

2nd Annual Monitoring  
Forum

April 8, 2009

New Orleans, LA



## Brainstorming Session Questions to Consider

**What** of information would you want to see that represents your workgroup's subject matter and **why**? [If time permits, discuss: What kind of **monitoring** would be required for that information?]

**Where** is this information coming from (or obtained)?

What **scale** would be best for reporting that information? (Gulf-wide? State by state? Estuary? Public beach? etc.)

How **often** would you want it reported or updated?

**How** do you want it reported? (Ideas for graphics or presentation style as well as the vehicle for reporting.)

**Choose someone to present your group's ideas.**

**What** information would you want to see that represents your workgroup's subject matter and **why**?

- Viable enterococci
  - Everyone does this now and it is already reported.
- Percentage of days under advisory
  - But need to look at differences in way of determining an advisory and frequency and spatial scale of sampling.
  - Categorize by uses or by Gulf beaches versus bay, inlet, sound or low density swimming site versus high density swimming site.
  - Include flushing rate? – may not always have that information.
  - Have there been improvements in impaired waters?
- Source markers
  - Have human sources been identified?
  - Bacterial and viral source markers
  - In order to moderate the effect of point sources
  - Increase amount of microbial source tracking to get better idea of sources.
- Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment
  - Need to understand how indicators relate to actual pathogens in subtropical environments
- Reported surveys of illnesses
  - Not sure of comparability
  - CDC, Department of Health
  - Keep high level – type of illness and location
- Percentage of days with shellfish closure
- Physical – salinity, temperature, wind speed, etc.

## Viable enterococci

- Discussion
  - Everyone does this now and it is already reported.
- Why?
  - Readily available and federally mandated. Resolution of data can be improved if correlated with localized physical and social characteristics.
  - Can provide a good first look at microbial water quality and to identify potential hot spots that require further study.
- **Where** is this information coming from (or obtained)?
  - From the U.S. EPA
- What **scale** would be best for reporting that information? (Gulf-wide? State by state? Estuary? Public beach? etc.)
  - As fine as possible – differ by usage and geographic location
- How **often** would you want it reported or updated?
  - Annually or by tourist season
- **How** do you want it reported? (Ideas for graphics or presentation style as well as the vehicle for reporting.)
  - Least scary manner possible. Maps.
  - Put on internet and provide on websites to more specific information.