

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Regional Partnership Grants  
Funding Opportunity NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-2013-2003590

**Proposal from the Great Lakes Commission**

*January 2013*

**DATA SHARING PLAN**

Restoration projects implemented under the proposed partnership will generate environmental data on physical, chemical and biological conditions related to Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) in the U.S. Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs). The data will be developed on a site-by-site basis, related primarily to monitoring efforts before and after completion of each restoration project. Projects involving planned or future construction activities or changes in land use or land cover may include site plans, construction drawings or other data, as well.

Data development will be carried out by staff with the appropriate expertise, including trained volunteers; personnel from local, state, federal or tribal agencies; and staff from entities contracted to provide services for the project. Environmental sampling will vary from project to project, but in all cases methods will be based on the monitoring and delisting criteria associated with the relevant BUI. All data will be accompanied by relevant metadata. In the case of field samples, this will include at a minimum the parameters sampled; sampling methodology; person responsible; sampling date, time and location; and contact information. Processed datasets (e.g., lab results, GIS data, etc.) will be accompanied by metadata that complies with appropriate standards.

During the project period, field data and derived or associated data such as GIS layers will be processed as necessary and then made available through the partnership website, either as a direct download or upon request. Field data developed under projects associated with the partnership will be considered in the public domain and may also be available from project partners directly. Information in the form of reports, maps or other outputs will also be considered in the public domain and will be published and distributed free of charge. As a means of ensuring long-term access to the data, partnership staff will work with NOAA to determine if any of the data can be archived at NOAA or with another federal program following completion of the project.

The Great Lakes Commission has managed numerous multi-agency projects involving the assembly and distribution of data. Of particular relevance are the NOAA-funded Great Lakes Observing System, which integrates real-time and historical data from ecosystem monitoring and modeling programs run by federal, state, local, university and regional partners; and the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, which solicits, reviews and administers funding for site-specific erosion control projects throughout the Great Lakes basin. Other noteworthy programs include the Great Lakes Regional Air Toxic Emissions Inventory, a long-standing data sharing and compilation partnership for air quality monitoring agencies, and the Inland Sensitivity Atlas, which identifies sensitive areas to be protected in the event of an oil spill.

The Great Lakes Commission has invested extensively in computing equipment and technologies to support these projects. Its internet and data management programs maintain servers at a secure internet hosting facility with a robust backup system and tested continuity plans in place.