



GULF OF MEXICO HYPOXIA

October, 2010 Update

TOPICS

- Ohio River Sub Basin Team and Hypoxia Task Force Status
- State Nutrient Reduction Strategies
- Interstate Water Quality Trading Program



OHIO RIVER SUB BASIN TEAM

- Met by Conference Call on September 22
- Primary Objective: Review Agenda for Task Force Meeting
- Primary Topic of Interest: Need for Interim/ Incremental Goals



HYPOXIA TASK FORCE MEETING

- September 28: Nutrient Reduction Strategy Workshop
- September 29: Mississippi Delta Tour – Demonstrations of Agricultural Practices
- September 30: Task Force Meeting
- October 1: Mississippi Nutrient Summit



TASK FORCE MEETING

- First meeting with Indiana and Kentucky as Task Force members
- Second meeting with state co-chair
- Executive session Wednesday evening
- Separate state and federal sessions early Thursday morning
- Public session Thursday morning and afternoon



EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Primary Topic: Need for interim/ incremental targets
- Only target in current plan is reduction of hypoxic zone to 5000 square kilometers; cannot be used to assess progress.
- Scientifically based objectives versus arbitrary goals.
- In the absence of hypoxia-based targets, state strategies will focus on local problems.



STATES SESSION

- Primary topics: lack of money, lack of drivers
- State reduction strategies must address in state issues; benefits to Gulf are assumed but cannot be readily quantified.



PUBLIC SESSION

- Presentation on MRBI
- Presentation by Gulf Alliance
- Report outs by Work Groups
- Report on 2010 Zone
- Approval of Annual Report, Annual Operating Plan
- Public Comments



TASK FORCE WORK GROUPS

- Accountability
- State Strategies
- Monitoring, Modeling and Research
- Iowa Drainage and Landscape Initiative
- Farmable Wetlands
- Governance



OBSERVATIONS

- Possible Use of Penalties from BP Spill
- White House Interest in Hypoxia Abatement Progress
- All States Present



STATE NUTRIENT REDUCTION STRATEGIES

- Key Action in Current Hypoxia Action Plan
- Mississippi has taken lead in developing their own strategy and proposing a template for use by other states.
- US EPA Region 5 has issued guidance to its states on strategies.



NUTRIENT REDUCTION PLAN ELEMENTS – MISSISSIPPI

- Nutrient reduction targets
- Stakeholder involvement
- Regulations, policies, programs, planning areas
- Characterize coastal wetlands, identify sources, prioritize sites.
- Current status and historic trends
- Select appropriate analytical tools



NUTRIENT REDUCTION PLAN ELEMENTS – MISSISSIPPI

- Propose management practices
- Effective monitoring programs
- Identify/create financial incentives, funding sources
- Document and communicate results
- Practice adaptive management; focus on sustainability.



OHIO RIVER SUB BASIN STATE STRATEGIES

- States are considering development of strategies, but resources are a major constraint.
- Region 5 has issued guidance/expectations; Regions 3 and 4 have not.
- States will consider whether some elements of strategies should be addressed collectively through the Sub Basin Committee.



TRADING PROGRAM

- MOU – revised draft under review. ORSANCO Water Quality Review Committee recommends that an acceptable version of the MOU be signed by the environmental agencies of the states that are most likely to be involved in early trades.
- Trading program partners would like to pursue two or three pilot trades over the next year.



TRADING PROGRAM

- Stakeholder groups are being formed for the program. ORSANCO has been asked to organize the POTW group.
- Next partners meeting November 17-18.
- Presentation on trading will be made to the NPDES Subcommittee.

