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**Name of Organization:** Great Lakes Commission

**Type of Organization:** Interstate Agency or Commission

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**Project Title:** Updating AOC Information Online for the Great Lakes Region

**Project Category:** Emerging Issues

**Rank by Organization (if applicable):** 1

**Total Funding Requested (\$):** 50,000 **Project Duration:** 1 Years

**Abstract:**

The Areas of Concern (AOC) website at U.S. EPA GLNPO (<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/>) is visited by a wide array of government personnel, private sector interests, citizen group representatives and others with a role or interest in AOC clean up, associated Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) and Lakewide Management Plans and Lake Forums (LaMPs). Additionally, the AOC web page feature is one of the most popular sites on the Great Lakes Information Network. Although many updates have been made in the last year, there are a large number of new additions to those pages that will benefit users. The Great Lakes Commission proposes to work with public agency and private sector partners to methodically update and expand the individual AOC web pages, make/enhance linkages to LaMPs and Lake Forum initiatives, and create web pages that synthesize and summarize the progress being made in each AOC.

**Geographic Areas Affected by the Project**

**States:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New York     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indiana   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ohio         |

**Lakes:**

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superior | <input type="checkbox"/> Erie                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Huron    | <input type="checkbox"/> Ontario              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Lakes |

**Geographic Initiatives:**

- |   |   |  |   |  |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair |
|---|---|--|---|--|

**Primary Affected Area of Concern:** All AOCs

**Other Affected Areas of Concern:**

***For Habitat Projects Only:***

**Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area:**

**Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:**

**Problem Statement:**

Many updates and additional linkages to AOC material online have been requested by U.S. EPA staff, RAP coordinators, and other stakeholders. Among others, requests have been made for LAMP information, beach closures, and environmental indicators. Information on the Canadian AOCs continues to be updated and, given that the AOC Program is a binational initiative, it is essential that the data and information for all designated areas be as current, consistent and accessible as possible.

In order to increase the utility of these web pages, additional information needs to be collected for specific topical areas. Also, the changing status and progress being made on the RAPs and LaMPs suggests the need for a methodical review and update of U.S. and binational AOC material presently available. Improvements, additions and integrations to the clickable map interface will also allow the user to more readily access these pages within a geographic context.

**Proposed Work Outcome:**

A series of tasks will culminate in an updated and expanded Areas of Concern web site (accessible through the U.S. EPA GLNPO web site), that remains a trusted source for information on the U.S. and binational AOCs and their associated RAPs and LaMPs. The Great Lakes Commission proposes four major tasks to address this challenge: 1) Continued methodical review and updating of U.S. AOC material presently on the U.S. EPA GLNPO web site; 2) Completion of binational web pages; 3) Integration of Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) pages with AOC pages, and 4) Linkage of AOC pages with related information. To achieve the goals outlined above, the Great Lakes Commission proposes the following tasks:

- A. Updating of individual U.S.-based Areas of Concern web pages: In past work, the Commission has compiled and updated web pages for all of the U.S.-based AOCs, except for three binational AOCs. The update process needs to continue. To date, the Commission has made an effort to update each page on an annual basis. The Commission proposes to continue this updating process by working with state RAP coordinators, Public Advisory Councils (PACs), and other knowledgeable sources.
- B. Creation of binational web pages: Currently, only Canadian web pages have been completed for binational AOCs. The Commission has developed drafts for these sites, but further work is necessary to compile information from all relevant sources. The Great Lakes Commission will complete research on the binational AOCs and finalize web pages for the U.S. EPA GLNPO web site.
- C. Integrate Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs) and with AOC web pages: The U.S. EPA currently has separate web pages associated with each of the Great Lakes. The pages for Lakes Erie, Michigan, and Ontario also link to the AOC web pages in those basins. The Commission will develop AOC summary pages for each of the Great Lakes. These pages will represent bridges between LAMP and RAP-related work. Each page will display a regional map with the AOCs indicated, each AOC will be summarized (focusing on beneficial use impairments and progress), and there will be a brief

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discussion about how the LaMP and RAP goals and progress are related. Each summary page will also be linked to the more detailed LaMP and RAP pages, and key contacts for both programs will be listed.

D. Connect AOCs with related information: Many visitors to AOC web pages will not be familiar with the often technical terminology associated with environmental problems and solutions. The Commission will examine the AOC pages and link technical terms or concepts to a pop-up glossary which will link to U.S. EPA and other relevant sites for more detailed information.

**Project Milestones:**

**Dates:**

Project Start	10/2000
Updating U.S.-based AOC web pages	04/2001
Creation of binational web pages	06/2001
Integrate LaMP/AOC web pages	07/2001
Connect AOCs with related information	08/2001
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Project End	09/2001

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Project Addresses Environmental Justice

**If So, Description of How:**

The proposed project will enhance access to Great Lakes Areas of Concern and related issues throughout the Great Lakes Basin. An emphasis will be placed on marketing/publicizing the AOC pages to underserved communities.

Project Addresses Education/Outreach

**If So, Description of How:**

The AOC pages are indexed throughout GLIN, EPA GLNPO pages and Great Lakes Commission pages. We will also link this to GLIN educational work and Great Lakes GIS map components.

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**Project Budget:**

	<b>Federal Share Requested (\$)</b>	<b>Applicant's Share (\$)</b>
<b>Personnel:</b>	26,000	1,400
<b>Fringe:</b>	9,100	490
<b>Travel:</b>	320	0
<b>Equipment:</b>	500	0
<b>Supplies:</b>	100	0
<b>Contracts:</b>	0	0
<b>Construction:</b>	0	0
<b>Other:</b>	1,100	0
<b>Total Direct Costs:</b>	37,120	1,890
<b>Indirect Costs:</b>	12,880	742
<b>Total:</b>	50,000	2,632
<b>Projected Income:</b>	0	0

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**Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):**

No other sources of funding are being sought for this project. The Commission has considerable expertise – and all necessary computer hardware/software – to successfully complete the project. This will keep cost to a minimum for this ambitious project.

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**Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:**

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This project requires the involvement and interaction of Great Lakes water quality professionals at all levels of government. The Great Lakes Commission will solicit input from, and interact closely with RAP coordinators for all of the U.S. AOCs, as well as with other EPA and state personnel working on this initiative. The RAP coordinators work closely with the Public Advisory Councils at the local level and are well placed to receive input and advice at the local level.