Overview of NEMIA Research Components

Socio-Economic Assessment
Purpose/anticipated outcomes: The socio-economic assessment team has collected information for the 3 county study area on local demographics, economic indicators, recreation opportunities, and travel trends and impacts. This data has been used to create GIS layers, a traffic flow model, and to input into a tourism economic impact model, which estimates total visitor spending in the study area and the associated economic effects in terms of sales, income, jobs, and tax receipts.

Lead investigators: Rod Ehler (Rod.Ehler@noaa.gov, 301-713-3125 x246) and Jordan Parrillo (Jordan.Parrillo@noaa.gov, 301-713-3125 x266)
NOAA, National Marine Sanctuary Program

Other collaborators/data sources: MSU Tourism Resource Center

Ecological Assessment
Purpose/anticipated outcomes: The purpose for the ecological assessment is to highlight the ecologically valuable lands throughout this area, and ensure that the decision makers know where these lands are. Our anticipated outcome from this project will be to illustrate and present policy options that both take advantage of these lands while also preserving, protecting, and maintaining their ecological function and value.

Lead investigators: Brian Colleran (kirun@umich.edu, 203-561-5010) and Ken Mori (moriken@umich.edu)
University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources

Other collaborators/data sources: The Nature Conservancy, Michigan DNR, Michigan DEQ, USGS, EPA

Planning and Zoning Assessment
Purpose/anticipated outcomes: This component of the NEMIA process will provide an assessment of the planning and development management efforts of jurisdictions in the 3 county region. The assessment will consist of content analyses of local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances, followed by interviews of local elected officials and decision-makers. The planning and zoning assessment will help local officials and decision makers evaluate the extent to which their plans and codes are designed to effectively manage growth, and whether the current planning institutions are sufficient to advance the community’s policy goals and preferences.

Lead Investigators: Dr. Richard Norton (rknorton@umich.edu, 734- 936-0197) and Nina David (npdavid@umich.edu, 734-913-9354)
University of Michigan, Urban and Regional Planning Program
Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

Other collaborators/data sources: NEMCOG; Sea Grant; NE Michigan Local Governments
Cultural Assessment

*Purpose/anticipated outcomes:* The cultural assessment component will collect and compile a list of coastal cultural assets of northeast Michigan, including assets both on coastal lands and in Lake Huron waters. This project will utilize data from existing documents, databases and regional initiatives that maintain lists of cultural assets. Assets will be organized by county (Presque Isle, Alpena, and Alcona) and by themes (lighthouses, shipwrecks, etc.). Assessment team will work to identify and fill gaps (as possible), organize and submit data to appropriate databases, and generate GIS data layers that can then be used to support discussion and development of NEMIA policy options.

*Lead investigators:* Sandra Clark (clarkss@michigan.gov, 517-373-6362), Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries; Jeff Gray (Jeff.Gray@noaa.gov, 989-356-8805), NOAA Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary; and Darcie Scheller and Nonnie Banish, Students support from Alpena Community College

*Other collaborators/data sources:* NEMCOG, Michigan Sea Grant, Travel Michigan, NEMIA working group, and others.

Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT)

*Purpose/anticipated outcomes:* “The SDAT program is an interdisciplinary community assistance program that focuses on principles of sustainability by bringing multidisciplinary teams of professionals to work with community decision-makers and stakeholders to help them develop a vision and framework for a sustainable future. The SDAT program focuses on the importance of developing sustainable communities through design. (AIA, 2006)”

For the purpose of the Northeast Michigan Integrated Assessment (NEMIA) process, the SDAT program will provide assistance in synthesizing various research components. The SDAT team will provide planning and design tools and support to the NEMIA working group during the regional “visioning” process, development of policy options, and strategies for implementation.

*Lead investigators:* Erin Simmons (esimmons@aia.org), James Moore (James.Moore@hdrinc.com), and Constance Boderow (cbodurow@earthlink.net) Representing the American Institute of Architects

*Other collaborators/data sources:* The SDAT will be collaborating with socio-economic, planning and zoning, ecological, and cultural assessment teams, as well as NEMIA working group