAA and other agencies will enhance the collaborative efforts between data managers. Lead: NOAA**
- **Continue to implement the U.S. contribution to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) in the Great Lakes. This activity ties in with an additional recommendation to further implement the Great Lakes Observing System which is a component of GEOSS. Lead: NOAA**

Great Lakes Federal Interagency Task Force Near Term Actions

Indicators and Information

- **NOAA will coordinate existing Great Lakes National Status and Trends monitoring with other agencies. Lead: NOAA**
- **The Council of Great Lakes Research Managers, the International Joint Commission's principal advisor on research programs and research needs, will promote binational coordination and prioritization of research activities as their primary goal, and will implement it in conjunction with the International Joint Commission. Lead: NOAA**



Federal coordination:
Policies, strategies, projects,
priorities for restoration,
protection, research, observing
systems:...

**Outcome-based goals and
measurable results**

Regional Working Group

- EPA
- USFWS
- NPS
- USGS
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Forest Service
- NOAA
- Dept. Housing and Urban Development
- Dept. Transportation
- Coast Guard (Homeland Security)
- Army Core of Engineers

Some Working Group Activities

- CEQ assessment of Federal expenditures by Agency and 8 topics
- Inventory of all interagency activities and assessment of priorities and who has lead, contacts etc (over 200)
- Selected top 5 near-term priorities
- Rapid Response to new Invasive
- Weekly two-hour meetings

Example: Invasive Species Rapid Response



**Snakehead fish in Lake Michigan
October 19-22**

Presidents Executive Order

(iii) Consistent Federal policies for restoration, protection and management

...

...

(vii) Ensure coordinated Federal Scientific and other research

(viii) Ensure coordinated government development and implementation of the Great Lakes portion of the Global Observation System of Systems.

Overall Process

Pros:

- **Established consensus among the feds, states, cities, tribes and congress on**
 - 8 Priority Issues
 - Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Restoration
 - Costs for Great Lakes Restoration
- **Established formal mechanisms for federal collaboration at the Regional (Regional Working group) and National (Federal Task Force)**

Cons:

- **Raised expectations that will not likely be met**
- **Mismatch in timeline between the process endpoint and federal capability to respond to the recommendations.**

NOAA Issues

- Little funding for these regional activities yet, but strong support at the highest level
- Need to assess NOAA responsibilities, roles and leadership within the context of the ecosystem approach relative to other agencies
- Coordination/communication within NOAA and across matrices/goals is critical given that Regional or constituent priorities may not match NOAA Goals or Programs
- How will/can NOAA respond to priorities defined by these types of processes?
- Time delays in the federal budget process

Website with full information

<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/collaboration/taskforce/index.html>

Questions?



**Backup and Informational
Slides**



**Detailed Recommendations
of the Great Lakes Regional
Collaboration**

Aquatic Invasive Species Recommendations

- 1) Ship and barge-mediated introductions and spread of AIS in the Great Lakes should be eliminated, through the immediate promulgation of environmentally protective standards for ballast water, and the implementation of effective ship-board treatments and management measures.**
- 2) Federal, state, and/or local governments must enact measures that ensure the region's canals and waterways are not a vector for AIS, including full federal funding of the Chicago San-Ship Canal barrier and the sea lamprey control program.**
- 3) Federal and state governments must take immediate steps to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS through the trade and potential release of live organisms.**

Aquatic Invasive Species Recommendations

- 4) Establish a Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Integrated Management Program to implement rapid response, control, and management programs and assess the effectiveness of those programs.**
- 5) Federal, state and tribal agencies, academic institutions and other organizations should receive adequate support to conduct and evaluate cost-effective AIS vector-specific outreach and education programs. These programs should focus on behavior change and responsibility of resource users.**

Habitat Conservation and Species Management Recommendations

- 1) Native Fish Communities in Open water/Nearshore Habitats - \$20 million annually**
- 2) Wetlands – \$188.7 million annually**
- 3) Riparian Habitats – Great Lakes River Restoration - \$40 million annually**
- 4) Coastal Shore and Upland Habitats - \$40 million annually**

Near Shore Waters and the Coastal Areas Recommendations

- 1) Eliminate to the extent provided by existing regulation inputs of untreated or inadequately treated human and industrial waste to Great Lakes basin waters through implementation of wet weather programs, including improvements to wastewater treatment systems.**
- 2) Identify indirect pollution sources capable of adversely impacting Great Lakes coastal health and, upon identification, promulgate and enforce regulations, provide public education, promote research, and initiate remediation to reduce the impact of these sources.**

Near Shore Waters and the Coastal Areas Recommendations

- 3) Standardize, test, and implement a risk-based approach to manage recreational water.**
- 4) Protect drinking source water quality.**
- 5) Use the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to improve drinking water infrastructure and support source water protection.**

Areas of Concern Recommendations

- 1) Great Lakes Legacy Act Funding, Amendments, Reauthorization and Guidance**
- 2) AOC Program Capacity**
- 3) Federal-State Collaboration**
- 4) Promote Development of Environmentally-Sound Sediment Treatment and Destruction Technologies, Beneficial Re-Use of Sediments, and Best Available Disposal Options.**

Non Point Source Recommendations

- 1) Between \$77 million and \$188.7 should be provided annually over five years to fund restoration of 550,000 acres of wetlands.**
- 2) \$335 million should be provided to restore 335,000 acres of buffers over five years.**
- 3) \$120 million should be allocated by 2010 to achieve a 40 percent reduction in soil loss in ten selected watersheds.**
- 4) \$106 million in funding should be provided to support the development and implementation of comprehensive nutrient and manure management on livestock farms.**
- 5) \$18 million should be provided annually over five years³¹ to hydrologically improve ten urban watersheds of various sizes.**

Toxic Pollutants Recommendations

- 1) Reduce and virtually eliminate the principal sources of mercury, PCBs, dioxins and furans, pesticides and other toxic substances that threaten the health of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem, through coordinated intergovernmental strategies.**
- 2) Prevent new toxic chemicals from entering the Great Lakes basin: Target production, use and sound disposal of toxic chemicals across the Great Lakes basin through strategic deployment of pollution prevention and waste minimization programs.**
- 3) Institute a comprehensive Great Lakes research, surveillance and forecasting capability to help identify, manage, and regulate chemical threats to the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. A Great Lakes basin-wide coordinated program that incorporates and augments current efforts should be created to better characterize links between PTS sources and exposure. The multiparty program should preferably be housed within an existing program or organization and call upon the combined resources of federal agencies, states, academia, the private sector, and our Canadian neighbors.**

Toxic Pollutants Recommendations

- 4) Protect human health through consistent and easily accessible basin-wide messages on fish consumption and toxic reduction methods and choices.**
- 5) Support efforts to reduce continental and global sources of PTS to the Great Lakes basin.**

Sound Information Base and Representative Indicators Recommendations

- 1) To provide accurate, complete and consistent information, the Great Lakes region must increase and better coordinate the collection of critical information regarding the Great Lakes ecosystem. The Great Lakes Interagency Task Force and other stakeholders need to implement the U.S. contribution to the Integrated Earth Observation System (IEOS) and the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) as part of the Global Earth Observing System of Systems (GEOSS). Monitoring must be better coordinated through the existing Great Lakes management entities, both at a lake-wide and region-wide basis.**
- 2) To meet the information and management needs of Great Lakes restoration activities, the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force should promote the continued development and implementation of science-based indicators, including implementation of indicators developed through the SOLEC process.**

Sound Information Base and Representative Indicators Recommendations

- 3) To support Great Lakes restoration activities with appropriate scientific foresight, planning and assurance of results, the overall federal research budget to the Great Lakes should be doubled over the next five years. In addition, adequate funds should be made available to support a Great Lakes Research Office as authorized in the 1987 Clean Water Act Amendments (33 U.S.C. 1268) to coordinate these research efforts. Finally, for all new appropriations in support of Great Lake' restoration activities, at least 10 percent of these funds should be dedicated toward research to aid planning and assessment.**

Sound Information Base and Representative Indicators Recommendations

- 4) To facilitate easy and accessible information exchange among all regional partners, stakeholders and decision makers and to create a consistent and comprehensive repository of Great Lakes data, the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force and all regional partners should augment the regional information management infrastructure (i.e. establish a network of networks), adopt standardized data management protocols and commit to open data availability**
- 5) To coordinate and manage communication of scientific and technical information, the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force should establish a communications workgroup composed of public affairs specialists from Federal, State, and regional entities and key industries.**

Sustainable Development Recommendations

- 1) Adapt and maintain programs that promote sustainability across all sectors**
- 2) Align governance to enhance sustainable planning and management of resources**
- 3) Build outreach that brands the Great Lakes as an exceptional, healthy, and competitive place to live, work, invest, and play**
- 4) Provide leadership for sustainable development through the implementation of the Strategy recommendations**

**Federal Near-term (52)
Action Items
(Only NOAA – Lead Actions
Listed)**

Great Lakes Federal Interagency Task Force

Near Term Actions

Invasive Species

- The Midwest Natural Resource Group (DOI, EPA, COE, DHS, DOT, USDA, NOAA) will establish a team charged with developing an Action Plan to coordinate and develop inventories mapping, and treatment of terrestrial invasive species for the Great Lakes basin. Lead: NPS
- In FY06, DOT/MARAD and NOAA will support the testing of ship-board ballast water treatment technologies in the Great Lakes aboard a MARAD-owned barge. This will provide a much needed link in the evolution of treatment technologies between lab scale efforts and what can be done shipboard. Lead: DOT
- The Federal Interagency Task Force will explore creating a Rapid Response Subcommittee under the Regional Working Group to serve as a central point of contact for information and activities related to invasive species rapid response efforts. Lead: FWS

Great Lakes Federal Interagency Task Force Near Term Actions

Coastal Health

- **The NOAA Oceans and Human Health program will advance pathogen prediction studies for beach closings and harmful algal blooms forecasting. Lead: NOAA**

Great Lakes Federal Interagency Task Force

Near Term Actions

Toxic Pollutants

- The U.S. and Canada are currently evaluating potential future directions for the Bi-national Toxics Strategy, and are reviewing the Strategy's current implementation schedule. Lead:

Great Lakes Federal Interagency Task Force Near Term Actions

Habitat and Species

- **The Federal Interagency Task Force will review federal wetlands management programs in order to identify possible improved program coordination. Lead: Several Agencies**

Great Lakes Federal Interagency Task Force Near Term Actions

Indicators and Information

- **The Federal Interagency Task Force will review its monitoring programs to ensure effective and efficient gathering and reporting of data. Lead: All**
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Great Lakes Federal Interagency Task Force Near Term Actions

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Great Lakes Federal Interagency Task Force Near Term Actions

Sustainability

- The IATF will review the feasibility of reviewing existing grant, loan and subsidy programs applicable to the Great Lakes basin and incorporate sustainable criteria as appropriate. Lead: All