



Council of Great Lakes Industries(CGLI) Comments on selected Strategic Action Plans for the National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes
Submitted 1 July 2011

Strategic Action Plans

- **Ecosystem-based management**

The Great Lakes Region has developed extensive ecosystem-based management models with strong stakeholder involvement for the Great Lakes Region. Reinforcing the implementation of the existing management plans is needed rather than creating a new management system. While the Great Lakes have strived to utilize ecosystem-based models with strong stakeholder involvement, ecosystem based management is not well developed and is insufficient for addressing the broader spectrum that good policy should embrace Sustainable development - which incorporates social, economic as well as ecosystem considerations - is a far preferable model. We strongly suggest that the National Ocean Council rely on the established sustainable development management principles for comprehensive management of ecosystem functions in the context of societal and economic needs.

- **Coordinate and Support**

Great Lakes legal structure is complex and all efforts in the bi-national areas of the Great Lakes require coordination with Canada. Mechanisms for this coordination are in place in the Great Lakes such as the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and entities such as the Binational Executive Committee that includes representation from both governments in order to provide coordination and support.

- **Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure** – We strongly believe in the continued support for the Great Lakes Observing System to enhance data availability and data management in the Lakes.

- **Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration**

The Council of Great Lakes Industries reaffirms its view that the extensive ecosystem protection and restoration plan developed by multi-stakeholders in the Great Lakes should be the basis for activity by the National Ocean Council. The consensus strategy, coordination and the partnerships developed in the

Great Lakes do not need to be duplicated and provide a strong platform for any future action.

In the near-term the National Ocean Council should limit its activities to bringing together the respective agencies already engaged in spatial planning, natural resource protection and management, and ecosystem restoration. The Council's primary mission should be to seek enhanced coordination -- including the sharing of Federal resources and assets -- among these agencies. Within an immediate mid-term the combined Federal coalition must establish solid links with State resource management and protection agencies as well as regional/local stakeholders. The roll of the Council must be defined as supporting partnerships among local ecosystem protection and restoration activities. Long-term support of these Regionally focused and Regionally directed planning, protection and restoration vehicles must be maintained in the long-term.

The National Ocean Council has the opportunity to serve a leadership role in the long needed task of breaking down silos between the many Federal agencies and programs that currently seek to individually pursue stewardship roles for our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes.

Evaluation of specific coastal spatial planning needs with respect to the Regional activities and functions already in place is necessary before going forward with new Federally directed planning exercises.

- **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning** – Regional stakeholders need to lead planning efforts, not only by providing comments but also reviewing scientific information. We support the proposed CMSP timeline extension for the development of CMS plans by 2020.
- **Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification** – Current stakeholder efforts in the Great Lakes Region are developing climate adaptation agendas.
- **Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land:** States in the Basin have been particularly diligent in aggressively pursuing innovative land practices for water quality. These activities are ongoing, often advanced and tracked by multi-stakeholder and bi-national Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs). These are spatial planning style programs.