

More information (including a copy of the Great Lakes Basinwide Botulism Coordination Workshop Final Report) can be found at: <http://glrc.us/initiatives/botulism/index.html>. Additionally, The Charter for Botulism Coordination and Response Initiative is available at: <http://glrc.us/initiatives/botulism/charter.html>. The network's administrative tasks will be provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office. Laura Evans (evans.laura@epa.gov, 312-886-0851) will serve as the network administrator, and should be contacted if more information is desired.

SAVE THE DATE: INTERNATIONAL ASS'N FOR GREAT LAKES RESEARCH ANNUAL CONFERENCE – MAY 18-22, TOLEDO
IAGLR's 52nd Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research: Bridging Ecosystems and Environmental Health across our Great Lakes will be held May 18-22 at University of Toledo, Toledo, OH. Early Registration reduced rates are available through 11 April. For more information or to register for the event, please visit <http://www.iaglr.org/conference/>.

SAVE THE DATE : GATHERING WATERS FESTIVAL: HEALTHY WATERS, HEALTHY YOU - JUNE 13, MILWAUKEE
This mainstream festival will have the attractions and fun to entertain and entice the public while offering important messages on Great Lakes and human health. Together, recreational companies and water resource and healthcare organizations will create interactive exhibits and activities to share these important messages. Join the fun on June 13, 2009 from 10 – 5 at Lakeshore State Park in Milwaukee. For more information, please visit www.friendslsp.org or contact Kae DonLevy at 414.588.0617 or kdonlevy@aol.com.

**SAVE THE DATE: STATE OF LAKE MICHIGAN & GREAT LAKES BEACH ASSOCIATION JOINT CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 1, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**
Join us in Milwaukee for the 6th biennial State of Lake Michigan and the 9th annual Great Lakes Beach Association Conference. The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency in the heart of downtown Milwaukee. This joint conference brings together Lake Michigan stakeholders, elected officials, scientists, resource managers, planners, students and interested citizens working to improve and protect Lake Michigan and Great Lakes beaches. For more information, please visit www.aqua.wisc.edu/solm or contact Victoria Harris, University of Wisconsin SeaGrant Institute at (920) 465-2795 or harrisv@uwgb.edu.

GREAT LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCING REPORT

The Northeast-Midwest Institute has completed the Great Lakes Ecosystems Restoration Financing Project, funded by the Great Lakes Protection Fund. The project report, [Innovative Financing for Great Lakes Environmental Restoration, Concepts for Tying Waterfront Development to Environmental Restoration and Funding the Non-Federal Match for Great Lakes Legacy Project](#), outlines a number of financing concepts, particularly with respect to financing cleanup of contaminated sediments. These include:

- Tax increment financing, special assessment districts, and insurance archeology (see the Report:).
- State Bond Issues that include resources for sediment cleanup:
- The Cleanup War Chest: State Bond Financing for Environmental Initiatives and Brownfields Redevelopment, November, 2008. One example is the Wisconsin Bond Issue for Contaminated Waterway Sediment Program which is being used for the Kinnickinnic River Cleanup.
- New revenue concepts to finance environmental bond issues, such as the Maryland Green Fund Proposed Impervious Surface Tax, and the Long Island Transfer Tax to Protect Estuarine Resources.
- A proposed new federal mechanism: Federal Tax Credit Bonds in selected "Watershed Restoration Zones," described in the report:
- Two New and Innovative Financing Programs to Restore the Health of The Great Lakes, Bricker & Eckler LLP, Robert W. Baird & Co., The Implementation Group, April 2008.
- Property tax surcharges, such as the Florida Everglades 16-County Property Tax Surcharge, which is projected to generate \$525 million for fiscal 2009.

Contact Greg Lewis (202/464-4005) or Evans Paull (202/464-4004) at the Northeast-Midwest Institute.

NOAA SEEKING "SHOVEL-READY" HABITAT RESTORATION PROPOSALS

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced today that it is seeking proposals for coastal habitat restoration projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in an unprecedented effort to jumpstart the economy. The effort is designed to create resilient and healthy American communities by generating and saving jobs, employing several thousand people, and restoring valuable coastal and marine habitat.

NOAA is formally seeking proposals for a variety of habitat restoration projects - including wetlands restoration, dam removals, shellfish restoration, and coral reef restoration. To ensure relevance, readiness and accountability to the American public, the 30-day solicitation requires that projects be "shovel-ready." Proposals are due by April 6, 2009. For more information about this federal funding opportunity, please visit: <http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/recovery>.