

### Coastal Health Problem Statement Rev 3

Contact (including external, ingestion, and inhalation) with nearshore water of the Great Lakes can pose a risk to human health. Much of the cause<sup>1</sup> is due to pollution that enters and accumulates in the Great Lakes as a result of combined sewer overflows (CSO), sanitary sewer overflows (SSO), inconsistent sewage treatment standards, shedding from bathers, lack of wastewater monitoring and enforcement, aging and overloaded sewage treatment equipment, and illegal and inefficient septic systems. Indirect sources, such as storm water runoff, agricultural runoff, atmospheric deposition and releases of pollutants from contaminated sediments, also contribute to the risk of adverse health outcomes. Monitoring alone is insufficient to determine contamination sources. Additional funding is needed to assist federal, state, and local governments to address pollution elimination and for public education.

### Coastal Health Goal Statements Rev 2

- a. Adopt long term **combined sewer overflow** control programs consistent with EPA's National CSO Policy by 2010, and proceed to implement such plans in accordance with timetables established in NPDES permits or other enforceable documents (e.g. Administrative Consent Orders);
- b. Eliminate chronic **sanitary sewer overflows** attributable to excess wet weather flows in sanitary sewer systems by 2010;
- c. Establish mandatory **septic tank inspection** programs (either on a pre-specified frequency or at time of sale of property), and require replacement or repair of defective systems.
- d. By 2010, all **illegal discharges from septic systems** will be eliminated and municipal sewer systems will be operated under long-term comprehensive management plans that optimize performance and minimize discharges.
- e. By 20\_\_ a reduction in **bacterial and chemical** contamination of Great Lakes surface water resulting from **stormwater** discharge will be achieved through the development, implementation and maintenance of municipal best management practices (BMP) (i.e. wetland areas, retention basins, redirection), agricultural BMP, citizen incentives (i.e. disconnect of downspouts into rain barrels) and public education (i.e. impact of pet and household wastes on ecosystem).
- f. By 2010 Great Lakes **beaches** will achieve a rank of “good water quality” (as defined by US EPA standards for bathing water quality) 90 – 95% of available days within a given bathing season<sup>1</sup> by reducing bacterial contamination of Great Lakes surface

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<sup>1</sup> Coastal Health is affected by the overall health of the natural ecosystem addressed in the Great Lakes Collaboration Habitat/Species strategy chapter. Coastal Health is also affected by the legacy of industrial pollution addressed in the Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics Reduction and Areas of Concern (AOC) Restoration/Sediments strategy chapter.

water through the detection and remediation of contamination sources and the inception of basin-wide best management practices.

<sup>1</sup>US EPA Great Lakes Strategy 2010

- g. By 20\_\_ an assessment of contamination sources will be conducted using a holistic, **watershed** approach with the realization that wild and domesticated animals, agrarian practices, and “upstream” anthropogenic inputs ultimately influence the coastal health of the Great Lakes.