

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

CATALOG DOCUMENTATION  
NATIONAL COASTAL ASSESSMENT- NORTHEAST DATABASE  
YEARS 2000-2006  
SEDIMENT CHEMISTRY DATA: "SEDCHEM"

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1. DATASET IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Title of Catalog document

National Coastal Assessment-Northeast Region Database  
Years 2000-2006  
SEDIMENT CHEMISTRY DATA

1.2 Authors of the Catalog entry

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Harry Buffum, Raytheon Corporation

1.3 Catalog revision date

October 2009

1.4 Dataset name

SEDCHEM

1.5 Task Group

National Coastal Assessment-Northeast

1.6 Dataset identification code

007

1.7 Version

001

1.8 Requested Acknowledgment

EMAP requests that all individuals who download EMAP data acknowledge the source of these data in any reports, papers, or presentations. If you publish these data, please include a statement similar to: "Some or all of the data described in this article were produced by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency through its Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP)".

## 2. INVESTIGATOR INFORMATION (for full addresses see Section 13)

### 2.1 Principal Investigators (NCA Northeast Region)

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### 2.2 Sample Collection Investigators

Donald Cobb, U.S. EPA NHEERL-AED

### 2.3 Sample Processing Investigators

John Macauley, U.S. EPA NHEERL-GED

## 3. DATASET ABSTRACT

### 3.1 Abstract of the Dataset

The SEDCHEM data file reports the concentrations of chemical contaminants in sediment samples collected in Northeast estuaries sampled during the summer of 2000-2006. Sediment samples were analyzed for 77 chemical constituents, including metals, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and pesticides. One record is presented per analyte. For concentration values smaller than the MDL (non-detects), the result is reported as zero, the method detection limit (MDL) is listed, and the record is flagged; thereby giving the data user options for alternative treatment of non-detects (see Section 4.3).

### 3.2 Keywords for the Dataset

Sediment contaminants, metals, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, PAH, polychlorinated biphenyls, PCB, pesticides, DDT.

## 4. OBJECTIVES AND INTRODUCTION

### 4.1 Program Objective

The National Coastal Assessment (NCA) is a national monitoring and assessment program with the primary goal of providing a consistent evaluation of the estuarine condition in U.S. estuaries. It is an initiative of the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP), and is a partnership of several federal and state environmental agencies, including: EPA's Regions, Office of Research and Development, and Office of Water; state environmental protection agencies in the 24 marine coastal states and Puerto Rico; and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA). The NCA program was initiated in 2000 and completed in 2006.

Stations were randomly selected using EMAP's probabilistic sampling framework and were usually sampled once during a summer index period (June to October). Where possible, a consistent suite of indicators was used to measure conditions in the water, sediment, and in benthic and fish communities. The measured data may be used by the states to meet their reporting requirements under the Clean Water Act, Section 305(b). The data were also used to generate a series of national reports characterizing the

condition of the Nation's estuaries <http://www.epa.gov/nccr/>.

#### 4.2 Dataset Objective

The objective of the sediment chemistry data file is to report the concentrations of chemical contaminants in estuarine sediment samples collected in the northeast NCA program in 2000-2006.

#### 4.3 Dataset Background Discussion

Parameters contained in SEDCHEM data file are listed in Section 4.4. This current section provides background information on several of these parameters. The information here pertains to data collected in 2000-2006 in northeastern coastal region, Maine through Virginia.

The NCA suite of analytes measured are the same contaminants measured by EPA's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) and NOAA's National Status and Trends program. Four classes of analytes are measured: polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), organo-chlorine pesticides, and metals. The twenty-two measured PAHs compounds include the 16 priority pollutants defined by the Superfund program and several alkylated derivatives which are useful in identifying sources of these compounds. The concentrations of 20 PCBs and 20 pesticides, all Superfund priority pollutants, are also measured. Sediment grain-size and Total Organic Carbon (TOC) measurements made on the same sediments are reported in the SEDGRAIN file.

The analytes in this file are identified with an abbreviated code name (listed in Section 7.1.3). Full chemical names and CAS numbers are listed in the ANALYTES data table.

The Tables below indicate the number of records reporting analyte results by ST\_COOP and Year, and can be used to identify systematic absences of data collection by coops. (Some absent blocks reflect coop name changes in 2005/6; essentially ST\_COOP NJ-C = NJ, NJ-DB = DB, and DE = DI in the Table below. See the metadata file for STATIONS for discussion of the ST\_COOP parameter). Note that RI, MA, and CT did not collect nutrient data in 2002. Only 2005/06 data for MD and VA are contained in this database; contact John Macauley (Section 13) for information regarding earlier data for these states.

Number of Metal records by ST\_COOP and Year:

| # Metal records | Year |      |      |      |      |      |      | Grand Total |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
|                 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |             |
| ST_COOP         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |             |
| ME              | 390  | 690  | 298  | 435  | 435  | 330  | 345  | 2923        |
| NH              | 510  | 540  | 300  | 345  | 240  | 240  | 330  | 2505        |
| MA              | 540  | 615  |      | 255  | 315  | 345  | 345  | 2415        |
| RI              | 510  | 525  |      | 240  | 270  | 375  | 375  | 2295        |
| CT              | 405  | 528  | 169  | 164  | 269  | 118  | 480  | 2133        |
| NY              | 406  | 420  | 645  | 322  | 308  | 350  |      | 2451        |
| NJ-C            | 390  | 600  | 426  | 330  | 540  |      |      | 2286        |
| NJ              |      |      |      |      |      | 240  | 690  | 930         |
| NJ-DB           | 420  | 465  | 492  | 435  | 510  |      |      | 2322        |
| DB              |      |      |      |      |      | 300  | 420  | 720         |

|                    |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |              |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| DE                 | 255         | 315         | 300         | 285         | 300         |             |             | 1455         |
| DI                 |             |             |             |             |             | 375         | 360         | 735          |
| MD                 |             |             |             |             |             | 330         | 375         | 705          |
| VA                 |             |             |             |             |             | 750         | 735         | 1485         |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>3826</b> | <b>4698</b> | <b>2630</b> | <b>2811</b> | <b>3187</b> | <b>3753</b> | <b>4455</b> | <b>25360</b> |

Number of PAH records by ST\_COOP and Year

| # PAH records      | Year        |             |             |             |             |             |             | Grand Total  |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| ST_COOP            | 2000        | 2001        | 2002        | 2003        | 2004        | 2005        | 2006        | Grand Total  |
| ME                 | 572         | 1012        | 484         | 484         | 638         | 484         | 506         | 4180         |
| NH                 | 748         | 792         | 440         | 462         | 352         | 352         | 484         | 3630         |
| MA                 | 792         | 924         |             | 374         | 462         | 506         | 506         | 3564         |
| RI                 | 748         | 770         |             | 352         | 396         | 550         | 550         | 3366         |
| CT                 | 594         | 748         | 286         | 242         | 396         | 176         | 704         | 3146         |
| NY                 | 638         | 682         | 924         | 506         | 484         | 528         |             | 3762         |
| NJ-C               | 572         | 880         | 660         | 484         | 792         |             |             | 3388         |
| NJ                 |             |             |             |             |             | 352         | 1012        | 1364         |
| NJ-DB              | 616         | 660         | 792         | 638         | 748         |             |             | 3454         |
| DB                 |             |             |             |             |             | 440         | 616         | 1056         |
| DE                 | 374         | 462         | 440         | 418         | 440         |             |             | 2134         |
| DI                 |             |             |             |             |             | 550         | 528         | 1078         |
| MD                 |             |             |             |             |             | 462         | 550         | 1012         |
| VA                 |             |             |             |             |             | 1078        | 1078        | 2156         |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>5654</b> | <b>6930</b> | <b>4026</b> | <b>3960</b> | <b>4708</b> | <b>5478</b> | <b>6534</b> | <b>37290</b> |

Number of PCB records by ST\_COOP and Year

| # PCB records      | Year        |             |             |             |             |             |             | Grand Total  |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| ST_COOP            | 2000        | 2001        | 2002        | 2003        | 2004        | 2005        | 2006        | Grand Total  |
| ME                 | 520         | 920         | 440         | 609         | 609         | 462         | 482         | 4042         |
| NH                 | 680         | 720         | 400         | 483         | 336         | 336         | 459         | 3414         |
| MA                 | 720         | 840         |             | 357         | 441         | 483         | 483         | 3324         |
| RI                 | 680         | 700         |             | 336         | 378         | 525         | 525         | 3144         |
| CT                 | 540         | 720         | 260         | 230         | 378         | 168         | 667         | 2963         |
| NY                 | 609         | 651         | 924         | 470         | 462         | 504         |             | 3620         |
| NJ-C               | 520         | 800         | 600         | 462         | 756         |             |             | 3138         |
| NJ                 |             |             |             |             |             | 336         | 966         | 1302         |
| NJ-DB              | 560         | 600         | 720         | 609         | 714         |             |             | 3203         |
| DB                 |             |             |             |             |             | 420         | 588         | 1008         |
| DE                 | 340         | 420         | 400         | 399         | 420         |             |             | 1979         |
| DI                 |             |             |             |             |             | 525         | 504         | 1029         |
| MD                 |             |             |             |             |             | 462         | 525         | 987          |
| VA                 |             |             |             |             |             | 1050        | 1021        | 2071         |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>5169</b> | <b>6371</b> | <b>3744</b> | <b>3955</b> | <b>4494</b> | <b>5271</b> | <b>6220</b> | <b>35224</b> |

Number of Pesticide records by ST\_COOP and Year

| # Pesticide records | Year |      |      |      |      |      |      | Grand Total |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
|                     | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |             |
| ST_COOP             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |             |
| ME                  | 516  | 920  | 418  | 580  | 580  | 440  | 460  | 3914        |
| NH                  | 664  | 720  | 394  | 460  | 320  | 320  | 440  | 3318        |
| MA                  | 720  | 840  |      | 340  | 420  | 460  | 460  | 3240        |
| RI                  | 678  | 700  |      | 320  | 360  | 500  | 500  | 3058        |
| CT                  | 513  | 684  | 247  | 219  | 359  | 158  | 640  | 2820        |
| NY                  | 522  | 527  | 836  | 437  | 418  | 456  |      | 3196        |
| NJ-C                | 520  | 800  | 592  | 440  | 720  |      |      | 3072        |
| NJ                  |      |      |      |      |      | 320  | 920  | 1240        |
| NJ-DB               | 560  | 600  | 698  | 580  | 680  |      |      | 3118        |
| DB                  |      |      |      |      |      | 400  | 560  | 960         |
| DE                  | 340  | 420  | 400  | 380  | 400  |      |      | 1940        |
| DI                  |      |      |      |      |      | 500  | 480  | 980         |
| MD                  |      |      |      |      |      | 440  | 500  | 940         |
| VA                  |      |      |      |      |      | 1000 | 980  | 1980        |
| Grand Total         | 5033 | 6211 | 3585 | 3756 | 4257 | 4994 | 5940 | 33776       |

Routinely, the concentration values from clean sites were reported as smaller than the method detection limit (MDL). In this file, these 'non-detects' are reported as zero and the QACODE is set to "CHM-A" to indicate the assignment. While the concentration of the analyte is clearly small, it is not strictly zero. The MDL is therefore listed as a guideline to users who wish to substitute values other than zero, i.e., setting the non-detect value to the MDL value, half the MDL value, etc. Furthermore, results of organic analytes may routinely show non-zero values that are less than the MDL. This apparent inconsistency is possible because, by convention, the MDLs for organic analyses are calculated to indicate the threshold of reliable measurements, rather than the stricter limit of instrumental detection. In these cases, the best estimate of the concentration is reported (i.e., the value reported by the analytical laboratory), the QACODE is set to "CHM-B", and the MDL is listed. The user can be confident that the analyte is present, but there is a high degree of uncertainty in the reported concentration. Note that the value of the MDL depends on the dilution history of the sample; therefore, its magnitude can differ widely among samples. Most results in this file are larger than the MDL and are reported directly without MDL values or QACODEs. Finally, records flagged with "CHM-C" indicate that the concentration value is uncertain because an interference was noted in the blank analysis performed with the sample; caution is advised in interpreting these results. To summarize:

| <u>QACODE</u> | <u>INTERPRETATION</u>                  | <u>CONC reported</u> | <u>MDL reported</u> |
|---------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|
| <none>        | result is detectable and > MDL         | as measured          | <none>              |
| CHM-A         | result is ≤ MDL and undetectable       | zero                 | MDL is listed       |
| CHM-B         | result is ≤ MDL but detectable         | best estimate        | MDL is listed       |
| CHM-C         | result may be affected by interference | best estimate        | <none>              |

Samples collected in 2000-2006 were analyzed by a variety of state and national-contract analytical labs, identified by the parameter LABCODE.

The Table below lists the number of metal records analyzed by the indicated labs by ST\_COOP and year (laboratory participation was identical for PAHs, PCBs, and pesticides). While some indications of minor systematic laboratory biases may be evident for some analytes and labs, the biases were not considered great enough to exclude the results from the database. The parameter LABCODE can be used to more carefully examine the results for laboratory bias. Addresses of the participating labs follow the Table.

Count of nutrient records by ST\_COOP, LABCODE, and Year:

| # Metal records |          | Year |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|-----------------|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|
| ST_COOP         | LABCODE  | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |  |
| ME              | NAT_ADL  | 516  | 920  |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|                 | NAT_ERI  |      |      | 418  |      |      |      |      |  |
|                 | NAT_GPL  |      |      |      | 580  | 580  | 440  | 60   |  |
|                 | NAT_CRG  |      |      |      |      |      |      | 400  |  |
| NH              | NAT_ADL  | 664  | 720  |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|                 | NAT_ERI  |      |      | 114  |      |      |      |      |  |
|                 | NAT_GPL  |      |      | 280  | 460  | 320  | 320  | 180  |  |
|                 | NAT_CRG  |      |      |      |      |      |      | 260  |  |
| MA              | NAT_ADL  | 720  | 840  |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|                 | NAT_GPL  |      |      |      | 340  | 420  | 460  |      |  |
|                 | NAT_CRG  |      |      |      |      |      |      | 460  |  |
| RI              | NAT_ADL  | 678  | 700  |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|                 | NAT_GPL  |      |      |      | 320  | 360  | 500  | 180  |  |
|                 | NAT_CRG  |      |      |      |      |      |      | 320  |  |
| CT              | CT (ERI) | 513  | 684  | 247  |      |      |      |      |  |
|                 | NAT_GPL  |      |      |      | 200  | 340  | 120  |      |  |
|                 | NY       |      |      |      | 19   | 19   | 38   |      |  |
|                 | NAT_CRG  |      |      |      |      |      |      | 640  |  |
| NY              | NY       | 522  | 527  | 836  | 437  | 418  | 456  |      |  |
| NJ-C            | NAT_ADL  | 520  | 800  |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|                 | NAT_ERI  |      |      | 152  |      |      |      |      |  |
|                 | NAT_GPL  |      |      | 440  | 440  | 720  |      |      |  |
| NJ              | NAT_GPL  |      |      |      |      |      | 320  | 200  |  |
|                 | NAT_CRG  |      |      |      |      |      |      | 720  |  |
| NJ-DB           | NAT_ADL  | 560  | 600  |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|                 | NAT_ERI  |      |      | 418  |      |      |      |      |  |
|                 | NAT_GPL  |      |      | 280  | 580  | 680  |      |      |  |
| DB              | NAT_GPL  |      |      |      |      |      | 400  |      |  |
|                 | NAT_CRG  |      |      |      |      |      |      | 560  |  |
| DE              | NAT_ADL  | 340  | 420  |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|                 | NAT_GPL  |      |      | 400  | 380  | 400  |      |      |  |
| DI              | NAT_GPL  |      |      |      |      |      | 500  | 480  |  |
| MD              | NAT_GPL  |      |      |      |      |      | 440  |      |  |
|                 | NAT_CRG  |      |      |      |      |      |      | 500  |  |
| VA              | NAT_GPL  |      |      |      |      |      | 1000 | 100  |  |
|                 | NAT_CRG  |      |      |      |      |      |      | 880  |  |

Samples collected in 2000-2006 were analyzed by one of several analytical labs, identified by the parameter LABCODE in Section 4.4. Participating labs in 2000-2006 were:

LABCODE = NAT\_ERI: Environmental Research Institute, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269-5210.

LABCODE = NAT\_GPL: GPL Laboratories, 7210A Corporate Court, Frederick, MD 21703

LABCODE =NY: (NY analyses only) New York Dept of Health Services, Wadsworth Center, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12201

LABCODE = CT(ERI): (Connecticut analyses only) Environmental Research Institute, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269-5210.

LABCODE = NAT\_CRG: CRG Marine Laboratories, Inc., 2020 Del Amo Blvd, Suite 200, Torrance, CA 90503

NCA planners provide two alternate locations for a station location in the event that the original location cannot be sampled. The parameter STA\_ALT indicates whether the station location was the original site, first alternate, or second alternate—STA\_ALT = "A", "B", or "C", respectively. Also refer to discussion in the STATIONS metadata file regarding use of this parameter during analysis of the data.

Massachusetts did not participate in the NCA program in 2003. Rhode Island conducted fish trawls only in 2003, and collected physical water parameters in conjunction with the trawls. Connecticut collected all parameters, but at an abbreviated group of in-shore stations (stations in the Long Island Sound intended for sampling in 2003 were sampled in 2003).

#### 4.4 Summary of Dataset Parameters

\* denotes parameters that should be used as key fields when merging data files

|           |  |            |
|-----------|--|------------|
| *STATION  | Station name   |            |
| *STAT_ALT | Alternate Site Code (A, B, C)  |            |
| *EVNTDATE | Event date   |            |
| *ANALYTE  | Name of analyte measured. A list of the ANALYTE codes and their full chemical names is presented in the file ANALYTES; also see Section 7.1.3.   |            |
| CONC      | Concentration of analyte. Results fall into one of three categories: 1) the analyte concentration was large and reliably reported; 2) the analyte concentration was less than the method detection limit, but the best estimate of the concentration is reported; and 3) and the analyte was not detected and is reported as zero. See Section 4.3 for further discussion. |            |
| CHMUNITS  | Concentration units used to report results, reported as the mass of analyte per dry mass of sediment:  |            |
|           | Metals   | ug/g (ppm) |
|           | PAHs, PCBs, Pesticides   | ng/g (ppb) |

MDL Method Detection Limit; reported only when measured concentration is < MDL (see Section 4.3)

QACODE QA/QC codes:  
 <blank> CONC > MDL; concentration value is reliable  
 CHM-A CONC is undetectable; value set to zero (user may wish to substitute another value)  
 CHM-B CONC ≤ MDL, but is detectable; best estimate reported  
 CHM-C failed QA criteria: an interference was noted in the blank analysis performed with the sample; caution is advised in interpreting the result. See Section 4.3 for further discussion.

LABCODE Code identifying laboratory responsible for performing chemical analyses  
 CT(ERI) State laboratory for CT samples only  
 NY State laboratory for NY samples only  
 NAT\_ERI National contract lab (ERI)  
 NAT\_GPL National contract lab (GPL)  
 NAT\_ADL National contract lab (ADL)  
 NAT\_CRG National contract lab (CRG)

ANALTYPE Code identifying type of analysis  
 PEST Pesticides  
 PAHs Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons  
 PCBs Polychlorinated biphenyls  
 METALS Metals

5.0 DATA ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING METHODS

5.1 Data Acquisition / Field Sampling

The sample collection methods used by USEPA trained field crews will be described here. Any significant variations by NCA partners are noted in Section 5.1.12. Details regarding NCA partners are reported in the STATIONS data file.

5.1.1 Sampling Objective

Sediment sub-samples were collected for the analysis of metallic and organic chemical constituents. Separate sub-samples from the same grab were used for sediment grain-size analyses and toxicity testing. Additional sediment grabs were taken for benthic macrofaunal analysis.

5.1.2 Sample Collection: Methods Summary

Sediment was collected with a 0.04-m<sup>2</sup> Young-modified Van-Veen grab or similar sampler. Only the top two centimeters of a grab were retained for physical, chemical, and toxicological analyses. A sufficient number of grabs were processed to provide three liters of the 2-cm composite material. The composite was homogenized and separated into two fractions for storage until analysis. One fraction was frozen and used in the measurement of total organic carbon (TOC) and concentrations of chemical contaminants. The second fraction was chilled but not frozen during

storage, and was used for grain-size and toxicity analyses. Separate sediment grabs were taken for benthic macrofaunal analysis.

#### 5.1.3 Beginning Sampling Dates

25 June 2003

#### 5.1.4 Ending Sampling Dates

31 October 2003

#### 5.1.5 Sampling Platform

Samples were collected from gasoline or diesel powered boats, 18 to 133 feet in length.

#### 5.1.6 Sampling Equipment

A 1/25 m<sup>2</sup>, stainless steel (coated with Kynar), Young-modified Van Veen grab sampler was used to collect sediments.

#### 5.1.7 Manufacturer of Sampling Equipment

Young's Welding, Sandwich, MA

#### 5.1.8 Key Variables

Not applicable

#### 5.1.9 Sample Collection: Methods Calibration

The sampling gear does not require calibration, although it was inspected regularly for damage by mishandling or impact on rocky substrates.

#### 5.1.10 Sample Collection: Quality Control

Care was taken to minimize disturbance to the sediment grabs. Grabs that were incomplete, slumped, less than 7 cm in depth, or comprised chiefly of shelly substrates were discarded. The chance of sampling the same location was minimized by repositioning the boat five meters downstream after three sampling attempts.

#### 5.1.11 Sample Collection: References

Strobel, C.J. 2000. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program: Coastal 2000 - Northeast component: field operations manual. Narragansett (RI): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Atlantic Ecology Division. Report nr EPA/620/R-00/002. 68 p.

#### 5.1.12 Sample Collection: Alternate Methods

Different grab samplers used by NCA partners include the Smith-MacIntyre and Ponar grab samplers.

### 5.2 Data Preparation and Sample Processing

#### 5.2.1 Sample Processing Objective

Sediment samples were analyzed for total metals, PAHs, PCBs and pesticides.

#### 5.2.2 Sample Processing: Methods Summary

All analyses were performed on samples that were stored frozen. Sediments analyzed for total metals were dried and completely digested in nitric/hydrofluoric acids (acid persulfate for mercury). The

analytical methods used to measure analyte concentrations were: cold vapor atomic analysis (AA) for mercury; graphite furnace AA for silver, arsenic, cadmium, lead, antimony, tin and thallium; hydride generation atomic fluorescence for selenium; and optical-emission ionically coupled plasma (ICP) for the remaining metals. For the organic analyses, sediments were extracted using the procedures of NOAA National Status and Trends Program (Lauenstein and Cantillo, 1993). The PAHs were analyzed by gas-chromatography / mass-spectrometry (GC/MS); pesticides and PCBs were analyzed by GC/ECD (electron capture detector).

#### 5.2.3 Sample Processing: Calibration

The analytical instruments were calibrated by standard laboratory procedures including: constructing calibration curves, running blank and spiked quality control samples, and analyzing standard reference materials.

#### 5.2.4 Sample Processing: Quality Control (QC)

Each batch of samples was accompanied by QC analyses consisting of method blanks, matrix spikes, matrix spike duplicates, and standard reference materials (SRMs). In total, approximately 5% of all analyses were QC analyses. Processing quality was considered acceptable if the following criteria were met: blanks were less than three times the minimum detection limit; accuracy, as determined by analysis of certified reference materials, was within 30% for organic analytes and within 15% for inorganic analytes; and precision, as determined by replicate analyses, was within 30% for organic analytes and within 15% for inorganic analytes. Additional specifications and guidelines are presented in U.S. EPA 2001.

#### 5.2.5 Sample Processing: References

Lauenstein, G. G. and A. Y. Cantillo (eds.). 1993. Sampling and analytical methods of the National Status and Trends Program National Benthic Surveillance and Mussel Watch Projects 1984-1992: Comprehensive descriptions of trace organic analytical methods, Volume IV NOAA Technical Memorandum NOS ORCA 71, Silver Spring, MD. 182 pp.

Texas A & M University, Geochemical and Environmental Research Group. 1990. NOAA Status and Trends, Mussel Watch Program, Analytical Methods. Submitted to NOAA. Rockville (MD): U.S. Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Ocean Assessment Division.

U.S. EPA. 1995. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP): Laboratory Methods Manual-Estuaries, Volume 1: Biological and Physical Analyses. Narragansett (RI): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, EPA/620/R-95/008.

U.S. EPA. 2001. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP): National Coastal Assessment Quality Assurance Project Plan 2001-2004. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Gulf Ecology Division, Gulf Breeze, FL. EPA/620/R-01/002. 189 p

#### 5.2.6 Sample Processing: Alternate Methods

Not applicable

6. DATA ANALYSIS AND MANIPULATIONS

6.1 Name of New or Modified Values  
Not applicable

6.2 Data Manipulation Description  
Concentrations of metallic analytes smaller than the method detection limit were reported as zero (see Section 4.3 for details).

7. DATA DESCRIPTION

7.1 Description of Parameters

7.1.1 Components of the Dataset

| PARAMETER | TYPE | LENGTH | LABEL                              |
|-----------|------|--------|------------------------------------|
| ANALYTE   | Char | 8      | Code for Analyte Measured          |
| CONC      | Num  | 8      | Concentration of Analyte in Sample |
| CHMUNITS  | Char | 10     | Unit of Measure                    |
| MDL       | Num  | 8      | Method Detection Limit             |
| STATION   | Char | 9      | Station Name                       |
| STAT_ALT  | Char | 1      | Station Name                       |
| EVNTDATE  | Num  | 8      | Event Date                         |
| QACODE    | Char | 10     | QA Code(s)                         |
| LABCODE   | Char | 10     | Contract/Lab Identifier            |
| ANALTYPE  | Char | 10     | Code for type of analysis          |

7.1.2 Precision of Reported Values

All values have been rounded to three significant digits.

7.1.3 Minimum and Maximum Value in Dataset (non-zero data)

| ID     | NAME      | MIN   | MAX        |
|--------|-----------|-------|------------|
| METALS |           |       |            |
| AG     | Silver    | 0.005 | 29.2       |
| AL     | Aluminum  | 4     | 10900<br>0 |
| AS     | Arsenic   | 0.32  | 88.1       |
| CD     | Cadmium   | 0.005 | 40.6       |
| CR     | Chromium  | 0.42  | 489        |
| CU     | Copper    | 0.35  | 741        |
| FE     | Iron      | 159   | 12600<br>0 |
| HG     | Mercury   | 0.001 | 5.3        |
| MN     | Manganese | 6.03  | 2790       |
| NI     | Nickel    | 0.4   | 86         |
| PB     | Lead      | 1     | 539        |
| SB     | Antimony  | 0.004 | 97.3       |
| SE     | Selenium  | 0.015 | 40.8       |

|          |   |       |       |
|----------|---|-------|-------|
| SN       | Tin   | 0.04  | 317   |
| ZN       | Zinc  | 1.19  | 1640  |
| PAHs     |   |       |       |
| ACENTHE  | Acenaphthene                                | 0.02  | 1300  |
| ACENTHY  | Acenaphthylene                              | 0.01  | 730   |
| ANTHRA   | Anthracene                                  | 0.01  | 4260  |
| BENANTH  | Benz (a) anthracene                         | 0.01  | 7500  |
| BENAPY   | Benz (a) pyrene                             | 0.021 | 7700  |
| BENZOBFL | Benzo (b) fluoranthene                      | 0.04  | 8800  |
| BENZOKFL | Benzo (k) fluoranthene                      | 0.016 | 3000  |
| BENZOP   | Benzo (g, h, i) perylene                    | 0.019 | 3900  |
| BIPHENYL | Biphenyl                                    | 0.02  | 860   |
| CHRYSENE | Chrysene                                    | 0.01  | 6900  |
| DIBENTP  | Dibenzothiophene                            | 0.01  | 780   |
| DIBENZ   | Dibenz (a, h) anthracene                    | 0.003 | 933   |
| DIMETH   | 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene                     | 0.006 | 4730  |
| FLUORANT | Fluoranthene                                | 0.073 | 15000 |
| FLUORENE | Fluorene                                    | 0.01  | 1700  |
| INDENO   | Indeno (1,2,3-c,d) pyrene                   | 0.018 | 4100  |
| MENAP1   | 1-methylnaphthalene                         | 0.03  | 10400 |
| MENAP2   | 2-methylnaphthalene                         | 0.033 | 13800 |
| MEPHEN1  | 1-methylphenanthrene                        | 0.008 | 1600  |
| NAPH     | Naphthalene                                 | 0.06  | 7880  |
| PYRENE   | Pyrene                                      | 0.05  | 14000 |
| TRIMETH  | 2,3,5-trimethylnaphthalene                  | 0.021 | 360   |
| PCBs     |   |       |       |
| PCB101   | 2,2',4,5,5'-pentachlorobiphenyl             | 0.01  | 3800  |
| PCB105   | 2,3,3',4,4'-pentachlorobiphenyl             | 0.003 | 680   |
| PCB110   | 2,3,3',4',6-pentachlorobiphenyl             | 0.2   | 9700  |
| PCB118   | 2,3',4,4',5-pentachlorobiphenyl             | 0.008 | 690   |
| PCB126   | 3,3',4,4',5-pentachlorobiphenyl             | 0.014 | 19    |
| PCB128   | 2,2',3,3',4,4'-hexachlorobiphenyl           | 0.004 | 280   |
| PCB138   | 2,2',3,4,4',5'-hexachlorobiphenyl           | 0.008 | 2600  |
| PCB153   | 2,2',4,4',5,5'-hexachlorobiphenyl           | 0.012 | 5200  |
| PCB170   | 2,2',3,3',4,4',5-heptachlorobiphenyl        | 0.01  | 370   |
| PCB18    | 2,2',5-trichlorobiphenyl                    | 0.014 | 8400  |
| PCB180   | 2,2',3,4,4',5,5'-heptachlorobiphenyl        | 0.005 | 580   |
| PCB187   | 2,2',3,4',5,5',6-heptachlorobiphenyl        | 0.005 | 1100  |
| PCB195   | 2,2',3,3',4,4',5,6-octachlorobiphenyl       | 0.003 | 48    |
| PCB206   | 2,2',3,3',4,4',5,5',6-nonachlorobiphenyl    | 0.003 | 110   |
| PCB209   | 2,2',3,3',4,4',5,5',6,6'-decachlorobiphenyl | 0.002 | 48    |
| PCB28    | 2,4,4'-trichlorobiphenyl                    | 0.007 | 18000 |
| PCB44    | 2,2',3,5'-tetrachlorobiphenyl               | 0.013 | 7300  |
| PCB52    | 2,2',5,5'-tetrachlorobiphenyl               | 0.01  | 18000 |
| PCB66    | 2,3',4,4'-tetrachlorobiphenyl               | 0.007 | 7900  |
| PCB77    | 3,3',4,4'-tetrachlorobiphenyl               | 0.1   | 4700  |
| PCB77_CO | PCB77/PCB110 coeluted                       | 0.032 | 25    |

|          |                       |       |      |
|----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| PCB8     | 2,4'-dichlorobiphenyl | 0.021 | 3800 |
| PEST     |                       |       |      |
| ALDRIN   | Aldrin                | 0.28  | 12   |
| CISCHL   | Alpha-Chlordane       | 0.005 | 340  |
| DIELDRIN | Dieldrin              | 0.005 | 100  |
| ENDOSUI  | Endosulfan I          | 0.024 | 11.8 |
| ENDOSUII | Endosulfan II         | 0.013 | 21   |
| ENDOSULF | Endosulfan Sulfate    | 0.005 | 7.7  |
| ENDRIN   | Endrin                | 0.034 | 1200 |
| HEPTACHL | Heptachlor            | 0.012 | 9    |
| HEPTAEPO | Heptachlor epoxide    | 0.006 | 7.8  |
| HEXACHL  | Hexachlorobenzene     | 0.002 | 220  |
| LINDANE  | Lindane (gamma-BHC)   | 0.005 | 270  |
| MIREX    | Mirex                 | 0.005 | 9    |
| OPDDD    | 2,4'-DDD              | 0.012 | 120  |
| OPDDE    | 2,4'-DDE              | 0.014 | 550  |
| OPDDT    | 2,4'-DDT              | 0.007 | 14.4 |
| PPDDD    | 4,4'-DDD              | 0.009 | 360  |
| PPDDE    | 4,4'-DDE              | 0.001 | 280  |
| PPDDT    | 4,4'-DDT              | 0.006 | 580  |
| TNONCHL  | Trans-Nonachlor       | 0.004 | 18   |

7.1.4 Maximum Value in Dataset  
See Section 7.1.3

## 7.2 Data Record Example

### 7.2.1 Column Names for Example Records

| STATION | STAT_ALT | EVNTDATE | ANALYTE | CONC | QACODE | MDL | CHMUNITS | LABCODE | ANALTYPE |
|---------|----------|----------|---------|------|--------|-----|----------|---------|----------|
|---------|----------|----------|---------|------|--------|-----|----------|---------|----------|

### 7.2.2 Example Data Records

| STATION   | STAT_ALT | EVNTDATE  | ANALYTE | CONC  | QACODE | MDL | CHMUNITS | LABCODE | ANALTYPE |
|-----------|----------|-----------|---------|-------|--------|-----|----------|---------|----------|
| BU01-0001 | A        | 8/22/2001 | AG      | 0     | CHM-A  | 0.1 | ug/dry g | NAT_ADL | METALS   |
| BU01-0001 | A        | 8/22/2001 | AL      | 16500 |        |     | ug/dry g | NAT_ADL | METALS   |
| BU01-0001 | A        | 8/22/2001 | AS      | 0     | CHM-A  | 1   | ug/dry g | NAT_ADL | METALS   |

## 8. GEOGRAPHIC AND SPATIAL INFORMATION

8.1 Minimum Longitude (Westernmost)  
-77.304 decimal degrees

8.2 Maximum Longitude (Easternmost)  
-66.946 decimal degrees

8.3 Minimum Latitude (Southernmost)  
36.564 decimal degrees

8.4 Maximum Latitude (Northernmost)  
45.1848 decimal degrees

8.5 Name of Region  
The National Coastal Assessment Northeast Region covers the northeastern US coastline from Maine to Delaware

## 9. QUALITY CONTROL AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

### 9.1 Measurement Quality Objectives

The measurement quality objectives of the EMAP-Estuaries program (see U.S. EPA 2001) specify accuracy goals of 35% and 20% respectively for analyses of organics and inorganics; and precision goals of 30% for all sediment chemistry analyses.

### 9.2 Data Quality Assurance Procedures

QA procedures included running blanks, spiked samples, and standard reference materials with each batch of samples. Any batch failing to meet the specifications presented in Section 9.1 was reanalyzed or rejected.

### 9.3 Actual Measurement Quality

All of the data reported in this data file met the QA specifications listed in Section 9.1 or are flagged in a variable called "QACODE".

## 10. DATA ACCESS

### 10.1 Data Access Procedures

Data can be downloaded from the web  
<http://www.epa.gov/emap/nca/html/regions/index.html>

### 10.2 Data Access Restrictions

None

### 10.3 Data Access Contact Persons

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### 10.4 Dataset Format

ASCII (CSV) and SAS Export files

### 10.5 Information Concerning Anonymous FTP

Not available

### 10.6 Information Concerning WWW

No gopher access, see Section 10.1 for WWW access

### 10.7 EMAP CD-ROM Containing the Dataset

Data not available on CD-ROM

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U.S. EPA. 2001. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP): National Coastal Assessment Quality Assurance Project Plan 2001-2004. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Gulf Ecology Division, Gulf Breeze, FL. EPA/620/R-01/002. 189 p

## 12. TABLE OF ACRONYMS

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| AED    | Atlantic Ecology Division                                     |
| EMAP   | Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program               |
| EPA    | Environmental Protection Agency                               |
| MDL    | Method Detection Limit  |
| NCA    | National Coastal Assessment                                   |
| ng/g   | Nano gram per gram  |
| NHEERL | National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory |
| PAH    | Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbon                              |
| PCB    | Polychlorinated Biphenyls                                     |
| ppb    | parts per billion   |
| ppm    | parts per million   |
| QA/QC  | Quality Assurance/Quality Control                             |
| SRM    | Standard Reference Material                                   |
| TOC    | Total Organic Carbon  |
| ug/g   | Micro gram per gram   |
| WWW    | World Wide Web  |

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