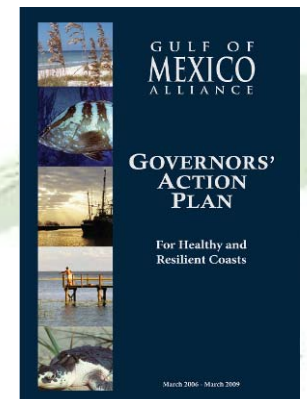


A light green map of the Gulf of Mexico region, showing the coastlines of the United States and Mexico. The text is overlaid on the map.

PIT Working Sessions
Action Plan Integration and Implementation Workshop
Gulf of Mexico Alliance

Water Quality PIT Report Out

July 11, 2007



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Status Summary

- WQ-1 Harmful Algal Blooms
- WQ-2 Microbial Source Tracking
- WQ-3 Coordinated Monitoring

| | Complete | On Track | Not On Track |
|------|----------|----------|--------------|
| WQ-1 | 2 | 9 | 1 |
| WQ-2 | 1 | 6* | 0* |
| WQ-3 | 0 | 2 | 2 |

* adjusted



WQ-1 Harmful Algal Blooms

WQ-1:5

Independently evaluate and compare the multiple methods of HAB detection technologies under development for *K. brevis* against microscopic techniques.

Status

- “Whole enchilada” proposal available from FWRI and awaiting source of funding

Next Steps

- Develop language for an RFP where this work can be done in increments (e.g., low concentration and high concentration methods), IF sufficient funding is not available (FWRI and GCOOS will work to provide this language)
- Explore EPA AMI and NOAA ECOHAB/MERHAB as possible funding sources



WQ-2 Microbial Source Tracking

WQ-2:7

Equip state laboratories and train state and local personnel in specific bacterial source tracking methods.

Status

- Changed to “On Track” because it is the last action in a sequence of dependent steps
- However, action statement does not reflect the best strategy (e.g., existence of private labs)

Next Steps

- Change action statement to “Recommend appropriate equipment and provide at least one Gulfwide training on the SOPs for successfully-tested MST methods”
- Using the 12/06 MST workshop participants list as a starting point, FORMALIZE those management agency representatives that will consult and direct the WQ-2 action



WQ-3 Coordinated Monitoring

WQ-3:2

Comprehensively survey state, local, and federal agencies for types of water quality data being collected, methods of collection, analytical methods, quality assurance protocols, proprietary restrictions, and database platforms.

Status

- Working jointly with Nutrient PIT



WQ-3 Coordinated Monitoring

WQ-3:3

Develop accountability tools and accreditation standards for laboratories performing analyses included in Gulf-wide monitoring databases.

Status

- PIT would like to clarify the action statement; accountability tools must include data comparability assessment such as round-robin analyses; accreditation standards like NELAP do not in themselves address the core Gulfwide data comparability issues

Next Steps

- Adjust action statements to (1) “Work toward the use of NELAP accredited labs (private, state, and federal) for Alliance monitoring, by identifying key labs in AL and TX who are or could become certified” and (2) “Conduct a round-robin analysis to establish baseline data comparability of the WQ parameter(s) selected for Gulfwide standardization in WQ-3:4.”





Questions?

