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# ***Promoting a Regional Approach to RAP Implementation***

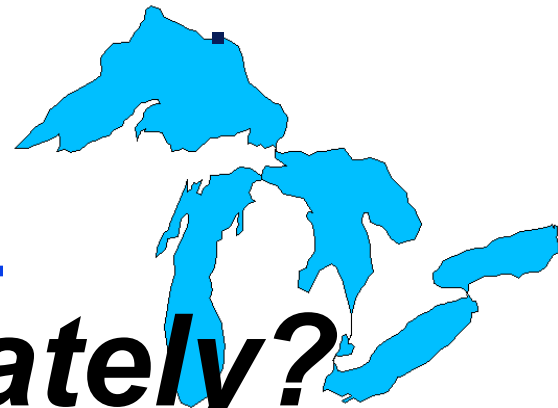
***Mark Elster, USEPA-GLNPO***

***June 6-7, 2003***

***Romulus, MI***







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***Delist any AOCs lately?***

***2 to Nothing***

***.5 for Recovery Stage?***



# Goals of Today's Presentation

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- **Briefly discuss the reinvigoration of the U.S. AOC program.**
- **Highlight some of the key actions we have taken to date.**
- **Conclude with our goals for the program.**
- **Leave time to hear from you.**
- **Stretch goal – entertain and inform.**



# Reinvigorating the AOC Program

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**In 2002, the General Accounting Office (GAO) reviewed the U.S. AOC Program and made recommendations to EPA regarding the oversight of the Program:**

**Recommendation 1: The EPA Administrator should clarify which office within EPA is responsible for ensuring RAP implementation.**



# Reinvigorating the AOC Program

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**Recommendation 2: The EPA Administrator identify the actions, time periods, and resources needed to help EPA fulfill its RAP oversight responsibilities.**

**In response, EPA is implementing a *systematic approach* to improve the delivery of the RAP Program, including the following steps:**



# Reinvigorating the AOC Program

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- EPA's management and funding for the AOC program has changed.
- R5 EPA responsibility for this program is now in the Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO).
- EPA Regions 2 and 3 retain more direct control over their respective AOCs.



# Reinvigorating the AOC Program

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**Coordination is largely done and managed within an integrated Lakewide Management Plan/AOC structure:**

**Lake Superior Basin AOCs: Elizabeth LaPlante**

**Lake Michigan Basin AOCs: Judy Beck**

**Lake Huron Basin AOCs: James Schardt**

**Lake Erie Basin AOCs: Daniel O'Riordan/Diane Hakowski**

**Lake Ontario AOCs: Barbara Belasco**

**GLNPO staff retain an overall tracking/cross-regional coordinative function.**



# Reinvigorating the AOC Program

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- ◆ EPA is visiting each State to discuss potential sediment projects which can be implemented under Great Lakes Legacy Act authorities (to be discussed).
- ◆ EPA is sponsoring multiple workshops to help AOCs set delisting targets for beneficial use impairments. We hope to fund at least 2 more over the course of the next year to address all 14 beneficial use impairments. More on this later.



# Reinvigorating the AOC Program

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- ◆ EPA is creating definitive boundary maps for all 31 U.S. AOCs (GIS-based) so we can identify projects and sites which fall within these boundaries.
- ◆ This will help target resources and define future needs.
- ◆ This should be completed and made available on EPA's AOC website by June of this year.



# FUNDING FOR AND COORDINATION WITH THE STATES

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- ◆ **Funding responsibility within R5 has also moved to GLNPO. Funds previously going to States for positions were incorporated into GLNPO's annual Funding Guidance.**
- ◆ **This was consistent with GLNPO policy of funding projects, but was also driven by the new Agency Competition Policy for grants, effective for awards issued after August 31, 2002.**



# FUNDING FOR AND COORDINATION WITH THE STATES

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**In essence, EPA has taken money in the account previously used by Region 5 Water Division for RAPs and LaMPs, formally known as Coastal Environmental Management (CEM) funds, and has put it into GLNPO's Funding Guidance as a Specific Request for Proposals to support Development and Implementation of LaMPs and RAPs.**



# FUNDING FOR AND COORDINATION WITH THE STATES

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- ◆ Focus now is intended to be the work that was accomplished by the positions, rather than the positions themselves.
- ◆ Targeting \$80,000 for one project to coordinate with representatives from all of the U.S. AOCs (both domestic and binational, and to the extent practical, involve Canadian RAP practitioners) to facilitate RAP implementation and information exchange related to topics of common interest.



# FUNDING FOR AND COORDINATION WITH THE STATES

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- ◆ **At a minimum, the recipient will sponsor at least two workshops (similar to this one) which focus on the development of delisting targets for beneficial use impairments, actions to achieve these targets, and the monitoring required to ensure these targets have been met.**
- ◆ **We will be asking the Great Lakes Commission to submit a full proposal for this project.**



# Federal RAP Liaisons

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- ◆ **EPA is stressing the importance of the role of the Federal RAP Liaisons in helping to delist the AOCs.**
- ◆ **EPA considers it to be essential that there be a federal presence at all U.S. AOCs. Therefore...**



# Federal RAP Liaisons

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- ◆ **We have assigned federal RAP Liaisons to all 31 U.S. AOCs (list included in materials).**
- ◆ **We are trying to realign our internal programs to be more responsive to AOC needs.**
- ◆ **For example, we have assigned Superfund staff to those AOCs which are chiefly and/or severely impacted by Superfund sites. Superfund staff can then consider AOC delisting targets as they design remedies.**



# Federal RAP Liaisons

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Two tasks will be of primary import to the Liaisons, in concert with State and local RAP leads, as they take on their new roles:

- ◆ Clearly identifying what each AOC needs to achieve real progress towards recovery and delisting (precise definition of needs on a project by project basis, including resources, barriers, responsible party, etc.); and then
- ◆ Helping GLNPO group U.S. AOCs by how close they are to restoring beneficial uses, asking to be designated as being in Recovery Stage, and/or being formally delisted.



# Goals for U.S. AOC Program

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- ◆ **Meet Great Lakes Strategy Goal to Delist 3 AOCs by 2005; 10 by 2010.**
- ◆ **Using Legacy Act to accelerate restoration**
- ◆ **Develop Delisting Targets for each BUI in all 31 AOCs**
- ◆ **Work more closely with State and Local Groups to Design and Implement Solutions**



# Goals for U.S. AOC Program

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- ◆ **Continue Discussion in the Fed-State EPA Workgroup on AOC-related issues, such as post remediation monitoring needs.**
- ◆ **Proposed legislation (S. 1116: Great Lakes Water Quality Indicators and Monitoring Act – Sens. Levin, DeWine, Stabenow, Voinovich) may offer some opportunities.**
- ◆ **Continue to use AOC Delisting Principles and Guidelines as a Lever to Achieve Progress**



# SUMMARY

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- **EPA is committed to the reinvigoration of the RAP Program.**
- **We want to meet directly with each State to:**
  - **identify *very detailed* needs;**
  - **honestly assess the likelihood of a status change for each AOC; and**
  - **determine the willingness and resources needed to move the RAPs forward.**
- **Do better, do more, and do it together.**



# TRUE MEASURE OF SUCCESS

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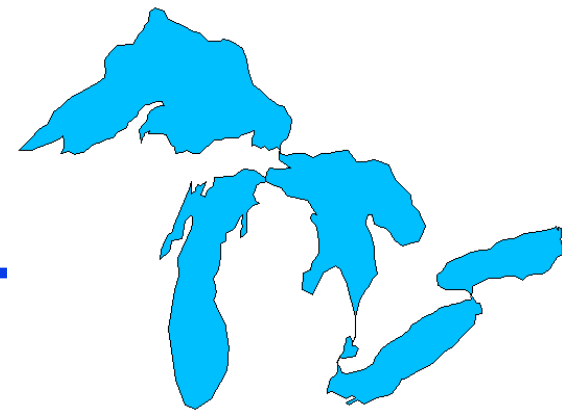


***“I can’t wait for Congress, GAO and the IJC to ask EPA about the progress we have made with our partners towards restoring the U.S. Areas of Concern!!!”***



# Contact Information

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