

NCCA Great Lakes Benthic Indicator Development Workshop

October 18-20, 2016

Metcalf Federal Building
Lake Michigan Room, 12th Floor
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Purpose: Develop and validate indicator of benthic condition for use by National Coastal Condition Assessment (NCCA), States and others interested in assessing the condition of Great Lakes coastal and nearshore habitats.

Workshop goals:

- Identify benthic index/indices that hold the most promise for use by NCCA
- Review tolerance values and assign any missing values
- Begin to compile data sets that can be used for validation/testing
- Identify information needs in order to be able to develop and/or validate the recommended index/indices
- Gather input on a process for developing/validating the index (create the workflow to occur in Fall/Winter 2016)

Tuesday – October 18

- 8:30 am Introductions and welcome
- Welcome and workshop goals – Beth Hinchey
 - Self-introductions
 - National Coastal Condition Report and need for Great Lakes benthic index –Hugh Sullivan
 - Workshop overview and review of the agenda – Mari Nord
- 9:15 am M-AMBI development for marine NCCA – Peg Pelletier
- 9:30 am Weighted tolerance values – Ted Angradi
- 9:45 am Modified OTI – Lyubov Burlakova
- 10:00 am *Break*
- 10:15 am BEAST/beyond BEAST approaches for determining reference conditions and stressor gradients – Jan Ciborowski
- 10:30 am Discussion of existing and proposed approaches
- 11:45 am Charge for the afternoon

12:00 pm *Lunch on site*

1:00 pm Discussion of tolerance values (*can include breakouts*)

4:30 pm Adjourn

6:00 pm Group dinner

Wednesday – October 19

8:30 am Recap Day 1

- Finish tolerance discussion, if needed

10:00 am *Break*

10:15 am Identify information needs to develop and/or validate the index/indices (*can include breakouts*) and discussion of available Great Lakes benthic data sets

- What are the physical gradients impacting indexes in the Great Lakes
- How to identify reference and impaired sites
- How to look at stressor gradients
- What are the GL indexes we have to work with

12:00 pm *Lunch on site*

1:00 pm Design the process for developing/validating the index

3:00 pm Work with preliminary data (hands-on with laptop)

4:30 pm Adjourn

Dinner on your own

Thursday – October 20

8:30 am Recap Day 2

- Opportunity for attendees to present/share what they saw in preliminary analysis

10:00 am *Break*

10:15 am Summarize Next Steps – Peg Pelletier and Hugh Sullivan

- Approaches for validating the index
- Potential manuscripts to be written
- Who wants to participate and at what level
- Goals/agenda for reconvening at IAGLR May 2017

12:00 pm Adjourn