**PI-2– Maintain Points of Contact for the State of Louisiana**

**OBJECTIVES**

1. To maintain Points-of-Contact for the State of Louisiana with respect to implementation of the CCMP.
2. To maintain appropriate organizational relations with the host fiscal agency.
3. To continue to maintain professional associations with many State of Louisiana agencies that provide a mechanism for the CCMP implementation.

**BACKGROUND**

As CCMP implementation continues, it is important that the Louisiana Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities be designated as a primary Point-of-Contact for the State of Louisiana. It would also seem appropriate that currently the Louisiana Board of Regents through its Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) will continue in its role as the responsible agency for fiscal and administrative oversight of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP). LUMCON provides fiscal administrative support for the Program Office support functions and would continue to receive any additional EPA grant funds.

Additionally, the Program Office on behalf of the BTNEP MC is encouraged to maintain and build relationships with other State of Louisiana agencies who are MC members and who are instrumental in the implementation of the CCMP. Estuarine resources are in demand by many different groups, resulting in multiple-user conflicts. By maintaining and building professional associations, the Program Office and BTMC, may help residents better protect the estuary’s natural resources, the rights of resource users, and the unique lifestyles of the estuary.

**DESCRIPTION**

The Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities will be designated as the point of contact for State of Louisiana wetlands policy-related issues and activities related to the implementation of the CCMP. This may include help in seeking funding, monitoring, and helping the public in understanding restoration goals, objectives, and trade-offs.

The Louisiana Board of Regents through its Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) will be designated and continue in its role as the responsible agency for fiscal and administrative oversight of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP). This includes the oversight of the operation of the Program Office. BOR-LUMCON will be responsible for seeking funding on the state level through the Legislative Process for State Financial Support of the BTNEP. LUMCON will also be the Financial Overseer and Fiscal Agent for all current and potential EPA awards. This includes the fiscal and administrative oversight of existing awards and potential awards provided by private, local, state, and federal grant funds.

The BTNEP Program Office will also build, maintain, and seek out professional interactions and connections with other State agencies which have influence on the health of the estuary and implementation of the CCMP.

**LEAD AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING ACTION**

The BTNEP Program Office and BTMC will be responsible maintaining and improving contacts with the State of Louisiana. Program Office staff will be responsible for the day-to-day interactions and BTMC members will be in support of maintaining relationships that help with the implementation of the CCMP.

If needed an executive committee can be selected by the members of the BTMC and may include a Chairman, Co-chair, Secretary, and other necessary positions to aid in the implementation of this Action Plan with support and coordination provided by the Program Office.

**TIMELINES AND/OR MILESTONES**

BTNEP Program Office will continue to build on long standing relationships with State agencies. BTNEP Program Office staff will report to BTMC at its quarterly meetings about activities as needed.

**POSSIBLE RANGE OF COSTS AND SOURCES OF FUNDING**

Participation in activities including meetings will be covered by existing BTNEP budgets. The BTMC will be supporting the Program Office staff.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

The monitoring strategies are intended to serve as mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of projects implemented under the action plans. These strategies should only be used as a guide, not as a requirement. It must be recognized that the monitoring strategies should not be expensive to implement and that, because all levels of government and much of the private sector currently have severe funding restraints. Performance measure include:

* Four Management Conference (MC) meetings annually.
* Minutes from the quarterly MC meetings.
* Various reports to EPA about BTMC and Program activities

**Possible Data Gathered:**

* Agendas from BTMC meetings
* Presentations from BTMC meetings
* EPA reports as required
* Annual reports to EPA
* Annual reports to State as directed

**Monitoring:**

**Parties responsible**: BTNEP Program Office will be responsible for all reporting parameters

**Timetable for gathering data:** – Annually, quarterly, and/or as requested by EPA, BTMC, and the State

**How data is shared:** – All materials are shared through the web either on the BTNEP.org site or through EPA or State of Louisiana

**Possible data gaps:** **-** The Program Office and/or the BTMC will regularly evaluate data to determine if there are any possible data gaps.

**If additional funding is needed** – Yes, as the Program Office evolves additional funding may be required.