



## Monitoring Parameters Standardization Workshop

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Hilton Bayfront, St. Petersburg, Florida

10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### Background

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Governor's Action Plan contains the priority action steps for each implementation team. Both the Nutrient Reduction Priority Implementation Team (PIT) and the Water Quality PIT identified monitoring needs to accomplish the Alliance goals. In a recent workshop, the State and Federal Lead representatives for both teams agreed upon "shared Alliance matrix items" for collaboration on these monitoring priorities. Because both teams have Alliance matrix items that are similar and/or complementary to each other, the teams decided that these shared items are best addressed by working together and combining limited resources.

This brings us to the present moment: How do we proceed? How do we move the nutrients monitoring for the development of numerical criteria forward along with the water quality monitoring coordination?

The teams will hold a workshop on July 11<sup>th</sup> to initiate planning for a pilot effort to standardize monitoring methods for a core set of nutrient and water quality parameters across Gulf coastal ecosystems.

### **Purpose of standardization pilot effort:**

- Adopt standardized methods for a core set of parameters by all Gulf States
- Develop a model for nutrient criteria development to understand causal and response variables consistently across the region
- Inform our understanding of individual system responses and monitoring design
- Provide information for Gulf systems as references over time to reach simplified methodology for nutrient criteria monitoring/assessment

**Workshop Agenda:**

- 10:30 a.m. Overview of purpose and goals to standardize monitoring for core parameters  
*Kim Caviness & Natalie Guedon, Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality*
- 11:00 a.m. Pro's and con's of candidate parameters, methods, and implementation issues that affect parameter selection  
*Steve Wolfe & Charles Kovach, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection*
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Continue pro's and con's of candidate parameters, methods, and implementation issues that affect parameter selection
- 3:00 p.m. Finalize list of parameters and next steps to reach standardization
- 4:00 p.m. Discuss how the results of this pilot should be used to support nutrient criteria development
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn
- 5:30 p.m. Nutrient Reduction and Water Quality Poster Session

**Workshop Outcome:**

Reach consensus on a set of nutrient and water quality variables that represent the best opportunity for uniform monitoring across the Gulf and that are essential to serving the Action Plan priorities for water quality and nutrient reductions.

**Workshop Participants:**

- State agencies responsible for water quality standards, management and monitoring
- Federal agencies with interests and responsibilities for water quality monitoring, especially EPA, FWS, NOAA, USGS
- Representatives of GCOOS and NMN
- Academic and NGO representatives conducting monitoring in the Gulf

**Location and Date**

The workshop will be held in conjunction with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Implementation and Integration Workshop at the Hilton Bayfront in St. Petersburg, FL on July 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information contact [Laurie.Rounds@noaa.gov](mailto:Laurie.Rounds@noaa.gov).