

A Brief Overview of Regional Governance Around the US

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Information on regional governance in these three areas (Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf of Maine, and the Great Lakes) are presented for your information only as the Pacific Northwest may learn from them, and not meant to advocate a particular model.

I. Chesapeake Bay Program

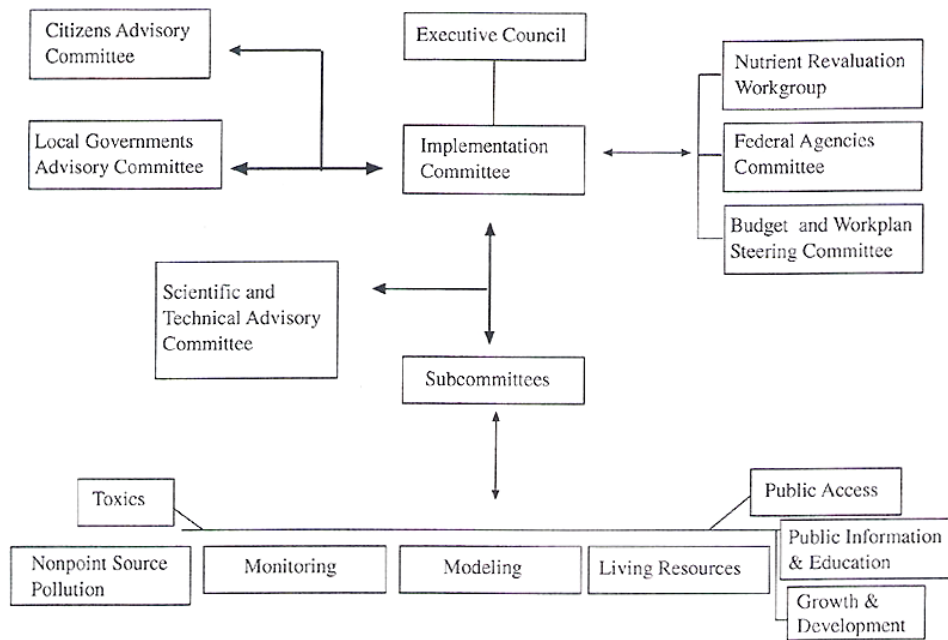
Regional Overview:

- Largest estuary in the United States, largest watershed-to-estuary ratio in the world (2700:1)
- Approximately 15 million people in the watershed
- A tri-state program, with the District of Columbia, EPA and various advisory groups
- Voluntary and cooperative
- Unambiguous, time-limited goals are a major approach to governance
- Considered successful and making great improvements even though some goals have not been reached on time
- Decentralized decision-making with many independent sources of funding

Goals: 5 strategic focus areas from the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement are: protecting and restoring living resources, protecting and restoring vital habitats, improving water quality, managing lands soundly, and engaging individuals and local communities

Structure:

- An overarching Executive Council and Implementation Committee
 - EC is the governors and mayor of DC, EPA Administrator
 - IC chooses subcommittee priorities
- Subcommittees represent state, federal, local, non-profit and public interest groups
- Chesapeake Bay Commission – legislative arm
- Chesapeake Bay Program provides staff support



Chesapeake Bay Program Management Structure under the 1987 Agreement (Olsen and Nickerson 2003).

Functions:

- The Executive Council sets regional goals and prioritizes important regional issues
- The Implementation Committee implements the policy decisions, annual plan and budget, tech support and outreach, synthesizing advice from various committees

Funding:

- Federal funding – smaller proportions through multiple agencies rather than directly to a regional program

History:

- Indecision about primary causes of the decline of health in the Bay and how to prioritize factors
- 1981: Resource Users Management Team (RUMT) created by EPA.
 - 28 members of user groups
 - crystallized the major issues and made recommendations
 - ⇒ An early decision to bring in the public to help interpret the science was essential in forming an image of a practical project in the hands of stakeholders
- The Chesapeake Bay Agreement of 1983
 - Transition from a more temporary to permanent structure
 - Created a program management framework
- 1987 Agreement
 - Adoption of more specific, quantifiable and time-limited goals
 - ⇒ These proved essential in negotiating funds and other commitments from user groups
- Chesapeake 2000 Agreement
 - Clearer goals, and the level of sophistication in understanding continues to increase

II. Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

Regional Overview:

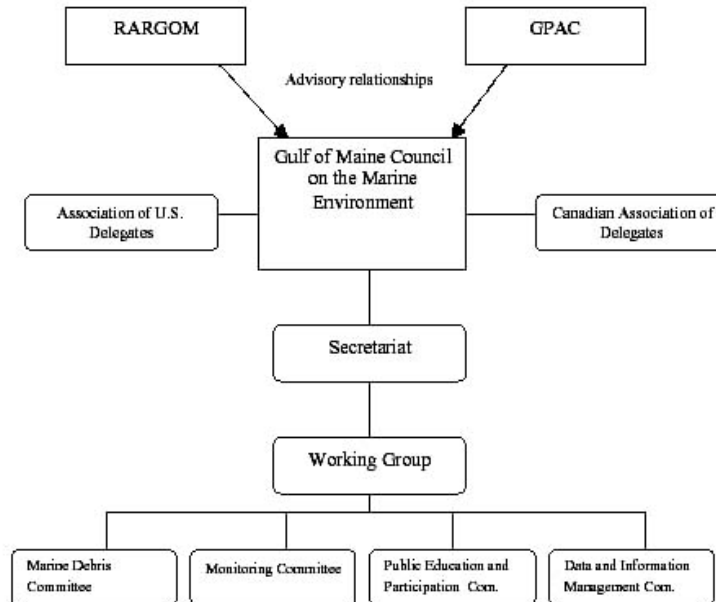
- Bay of Fundy, Gulf of Maine proper, and Georges and Browns Bank
- Approximately 5 million people in the watershed
- US/Canadian partnership of governmental and non-governmental organizations
- Not legally binding – characterized by informality and consensus
- Administers the 1989 Gulf of Maine Agreement on the Marine Environment
- Federal governments are not signatory but are practical, full members

Goals: to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine and to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations.

Five key goals under the 5-year Action Plan's unifying theme of Coastal and Marine Habitat include: (1) to protect and restore regionally significant coastal habitat; (2) to restore shellfish habitats; (3) to protect human health and ecosystem integrity from toxic contaminants in marine habitats; (4) to reduce marine debris; and (5) to protect and restore fishery habitats and resources.

Structure:

- Membership: 2 administrators from each of 3 states, Canadian federal ministers and local government, and 1 private sector/NGO rep. selected by the jurisdiction
- Supported by a Working Group and 5 Committees
 - Implement specific initiatives to address the priority actions
- Action Plans identify and target priority issues



Organization chart for the Council, including advisory relationships (Harris et al. 2001).

Functions: 4 primary roles

- Convene partners
- Marshal resources and decide how best they should be used to further the mission
- Support projects, when possible, as part of a region-wide focus
- Educate the public and raise awareness

Funding:

- Agency commitments comprise the bulk of the resources channeled into the regime

Emphases and challenges:

- There is no independent authority or central office, but a regional forum for stakeholders
- The focus is to provide mechanisms for building consensus and coordination to harmonize domestic environmental law, policy and management
- Concrete regional environmental standards are yet to be developed or agreed to and a firm financial mechanism has not been developed.
- On the whole, non-governmental organization (NGO) representation and general public participation is minimal.
- Regional partners include GoMOOS, the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System

III. Great Lakes

Regional Overview:

- Variable climate, soils, topography and land cover throughout the basin
- Approximately 33 million people (stable)
- Several regional bodies exist, with some overlap

International Joint Commission (IJC)

- Formed by the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty to prevent and settle water disputes
- 6 members, 3 appointed by the President of the U.S. and 3 by the Governor in Council of Canada
- has set up over 20 boards
- Regional Office with specific responsibilities for providing tech support, coordinating programs and monitoring implementation
- Great Lakes Water Quality Board and Science Advisory Board carry out mandates
- Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for 43 areas of concern (AOC) are to be developed and implemented (1987 Agreement)
- Public meetings every 2 years

Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC)

- International treaty established in 1955
- An ecosystem approach to management and research adopted in 1992

Great Lakes Commission (GLC)

- A US interstate (8 states) compact agreement comprised of state officials, legislators and governors' appointees. Great Lake Canadian Provinces are associate members (1999)
- established to guide, protect and advance the common interests of the eight Great Lakes states in areas of regional environmental quality, resource management, transportation and economic development.
- Anticipated evolution to a fully binational state-provincial agency
- staffs over a dozen issue-specific task forces and advisory committees to address the variety of ecosystem priorities and special projects being undertaken by the Commission at any given time.

Council of Great Lakes Governors

- formed in 1983 to coordinate stewardship of the region's economy and environment.
- non-profit organization of the 8 governors of Great Lakes States
- created the 1985 Great Lakes charter, a good-faith agreement between the Governors and Premiers of the Great Lakes basin to express their shared concern over water supply and use issues.
- Responsibility of overseeing implementing a bi-national process for water use patterns and considering proposals for consumptive use and diversion

Great Lakes Interagency Task Force

- Established May 18, 2004 by Executive Order
- Membership by ten entities, EPA (chair), DOS, DOI, USDA, DOT, DHS, SecArmy, HUD, DOC, CEQ
- Will establish a "Great Lakes Working Group"

- To help convene and establish a process of regional collaboration with Canada, coordinate consistent policies, research, and ensure coordinated development and implementation of the Great Lakes portion of the “Global Earth Observation System of Systems”.
- Calls for the development of outcome-based goals such as cleaner water, sustainable fisheries, and system biodiversity.

Emphases and Challenges:

- AOCs that have had the most success in their remedial efforts are those with strong local institutional structures and government support to demand accountability for progress and to drive broad and meaningful public participation, implementation and monitoring
- A Biennial, bi-national conference, SOLEC has evolved into an ongoing process toward improving the basin-wide coordination of research, monitoring and data analysis.
 - Led to efforts to establish scientifically based indicators for ecosystem management
 - At SOLEC 2000 adequate information was available to report on 25 environmental indicators
- The Ecosystem Charter for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence basin is a good-faith agreement among > 160 stakeholder groups. A statement of collective fundamental principals for ecosystem management in the region.

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