Accountability:

Can we show improvement in the NEPs?

Barry Burgan, US EPA, OW
EMAP Symposium
April 11, 2007
National Coastal Assessment

- Based ~1250 sampling stations in all 28 NEPs from 1997-2003 to determine condition using EMAP approach

- Includes NEP/partner data during the same time-frame. Data are not collected in a consistent and comparable fashion.
Overall Estuary Condition

NEP Estuaries

All US Estuaries
Population Pressures

Figure 1.2. Population distribution in the United States in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2001).
Figure 1-4. Population density data for the United States from 1960 to 2000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1991; 2001).
NEP CCR Conclusions

• NEPs scored better than or equal to all other estuaries despite significant population pressures in the 1990s
• Based upon National Coastal Assessment data can be used in unbiased estuarine comparisons
• NEPs have valuable site specific data but is not collected in way to present national or regional snap-shot
• Need combination of both
NEP coordinated and integrated monitoring, over time, could involve:

- Periodic probabilistic sampling for estuary comparisons and to evaluate changes in baseline conditions

- Moored instrumentation to document temporal dynamics

- Estuary specific monitoring targeting specific issues of concern