

# **Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Monitoring Plan: Application to Monitoring Lake Ontario Coastal Wetlands**

**Don Uzarski  
Central Michigan University**

GLCWC Program Manager – J. Schneider and K. Rodriguez (US EPA GLNPO)  
GLCWC Facilitator – J. Hummer and R. Lawson (GLC)

# Presentation Outline

- Introduce Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium
  - **Developed Monitoring Plan over last 7 Years**
- Briefly Discuss Protocols For:
  - **Statistical Design** D.G. Uzarski & S. Otieno
  - **Covariates** D.G. Uzarski, T.M. Burton, & J.J.H. Ciborowski
  - **Invertebrates** D.G. Uzarski, T.M. Burton, J.C. Brazner, & Jan J.H. Ciborowski
  - **Fish** D.G. Uzarski, T.M. Burton, J.C. Brazner, & J.J.H. Ciborowski
  - **Plants** D.A. Albert
  - **Birds** G.P. Grabas, T.L. Crewe, & S.T. A. Timmermans
  - **Amphibians** S.T. A. Timmermans, T.L. Crewe, & G.P. Grabas
  - **Landscape** L.L. Bourgeau-Chavez, R.D. Lopez, A. Trebitz, T. Hollenhorst, G.E. Host, B. Huberty, R.L. Gauthier, & J. Hummer
  - **Cost** M. Meixler
- See Also
  - **Data Management System** S. Eddy & R. D. Garcia
  - **Partnerships for Implementation** T.L. Collin, J. Hummer, K. Holmes, & R. W. Archer

# About the Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium

- GLNPO RFP for \$1.2 million (+600K Supplemental) in 2000
  - In response to SOLEC 96' and 98'
    - Indicators of ecosystem health
  - Develop **Bi-national Standardized Monitoring Program** Based on SOLEC Indicators
    - Few, if any, SOLEC indicators were developed

# The Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium

- 2000 Consortium was formed
- Joint facilitation GLC and GLNPO
  - 150 + Participants
    - 50 organizations (Federal, State/Provincial, Academic, NGOs)
- 2000 Consortium put out an RFP
  - **Develop and evaluate metrics** and protocols for measuring ecosystem health

# The Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium

- Development and Evaluation Process had to Consider:
  - Cost
  - Measurability
  - Basin wide applicability
  - Data availability
  - Sensitivity to change
  - Endpoint levels
  - Statistical approach.
- Six proposals were selected by peer review.

# The Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium

- Six proposals
- Conducted Pilot Studies 2002
  - Bain et al. (Ontario)
  - de Szalay et al. (Erie)
  - Ingram et al. (Ontario)
  - Timmermans et al. (Erie)
  - Uzarski et al. (Michigan & Huron)
  - Wilcox et al. (Michigan)

# The Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium

- Six proposals
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    - Timmermans et al. (Erie)
    - Uzarski et al. (Michigan & Huron)
    - Wilcox et al. (Michigan)
- Combined data  
+ Uzarski et al. Superior data

# The Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium

- During the Metric Development Phase
  - **Parallel project** with different goals
    - Great Lakes Environmental Indicators (GLEI) group
- GLEI goal:
  - To develop an integrated set of **environmental indicators** that can be used to assess the condition of the **coastal margins** of all five Great Lakes.

# The Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium

- 2007 Duluth, MN- Consortium and GLEI
  - Ensure the best possible product
- Still considering
  - Cost
  - Measurability
  - Basin wide applicability
  - Data availability
  - Sensitivity to change
  - Endpoint levels
  - Statistical approach
  - ...and specific to wetlands

# The Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium

- Consortium Submitted Final Product to US EPA March 2008.
- <http://www.glc.org/wetlands/>

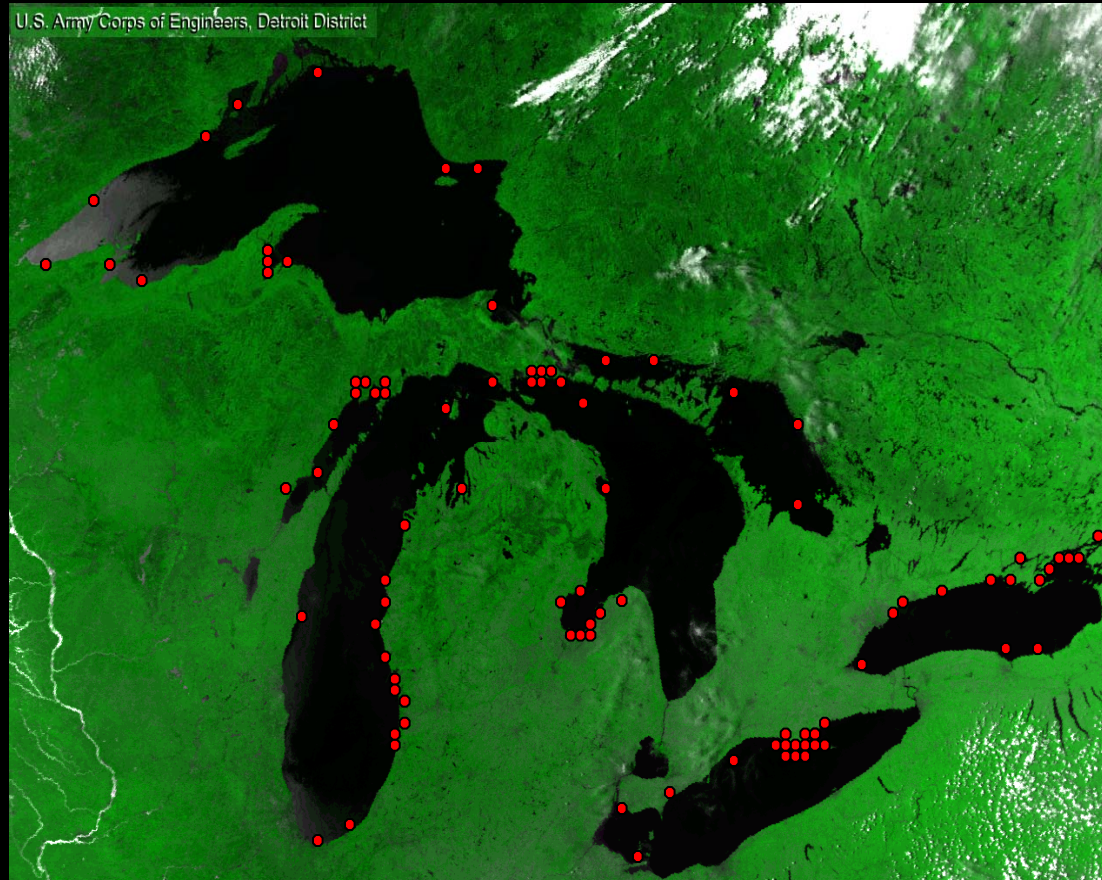
# Statistical Design

Urquhart, N. S., S.G. Paulsen, and D.P. Larsen. 1998. Monitoring for policy-relevant regional trends over time. *Ecological Applications* 8(2): 246-257.

- Urquhart et al. evaluates designs
  - maximize efficiency in detecting both
    - Status
    - Trends
- Status and Trends are **conflicting goals**

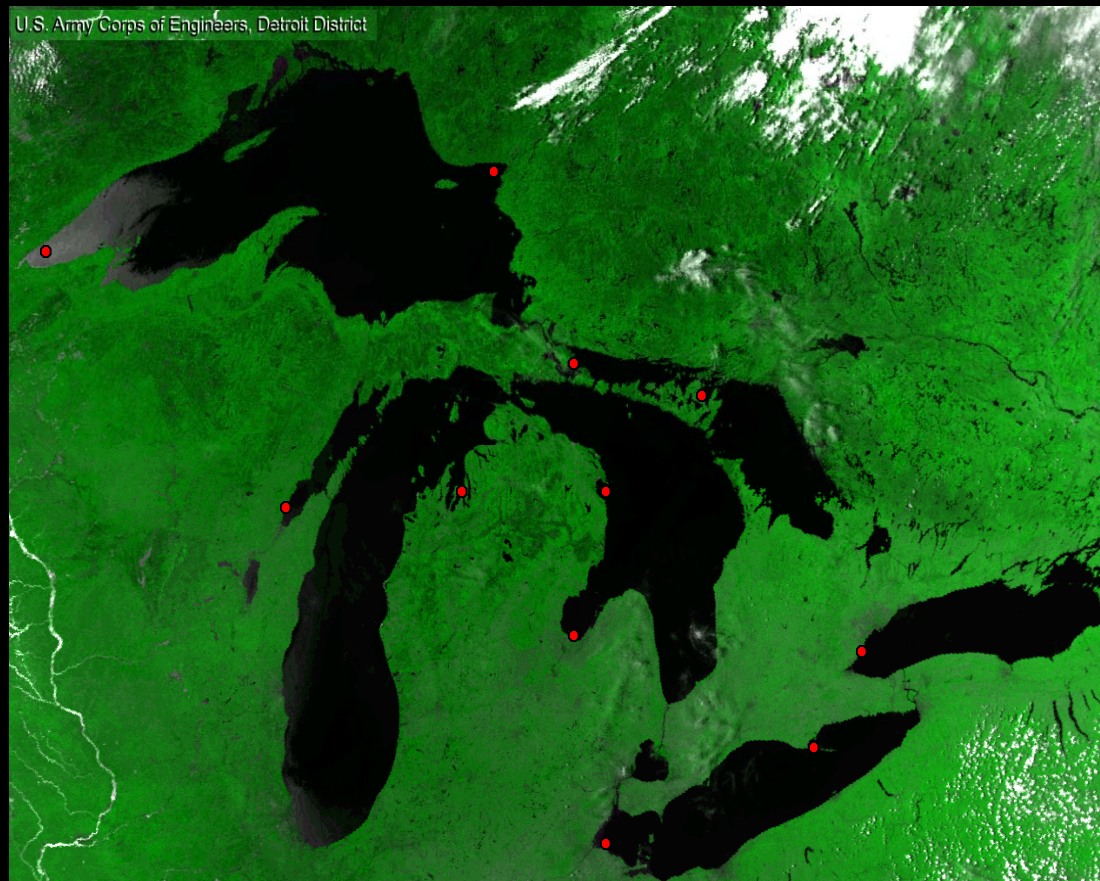
# Statistical Design

- Status = Capture Spatial Variance
- What is the status or health of (all) GL wetlands?



# Statistical Design

- Trends = Capture Temporal Variance
- How is GL wetland health changing over time?
- Sample fewer sites, repeatedly



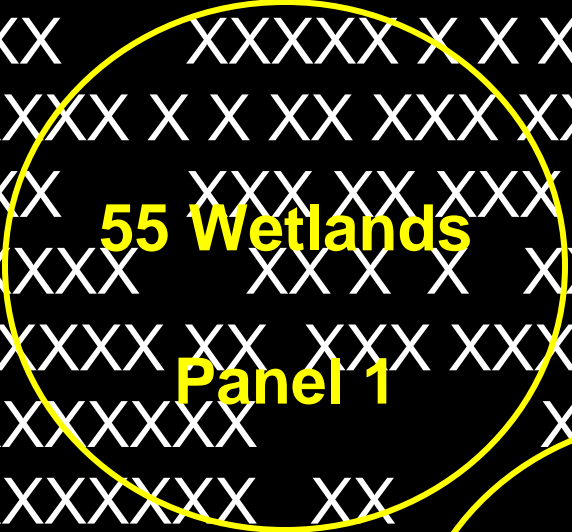
Urquhart, N. S., S.G. Paulsen, and D.P. Larsen. 1998. Monitoring for policy-relevant regional trends over time. *Ecological Applications* 8(2): 246-257.

- Compared 4 designs
- Assume resources to sample 60 sites/yr
  - #1 – Select 60 sites to sample every year
  - #2 – Select 60 new sites to sample every year
  - #3 – Select 4 sets of 50 sites and 1 set of 10
    - Sample 1 of the 4 sets of 50 every year
    - Sample 1 set of 10 every year
  - #4 ...

PANEL	SIZE	TIME PERIODS (=YEARS)												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	...
DESIGN 1 = SAME SITES (= LAKES)														
1	60	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	...
DESIGN 2 = NEW SITES (= LAKES)														
1	60	X												
2	60		X											
3	60			X										
4	60				X									
5	60					X								
6	60						X							
7	60							X						
8	60								X					
9	60									X				
10	60										X			
11	60											X		
12	60												X	
...	...													...
DESIGN 3 = AUGMENTED SERIALLY ALTERNATING														
1	50	X				X				X				...
2	50		X				X				X			...
3	50			X				X				X		...
4	50				X				X				X	...
COMMON	10	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DESIGN 4 = PARTIALLY AUGMENTED SERIALLY ALTERNATING														
1	35	X				X				X				...
2	35		X				X				X			...
3	35			X				X				X		...
4	40				X				X				X	...
1A	5	X	X			X				X				...
2A	5		X	X			X				X			...
...	...													...
1B	5	X				X	X			X				...
...	...													...
1C	5	X				X				X	X			...
...	...													...

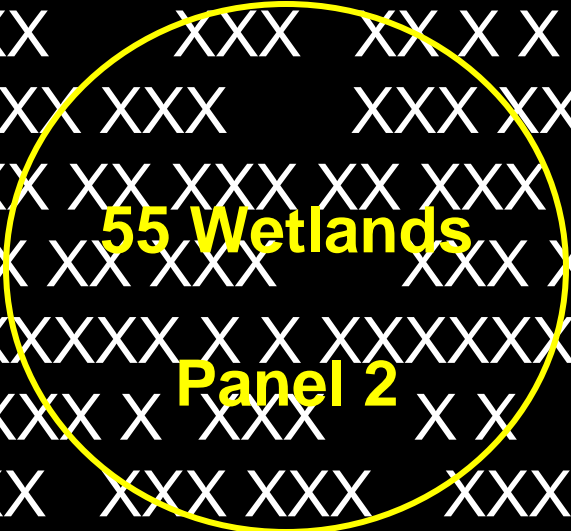
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**55 Wetlands**

**Panel 1**



**55 Wetlands**

**Panel 2**



**55 Wetlands**

**Panel 3**



**55 Wetlands**

**Panel 4**

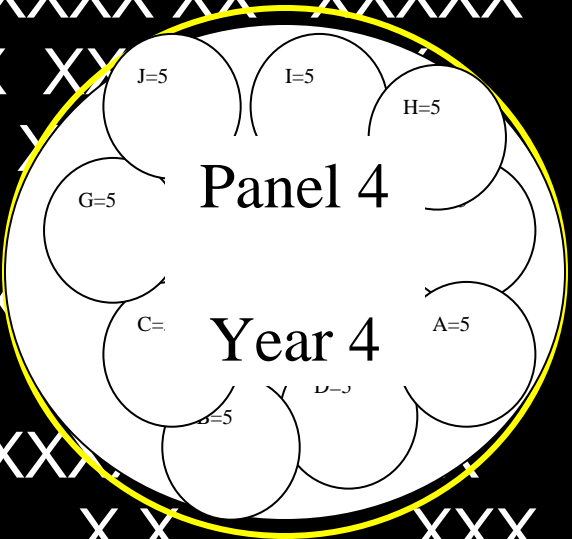
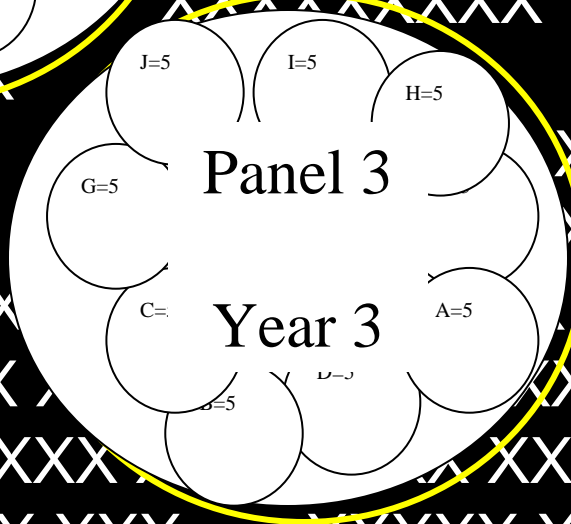
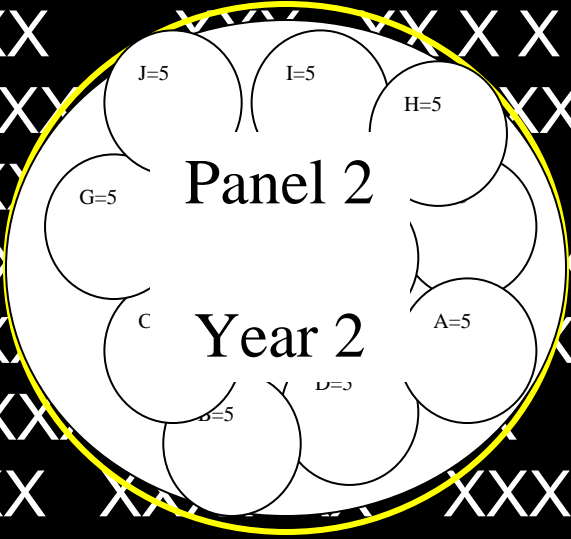
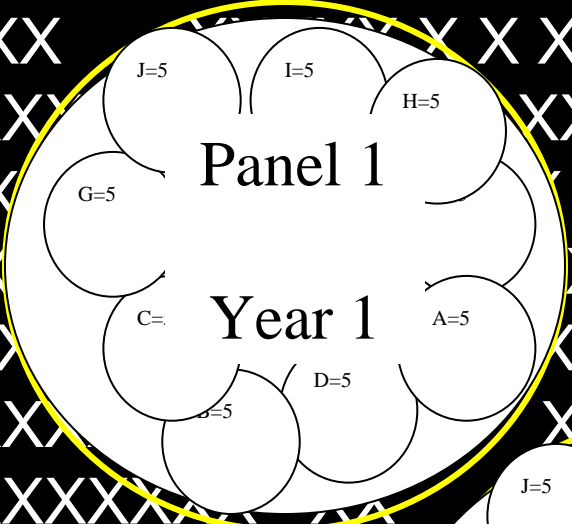


**Design 4 - Partially Augmented Serially Alternating**

1-4 = Panels

A-J = Sub-Panels

	# OF SITES	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	YEAR 12
1	35	X				X				X			
2	35		X				X				X		
3	35			X				X				X	
4	40				X				X				X
1A	5	X	X			X				X			
2A	5		X	X			X				X		
3A	5			X	X			X				X	
4A	5				X	X			X				X
1B	5	X				X	X			X			
2B	5		X				X	X			X		
3B	5			X				X	X			X	
4B	5				X				X	X			X
1C	5	X				X				X	X		
2C	5		X				X				X	X	
3C	5			X				X				X	X
4C	5				X				X				X
1D	5	X				X				X			
2D	5		X				X				X		
3D	5			X				X				X	



**Design 4 - Partially Augmented Serially Alternating**

1-4 = Panels

A-J = Sub-Panels

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1	35	X				X				X			
2	35		X				X				X		
3	35			X				X				X	
4	40				X				X				X
1A	5	X	X			X				X			
2A	5		X	X			X				X		
3A	5			X	X			X				X	
4A	5				X	X			X				X
1B	5	X				X	X			X			
2B	5		X				X	X			X		
3B	5			X				X	X			X	
4B	5				X				X	X			X
1C	5	X				X				X	X		
2C	5		X				X				X	X	
3C	5			X				X				X	X
4C	5				X				X				X
1D	5	X				X				X			
2D	5		X				X				X		
3D	5			X				X				X	

- Revisits

- Year 2 revisit sub-panel 1A
- Year 3 revisit sub-panel 2A
- Year 4 revisit sub-panel 3A
- etc.

# Chosen Design

- Randomly Selecting Wetlands to Sample
  - Re-sample Subset Two Consecutive Years
- Stratify by Region by Lake
- Design Superior to Others
  - Good Estimate of Variation in **Wetland x Year Interaction**.
  - Eventually Sample **Many Different Sites**
  - **Less Impact on Wetland** from Over Sampling
    - Sampling Year after Year = Disturbance

# Covariates – Future Analyses



## • Chemical / Physical

- SRP,  $\text{NH}_4$ ,  $\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_3$ ,  
 $\text{SO}_4$ , Cl, DO

- Temperature

- Turbidity

- Chlorophyll

- Sp. Conductance.

- pH

- Alkalinity

- Redox Potential

## • Vegetation

- Vegetation type

- Stem density

## • Sediment

- Organic (muck)  
depth

- Particle size

- Organic content

## • Flora/Fauna

- Plants

- Invertebrates

- Fish

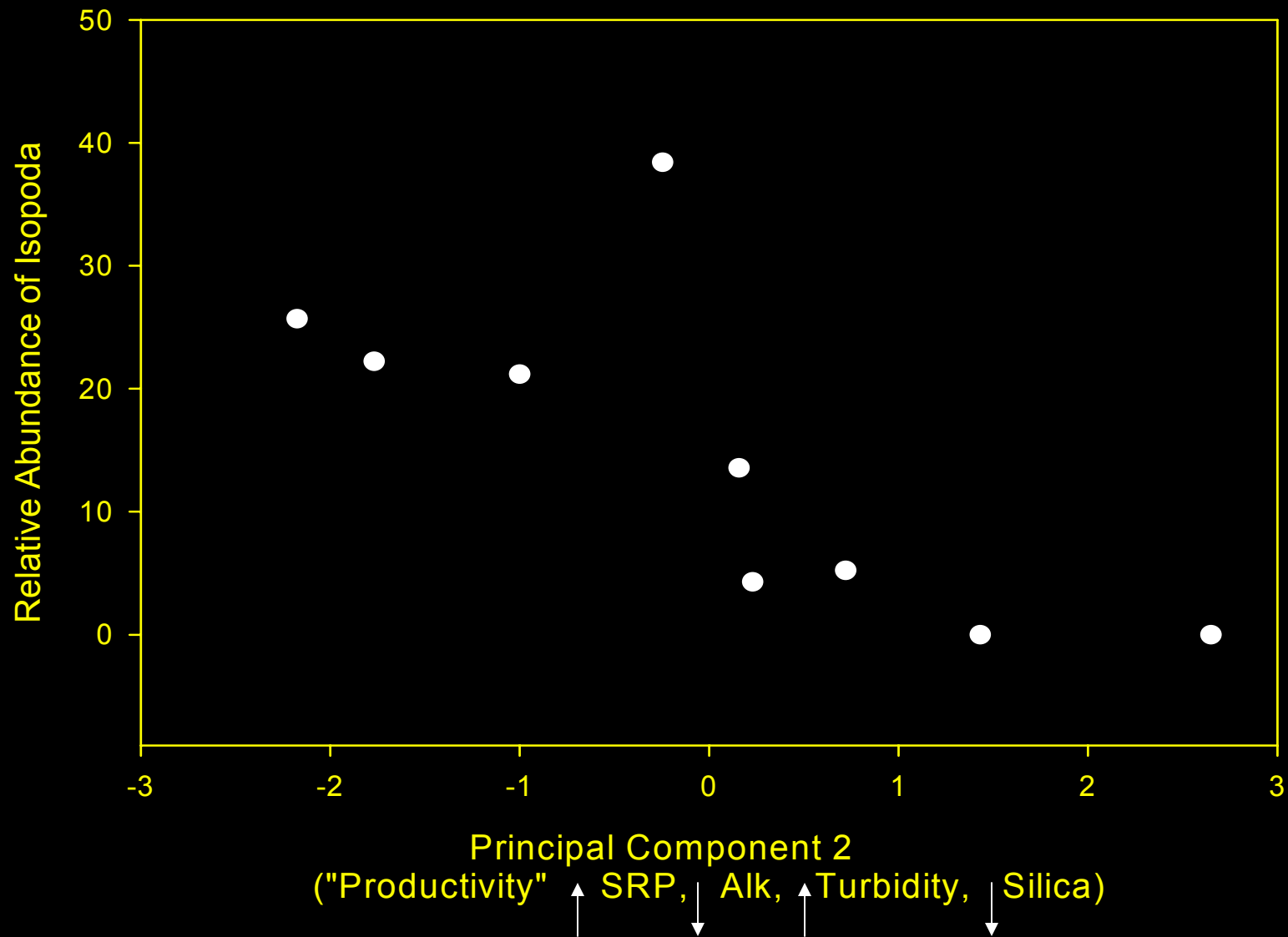
- Etc.

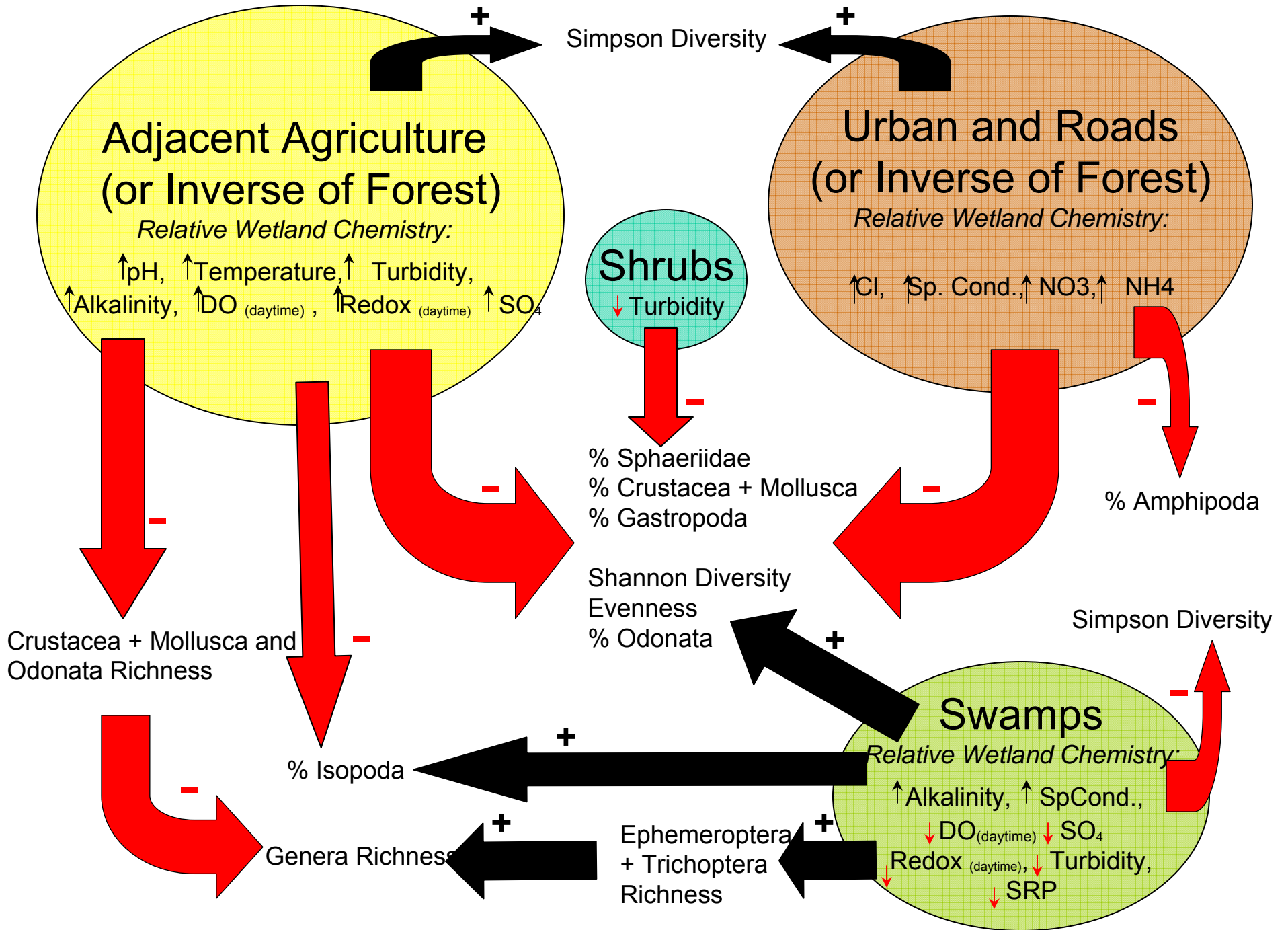
# Example of IBI Development (use of covariates)

- Combine covariates using multivariate analyses.
- Essentially taking 18 dimensions (or variables)
  - Combining them into 1 or 2 dimensions
- Relate biology to chemical/physical/land use
- Establish a predictive model
  - Use to develop IBI



## Relative abundance of Isopoda vs. Principal Component 2 (Pearson correlation $r = -0.734$ , $p = 0.024$ )



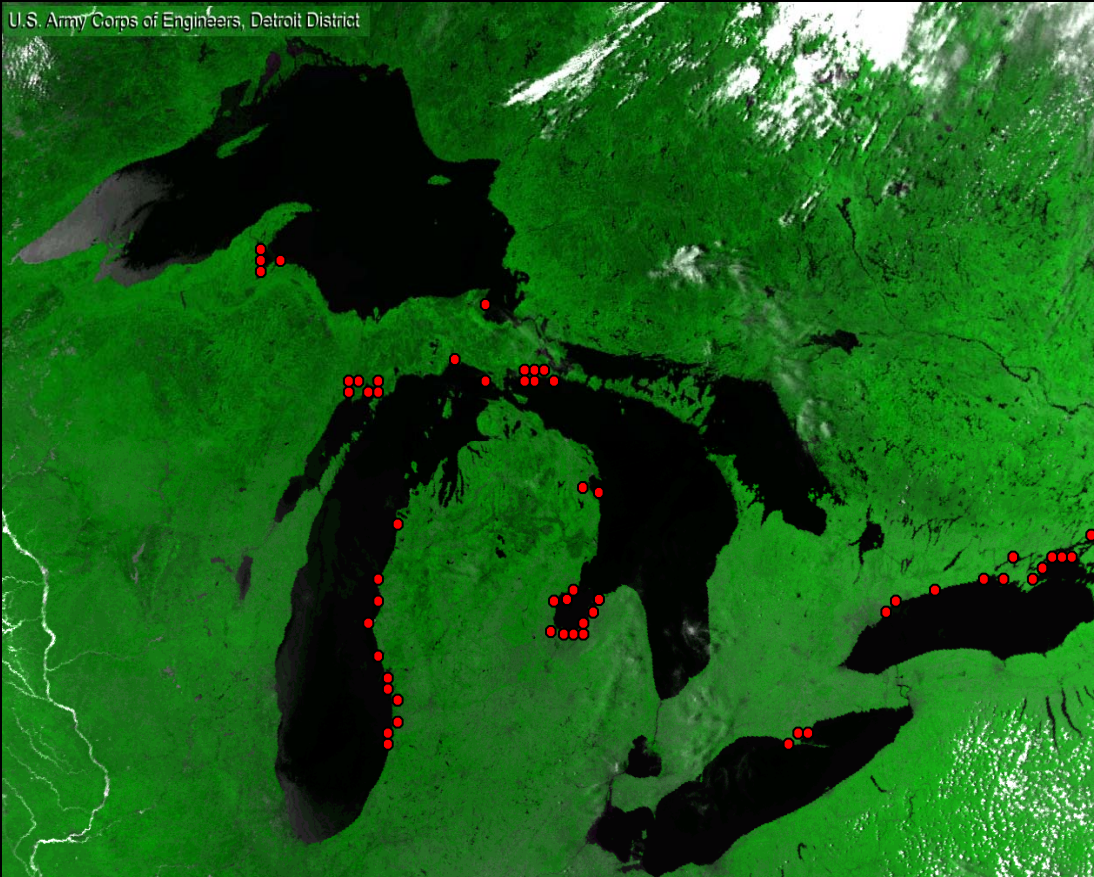


# Macroinvertebrates



- Identify inundated monodominant vegetation zones.
- 3 replicates from each zone.
  - Use a dip net (0.5 mm mesh).
  - Field pick 150 organisms per replicate
    - Timed count (catch per unit effort)
- Identify to LOTU

# Invertebrate IBI Tested Extensively



- 1997 – 2002  
(fringing wetlands)
- From high water levels to near record lows.
- Other investigators have also tested the IBI



# IBI for Fringing Wetlands

## Metrics used in each plant zone

1. Odonata richness
2. % Odonata
3. Crustacea + Mollusca richness
4. Total Genera richness
5. % Gastropoda
6. % Sphaeriidae
7. Total taxa richness
8. Evenness
9. Shannon diversity index:
10. Simpson index:

## Additional Metrics Specific to plant zones



### Inner Schoenoplectus Zone :

11. Ephemeroptera + Trichoptera richness
12. % Crustacea + Mollusca
13. Relative abundance Isopoda
14. Relative abundance Amphipoda (Increases with intermediate disturbance)

### Outer Schoenoplectus Zone :

11. Total number of families
12. % Crustacea plus Mollusca



## Category Scores

- **Extremely Degraded:** (0 to 15% of possible score)
- **Degraded:** (>15 to 30% of possible score)
- **Moderately Degraded:** (>30 to 50% of possible score)
- **Moderately Impacted:** (>50 to 70% of possible score)
- **Mildly Impacted:** (>70% to 85% of possible score)
- **Reference Conditions:** (>85 to 100% of possible score)



# IBI Development and Testing

- Published in Peer Reviewed Journals:

Burton T.M., D.G. Uzarski, J.P. Gathman, J.A. Genet, B.E. Keas and C.A. Stricker. 1999. The development of an index of biotic integrity for Great Lakes coastal wetlands of Lake Huron. *Wetlands*. 19(4): 869-882.

**Uzarski**, D.G., T.M. Burton and J.A. Genet. 2004. Validation and performance of an invertebrate index of biotic integrity for Lakes Huron and Michigan fringing wetlands during a period of lake level decline. *Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management*. 7(2): 269-288.



# Alternative Protocols for Invertebrates

- Using either **Activity Traps** or **Artificial Substrates**.
  - No established IBIs for these protocols
  - Highly Recommend Dip-Net Protocol

# Fish



- 3 Fyke nets/zone (4.8 mm mesh) for 1 net-night

- Sampled all major inundated plant zones.





# IBI Development

- Published in Peer Reviewed Journal:

Uzarski, D.G., T.M. Burton, M.J. Cooper, J. Ingram, and S. Timmermans. 2005. Fish Habitat Use Within and Across Wetland Classes in Coastal Wetlands of the Five Great Lakes: Development of a Fish Based Index of Biotic Integrity. *Journal of Great Lakes Research* 31(supplement 1): 171-187.

## Fish Metrics - *Schoenoplectus* Zone:

1. Mean catch per net-night:  
    <10 score = 0                      10-30 score = 3                      >30 score = 5
2. Total richness:  
    <5 score = 0                      5 to <10 score = 3                      10 to 14 score = 5                      >14 score = 7
3. Percent non-native richness:  
    >12% score = 0                      7 to 12% score = 3                      <7% score = 5
4. Percent omnivore abundance:  
    >70% score = 0                      50 to 70% score = 3                      <50% score = 5
5. Percent piscivore richness:  
    <15% score = 0                      15 to 25% score = 3                      >25% score = 5
6. Percent insectivore abundance:  
    <20% score = 0                      20-30% score = 3                      >30% score = 5
7. Percent insectivorous Cyprinidae abundance:  
    <1% score = 0                      1-2% score = 3                      >2% score = 5
8. Percent carnivore (insectivore+piscivore+zooplanktivore) richness:  
    <60% score = 0                      60-70% score = 3                      >70% score = 5
9. White sucker (*Catostomus commersoni*) mean abundance per net-night:  
    0 score = 0                      >0 to 0.4 score = 3                      >0.4 score = 5
10. Black bullhead (*Ictalurus melas*) mean catch per net-night:  
    0 score = 0                      >0 to 3 score = 3                      >3 score = 5
11. Rock bass (*Ambloplites rupestris*) mean catch per net-night:  
    0 score = 0                      >0 to 4 score = 3                      >4 score = 5
12. Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) mean catch per net-night:  
    >11 score = 0                      1 to 11 score = 3                      <1 score = 5
13. Smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) mean catch per net-night:  
    0 score = 0                      >0 to 5 score = 3                      >5 score = 5
14. Pugnose shiner (*Notropis anogenus*) mean catch per net-night:  
    0 score = 0                      >0 to 5 score = 3                      >5 score = 5

## Fish Metrics: *Typha* Zone:

### 1. Percent insectivore abundance:

<40% Score = 0      40 to 80% score = 3      >80% score = 5

### 2. Insectivorous Cyprinidae richness:

0 to 1 Score = 0      >1to 3 score = 3      >3 score = 5

### 3. Percent Centrarchidae abundance:

0-30 score = 0      >30 to 60 score = 3      >60 to 80 score 5      >80 score = 7

### 4. Centrarchidae richness:

0 to 1 score = 0      >1 to 3 score = 3      >3 score = 5

### 5. Mean Shannon Diversity Index:

<0.2 score = 0      0.2 to 0.7 score = 3      >0.7 score = 5

### 6. Mean evenness:

<0.2 score = 0      0.2 to 0.6 score = 3      >0.6 score = 5

### 7. Longnose Gar (*Lepisosteus osseus*) abundance per net-night:

0 score = 0      >0 to 0.5 score = 3      >0.5 to 2 score = 5      >2 score = 7

### 8. Largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) abundance per net-night:

0 to 2 score = 0      >2 to 30 score = 3      >30 score = 5

### 9. Rock Bass (*Ambloplites rupestris*) abundance per net-night:

0 to 1 score = 0      >1 to 5 score = 3      >5 score = 5

### 10. Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) abundance per net-night:

0 to 3 score = 0      >3 to 20 score = 3      >20 to 30 score = 5      >30 score = 7

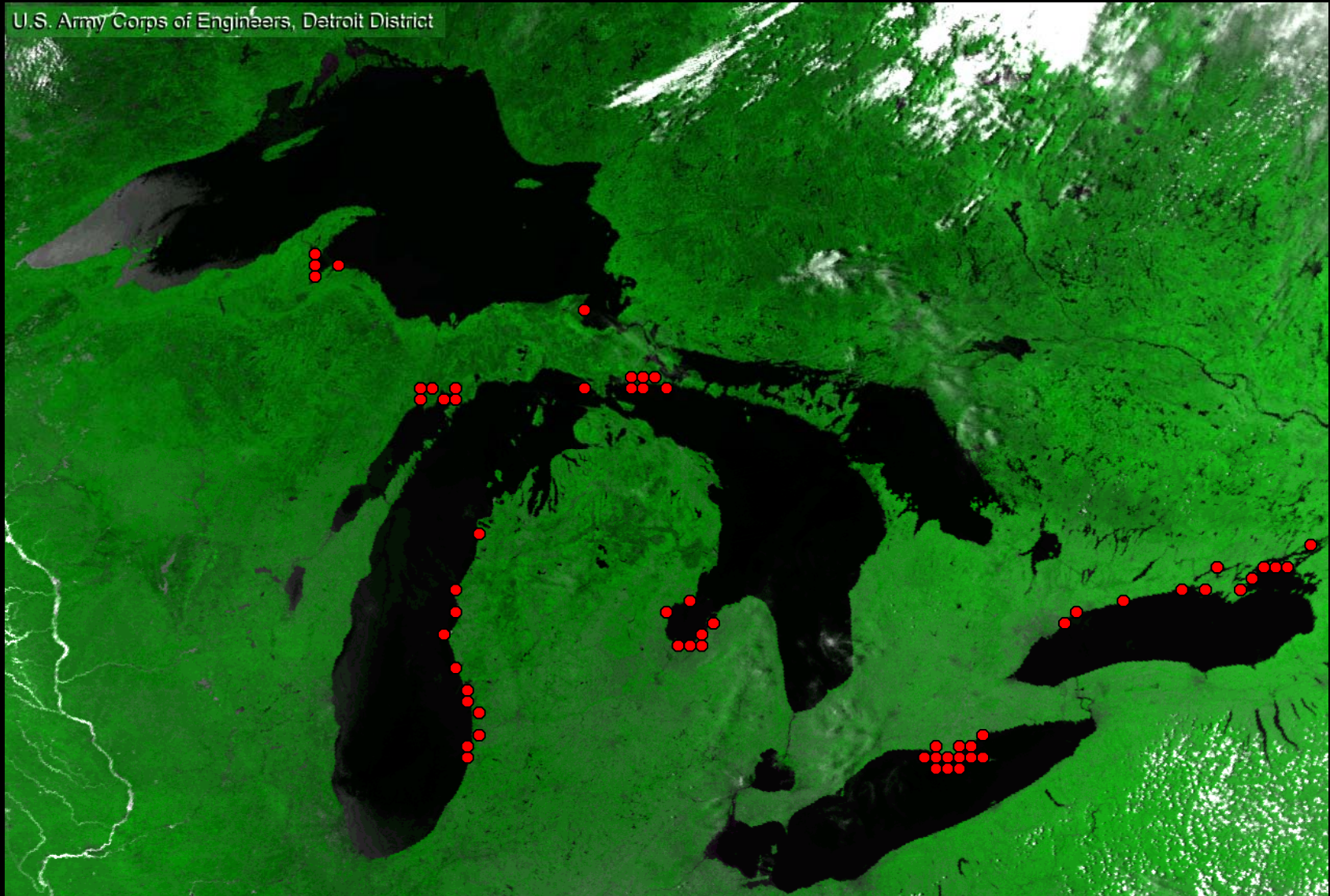
### 11. *Lepomis* abundance per net-night:

0 to 5 score = 0      >5 to 20 score = 3      >20 to 50 = 5      >50 score = 7



# GLCWC Fish IBI Developed

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District



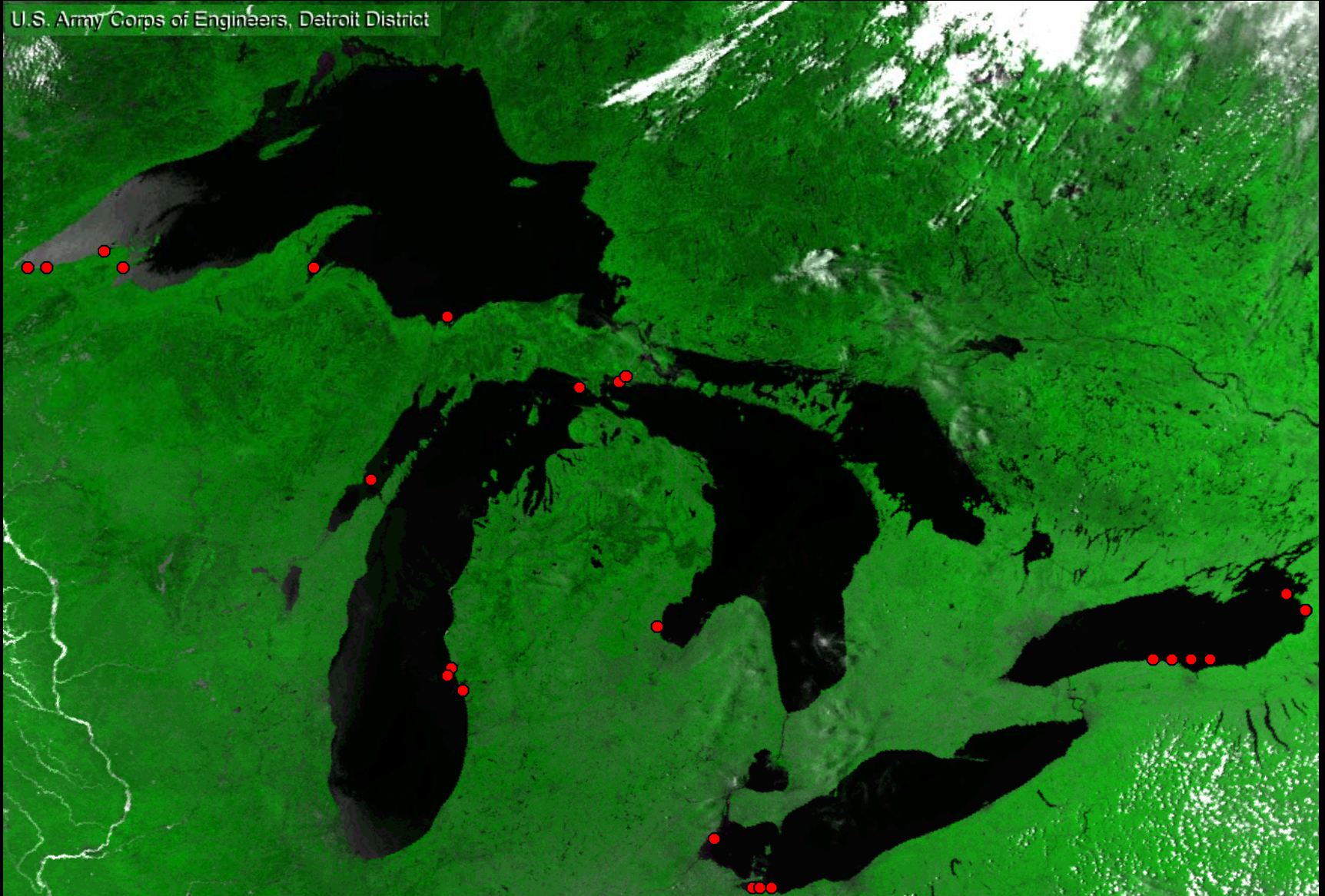


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# Tested at GLEI Sites

Bhagat et al. (2007) **Concluded IBI valid**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District





# Alternative Protocols for Fish

- Using Electroshocking Gear
  - No established IBI for this protocol
  - Highly Recommend Fyke Net Protocol

# Plant Protocols



- Using Aerial Photos
  - Map Wet Meadow and Emergent Zones
  - Map patches of invasives (or GPS in field)
- Sample July or August
- Overlay Random Grid in Each Zone
  - or
- Select Three Transects that Cross Each Zone.
- Sample 15 randomly selected 1.0 m<sup>2</sup> quadrats
  - In each zone or along transects
  - Sample Dry and Flooded areas

# Plant Metrics



- **Invasive Plant Cover for Entire Site (%)**
  - Invasive Plant Cover for:
    - Wet Meadow zone
    - Dry Emergent zone
    - Submergent Flooded zone
    - Emergent Flooded zone
- **Invasive Frequency for Entire Site (# of quadrats w invasives/# quadrates)**
  - Invasive Frequency for:
    - Wet Meadow zone
    - Dry Emergent zone
    - Submergent Flooded zone
    - Emergent Flooded zone
- **Mean Conservatism (Native Species) for Entire Site (total score for each species from FQI/# of species)**

# Protocols for Birds



- **Based on species composition & relative abundance**
  - Surveys from 6:00 p.m. to sunset
  - During breeding season (May –July)
  - Marshes > 10 ha in size
- **1-8 stations/route**
  - 1 or more routes per marsh
- **Passive visual and auditory observations**
  - 5 minutes/station for 100 m radius
  - Then 5 minutes of playback recordings of rails, etc. (**secretive species**)
  - Then 5 minutes of passive observations
- **>300 m between stations**
  - avoid overlap.
- **Routes surveyed 3 times over breeding season**
  - >10 days between visits



# Bird Community Metrics

- Mean relative **abundance** (i.e., proportion) of **Non-Arial Foragers** for the survey route.
- Mean relative abundance (i.e., proportion) of **Marsh Nesting Obligates** for the survey route.
- Mean species richness of **Area-sensitive Marsh Nesting Obligates** for the survey route.



# Amphibian Protocols

- **Frog and Toad call surveys**
  - 3 times during breeding season (April through June)
  - Timing based on mean night temperatures.
- **Surveys done from 10:00 p.m. to midnight**
  - by observers trained to identify calls.
- **Number of surveys/wetland varies with size.**



# Amphibian Metrics

- **Total species richness.**
- **Species richness of woodland species.**
- **Probability of detecting a woodland species within the wetland.**

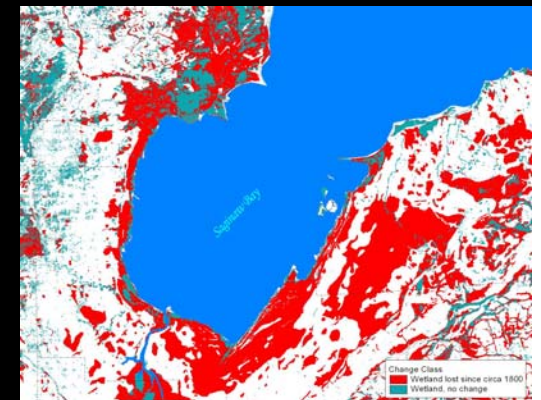
# Landscape Indicators

- Recommend a two-tier wetland mapping system
  - Moderate (30 m) resolution satellite-based mapping
    - Entire basin
    - every 5 Years
  - High resolution (< 1 m) airborne or satellite-based map
    - one lake basin per year
      - all are sampled every 5 yrs.

- Calculate Metrics using this data base.

- Possible Metrics

- Gains and losses of wetland area
- Land cover/land use for each site sampled and for basin
- Changes in Land use/land cover
- Area dominated by Invasives



# Cost

- **Cost Estimator Tool**
  - Basically check boxes
    - what you have or need.
- **One site varies from \$1,395 to \$5,223**
  - Birds, Amphibians and Plants
    - least expensive
  - Invertebrates
    - by far the most expensive indicator.
- **Estimated Cost per Wetland by Indicator**
  - Invertebrates (\$3,241),
  - Landscape attributes (\$2,222)
  - Fish (\$1,029)
  - Amphibians (\$160)
  - Birds (\$112)
- **Costs decrease if either water chemistry or invertebrate samples are sent to external labs.**

Microsoft Excel - cost\_tool.xls

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

T20

### Wetland Sampling Cost Estimator Tool

#### Personnel

How many people will be sent into the field to perform the following:

	Uncheck if not sampling	# of professionals	# of technicians	How many will need training?
Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	1
Amphibians	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	1
Fish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	1	1
Invertebrates	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	0
Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	0
Water Chemistry	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	0
Landscape attributes	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	0

#### Equipment

Check all items that can be made available for wetland sampling:

Binoculars	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GIS software	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
D-frame sweep nets (3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fyke nets (6)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CD player with speakers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Backpack	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GPS unit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Waders (3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
VHF radio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dissecting microscope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydrolab or YSI meters for temp, DO, pH, conductivity & redox	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aerial photographs, airborne and satellite data for sites & spectroradiometer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will you use an outside lab to process water chemistry samples?	No
Will you use an outside lab to process invertebrate samples?	No
Will you sample with a canoe or a boat or both?	Both
Do you own a boat, motor and trailer?	Yes
Do you own a canoe, paddles and motor?	Yes

#### Travel

Can you estimate how many miles you will travel on average (one-way) to a typical site? 20

How many wetlands do you wish to sample? 10

#### Results

	Startup costs	Per wetland costs	Total costs for all wetlands
Birds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Amphibians	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fish	\$184	\$1,268	\$12,855
Invertebrates	\$0	\$0	\$0
Plants	\$0	\$0	\$0
Water Chemistry	\$0	\$0	\$0
Landscape attributes	\$0	\$0	\$0
General startup + travel + boat			\$1,583
<b>Total cost</b>			<b>\$14,439</b>

Note: Results include equipment, salaries, training for personnel, and travel. All values in US\$

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