

Group 2 Recommendations

Research/Monitoring

- Better understanding of nuisance macroalgae as an indicator
 - Identify key indicator taxa for specific circumstances/systems
 - Identify problematic levels
 - Identify standard monitoring protocols
- Refine seagrass monitoring
 - Develop a metric of cover+biomass
 - Indicators of early distress (C:N:P)
- Establish standards and definitions
 - Refine estuarine boundaries and typology
 - Support conceptual & predictive models
- Develop susceptibility index

Research/Monitoring

- Develop susceptibility index
- Improve/refine estimates of nutrient loading
 - Quantify different sources (atmospheric, ground water)
- Refine remote sensing tools
 - Increase spatial and temporal resolution/validity
 - Satellite and aerial photography (CIR)
- Evaluate value of HABs as a response to eutrophication
 - Relative to total phytoplankton
 - Shifts in phytoplankton community composition

Monitoring

- Institutionalize monitoring of eutrophication indicators
- Analyze multi-year data (moving averages)
- Establish data standards/QA mechanism
 - Minimal frequencies for specific indicators by estuarine type
 - Include data quality indicators
- Develop mechanism to easily capture summary data and disseminate to States/stakeholders
 - Standard data transfer standards
 - Web-based data entry/dissemination
- Prioritize real-time and/or continuous monitoring in estuaries (vs. coastal ocean) - IOOS

Management

- Promote acceptance by decision-makers and the public of the status of estuary eutrophication
 - Templates for regular “report cards”
 - Accessible and easy to understand
- Consistency between NEEA indicators and NPS indicators
 - e.g. macroalgae vs. water column nutrient concentrations
- Establish link between eutrophication indicators and loss of beneficial uses / aquatic life use
 - Work with EPA on establishment of nutrient criteria
 - Biocriteria for estuaries
- Use TMDL and NPS programs to begin reducing land-based non-point sources of nutrients

Management

- Use TMDL, NPDES and NPS programs to begin reducing land-based point and non-point sources of nutrients
 - Public outreach and education on BMPs, MMs, etc
- Pursue linkage between air and water regulatory programs