Draft Workgroup Strategic Plan

(Updated October 2001)

Workgroup Name: Wetlands Network

Objectives/Tasks	Responsibility	Timeline	Status	Products	Notes
1. Establish coordinated monitoring network for Lake Michigan wetlands.				[link all products when completed]	
1.1 Identify and approve prioritized list of wetland indicators and associated metrics gleaned from the "Big Three" projects: ? Great Lakes Wetlands Conssortium (GLWC) ? Regional Environmental Assessment and Monitoring Project (R-EMAP) ? STAR Project	Full group	Now through 2004 (end of STAR project)	The following indicators are currently being tested: GLWC: SOLEC flora/fauna, physical + landscape indicators R-EMAP: 3 response indicators for inland surface waters STAR - 4 SOLEC wetland plant indicators	Detailed list of priority wetlands indicators.	List should include metrics or parameters and be prioritized by importance to basinwide management.
1.2 Integrate key GLWC objectives/outcomes (See Status column)	Full group/rep. from GLWC	Varies by objectives/ tasks - through November 2003	(see corresponding product) 1) Testing indicators to assess wetland condition 2) Initiating long-term monitoring program 3) Establishing scientific support for monitoring 4) Developing publicly accessible international database 5) Developing leadership to implement long-term program 6) Establishing a network of funders/agencies to institutionalize monitoring 7) Developing consensus on coastal wetlands sites	(corresponds w/ status) 1) Will build on existing SOLEC indicators and develop new ones 2) A scientifically-based monitoring program for coastal wetlands 3) Seed funding for scientific research and support for monitoring 4) Integration of coastal wetlands data into GLIN and other websites 5) Ongoing Project Management Team 6) Network of Funders 7) Integration of site-specific studies with basin-wide approach	Overall Mission: To develop an implementable and sustainable monitoring plan, addressing SOLEC indicators.

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1.3 Integrate key R-EMAP objectives/ outcomes (See Status column)	Full group/rep. from R-EMAP	Varies by objectives/ tasks - through June 2002	(see corresponding product) 1) Developing indices of biological integrity for biological communities of the Great Lakes coastal wetlands 2) Evaluating the differences in biological community expectations due to spatial heterogenity of coastal wetlands 3) Determining whether methods for biological integrity assessments in the Great Lakes can be applied across political boundaries 4) Assessing the current condition of biological integrity of the near-shore coastal resources of the Great Lakes 5) Determining if surface water indicators are acceptable and adequate for coastal wetland resource types	(corresponds w/ status) 1) Multimetric indices for plant, macroinvertebrate, and fish communities 2) Evaluation of the differences among lakes and regions of the Great Lakes 3) Comparative and consistent reference condition expectations across a large region for management decisioins 4) Percentage of each lake's shoreline that is impaired. Estimates of lake quality for States' 305(b) reports and for SOLEC. 5) Evaluation of EMAP indicators for each lake type in Region 5.	Overall Mission: Part of a national project to monitor environmental variables using generalized methodologies.
1.4 Integrate key STAR objectives/ outcomes (See Status column)	Full group/rep. from STAR	Varies by objectives/ tasks - through September 2004	(see corresponding product) 1) Identifying environmental indicators 2) Testing these indicators with a combination of existing data and field data 3) Recommending a suite of hierarchically structured indicators <u>Under the Wetlands Subproposal</u>, the following SOLEC plant indicators are being tested: 1) Coastal wetland area by type 2) Gain in restored coastal wetland are a by type 3) Presence, absence and expansion of invasive plants 4) Habitat adjacent to coastal wetlands	(corresponds w/ status) 1) Will define the condition, integrity, and change of ecosystems within the basin 2) Will link stressors of the basin with environmental responses 3) Will guide managers toward informed management decisions	Overall mission: To test effectiveness of SOLEC and new coastal indicators (not limited to wetlands). This project is an omnibus proposal which includes the overall framework that links the threats, pressure indicators, and state indicators for the ecosystems of the Great Lakes basin. These indicators are divided into the following components, each represented with supporting subproposals: 1) birds and amphibians, 2) contaminants, 3) diatoms and water quality, 4) fish and macroinvertebrates, and **5) wetlands**.

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1.5 Compile list of participating agencies and individuals	Participating individuals	Initial list 11/01; ongoing updates	Prospective list generated. Details and confirmation needed.	Membership contact list.	Should ultimately include individuals with knowledge of monitoring procedures and authority to enforce and/or change them.
1.6					
2. Determine necessary data collection protocols					
2.1 Establish methodological standards	Indicator leaders	Variable; first standards by 1/02	Several QA/QC protocols are available. Need for review. Also need for reporting consistency.	Minimum methodology standards for indicators.	May utilize USEPA Region 5's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for sampling effectiveness.
2.2 Implement metadata standards	Metadata team	Initial standards by 1/02	Several metadata standards exist. Need to be examined for applicability.	Approved basinwide metadata standards	Network member organizations need to agree to adopt standards.
2.3 Establish site selection procedures and data collection timetables	Indicator teams	Procedures for initial indicators by 1/02	No coordinated procedures established or timetables established, however low-impact sites are generally preferred for control purposes.	Coordinated data collection plans for each indicator.	Site selection should be flexible to meet member organization goals.
2.4					
3. Establish data sharing protocols					
3.1 Incorporate standard metadata into relevant data sets.	Network members	Spring/ Summer 2002 field season	No assessment of metadata compliance procedures.	Data sets with greater sharabililty.	
3.2 Establish real or virtual shared database of monitoring data	Possibly shared bt/w USEPA Region 5, GLC, and a university.	2003	The “Big Three” efforts are underway.	A shared database of monitoring data.	
3.3					
4. Develop a coordinated funding plan	Representative participants from the “Big Three” and the GLC.	2003	No discussions have yet to take place, however this is one of the objectives of the GLWC project.	Funding plan to support ongoing Great Lakes coastal wetlands monitoring.	