

SEARCH
DETNEWS.COM

GO

**BUY
SELL** Pets

marketplacedetroit.com



Wednesday, November 15, 2000

[Return to Macomb](#)

The Detroit News

[E-mail this story](#)[Comment on this story](#)[Previous story](#)[Next story](#)detnews
.comSITE
INDEX

NEWS

SPORTS

ENTERTAINMENT

Copyright 2000
The Detroit News.Use of this site
signifies your
agreement to the
[Terms of Service](#)
(updated April 17,
2000).

New system to pinpoint pollution sources

Monitoring network to track discharges into Lake St. Clair

By Edward L. Cardenas / The Detroit News

ST. CLAIR SHORES -- Beginning in March, a monitoring program will enable researchers to predict the path of water pollution in Lake St. Clair.

The program is an expansion of one that began last summer with an automated weather buoy six miles off the coast of St. Clair Shores. It's a joint effort involving the city, the county and the University of Michigan.

"Sometime very soon, we will be able to track where the (pollution) is coming from," said Greg Esler, St. Clair Shores parks and recreation director.

"This will give us good information that will bring us much closer to solving (the pollution problem)," he added.

The two-year project will be paid for by a matching grant program through Sea Grant, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It was established to promote understanding and intelligent use of the Great Lakes and oceans.

Sea Grant is contributing a \$140,000 annual grant. Macomb County and communities along the Lake St. Clair shoreline are expected to contribute the matching \$70,000 for program.

U-M researchers will place an automated buoy in the lake on March 1 to track wind and wave conditions, water current speed, direction and water temperature. The information will then be transmitted to an on-shore station and on to U-M, which will record it on a Web site.

The program will also include water testing and creation of a model of the lake's currents.

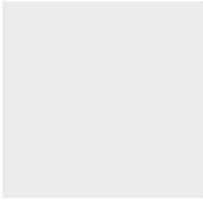
"It is more advanced (than the previous system) and will do an even better job of predicting," said Guy Meadows, a U-M professor.

"The model will also work in reverse. If there is a beach closure from contamination on a certain day, it can run backwards and help the county determine what drain it came from."

Researchers hope that the system will allow health department officials identify contaminated areas more quickly, and inform the public who use Lake St. Clair for swimming or other recreational activities.

While this new system will tell researchers which way the pollution is heading, it will not be able to distinguish what is polluting the water.

"I want to know if there is a health threat to humans," said Doug Martz, chairman of the Macomb County Water Quality Board. Martz isn't against the new program, but he wants a \$3 million monitoring system for Lake St. Clair, Clinton River and the St. Clair River. "If we had the monitoring system, we would have caught the sanitary sewer overflows. It would be



like a cop downstream.”

You can reach Edward L. Cardenas at (810) 468-0529 or at ecardenas@detnews.com.

[▶ Comment on this story](#)

[▶ Previous story](#) [▶ Back to index](#)