

# An Environmental Monitoring Inventory for the Lake St. Clair Basin

*A project funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

## Overview

The Great Lakes Commission has been tasked by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and local government agencies to develop an inventory of monitoring programs in the Lake St. Clair basin. The Great Lakes Commission will work with federal, state/provincial, and local organizations to develop a comprehensive list of current monitoring programs in the Lake St. Clair Basin. This inventory will be housed in a web-based, searchable database that will be broadly distributed for use throughout the basin. Based on gaps identified in the monitoring inventory, a monitoring strategic plan will be developed and recommendations will be presented to federal, state/provincial, and local stakeholders throughout the Lake St. Clair basin.

## Products

Products will include the monitoring inventory, monitoring gap assessment, and monitoring strategic plan. The monitoring inventory will be a web-based searchable database that will contain a variety of descriptive characteristics, which include but are not limited to contact information, program description, parameters measured, geographic characteristics, program funding, and data collection procedures. The gap analysis will compare a previously identified list of monitoring needs with results of the monitoring inventory. The Lake St. Clair monitoring strategic plan will incorporate the results of the gap analysis and will examine opportunities to better coordinate monitoring programs to meet previously identified monitoring needs.

## Product development

The monitoring inventory and related products will be developed in collaboration with federal, state/provincial, and local organizations throughout the Lake St. Clair basin. A multi-agency technical advisory committee has been formed to provide guidance to the project implementation team.

- A **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** has been formed based largely on recommendations made by the Macomb/St. Clair Inter-County Watershed Management Advisory Group. Participants include members of federal, state, and local organizations. Through a series of meetings and other correspondences, the TAC will provide feedback to the project implementation team on the monitoring inventory creation, monitoring gap identification, and strategic plan creation. The TAC will also facilitate connections between the project implementation team and monitoring

agencies in the Lake St. Clair basin as well as ensure that products reflect the programmatic needs of their respective agencies.

- The **Project Implementation Team** consists of Great Lakes Commission staff, who will work closely with the TAC to integrate existing monitoring information into the Lake St. Clair monitoring inventory framework. This will be supplemented with information collected through surveys, interviews and office visits. The team will develop a comprehensive, high quality database and analyze the contents for gaps and other key findings. When complete, the project implementation team will consult with the TAC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine the best format for reporting results and developing decision support tools. All products will be developed for broad public distribution.

## Coordination with other initiatives

The Lake St. Clair Basin monitoring inventory will contribute to the comprehensive management plan being created by the Great Lakes Commission and Army Corps of Engineers for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River as authorized in Section 426 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999. Results of the gap analysis will be incorporated where possible into the management plan recommendations. The Lake St. Clair monitoring inventory will also contribute to the Great Lakes Commission effort funded by the Joyce Foundation to inventory the monitoring programs in the entire Great Lakes region.

## Schedule

Project activities began in May 2002. The initial inventory and database is targeted for completion by March 1, 2003. The final strategic plan will be completed by May 31, 2003.

## Contacts

**Ric Lawson**, Great Lakes Commission, 734-971-9135, [rlawson@glc.org](mailto:rlawson@glc.org)

**Colette Luff**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 313-226-7485, [colette.m.luff@usace.army.mil](mailto:colette.m.luff@usace.army.mil)

**Anne Sturm**, Great Lakes Commission, 734-971-9135, [asturm@glc.org](mailto:asturm@glc.org)

*Updated November 2002*