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Understanding Estuarine Condition---Research and Logistical Challenges for the 2010 Survey

Barry Burgan, USEPA, OW EMAP Symposium April 11, 2007 Assessing Estuarine Condition at Multiple Scales









National Coastal Condition Report III Draft



National Coastal Assessment

- Assessments in all 24 states-- some since 1987, until 2006
- Cooperative agreements with each state on annual basis
- NCCR III reports on NCA data from
 2001→2002
- NCCR IV will report on NCA data from $2003 \rightarrow 2006$ in 2010

National Estuary Program

 Office of Water supported NCA efforts in 1999-2001 to assess ~35-50 stations in each NEP

 Resulted in *NEP Coastal Condition Report* to be released shortly



Monitoring Initiative-Objectives

- Strengthen State monitoring programs by providing new funds to states to develop and implement monitoring strategies
 - Integrate tools to support more efficient use of monitoring resources

Monitoring Initiative-Objectives

- Assess the condition of all of the Nation's waters and changes over time
 - Create partnership among federal, state and others to cost-effectively survey the Nation's waters
 - Provide information, with documented confidence, on the extent of water quality problems and key stressors across the country to support decision making

Survey of the Nation's Waters

FY06 FY07 FY08 FY09 FY10 FY11 **FY12**

Coastal	Lab,data	Report	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report
Streams	Report	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report*	Research
Lakes/							
Reservoirs	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report	Research	Design	Field
Rivers	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report*	Research	Design
Wetlands	Research	Research	Research	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data

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Monitoring Initiative – Current Allocation of Funds

- Provide \$9.8M in 106 grant for improved monitoring programs and state priorities
 - Provide each State \$170,000 annually for program enhancements outlined in state monitoring strategies

Monitoring Initiative – Current Allocation of Funds

- Provide States and Tribes \$8.4M in 106 grant to participate in statistically-valid surveys of the Nation's waters
 - \$8000 per site for regional/national scale survey in lower 48
 - \$400K set aside to build survey capacity in AK, HI, trust territories

Issues: Coastal 2010 survey

- Cooperative agreement vs. grant
- Coastal/marine agency vs. Section 106 grant agency
- Scale--National, regional, state estuary reporting
- Sample design- simple/stratified
- Sample frame- where and how many samples
- Interface with wetlands-subtidal vs. intertidal

Issues: Coastal 2010 survey

- Tidal break to estuary mouth?
- Coverage- Alaska, Great lakes, Trust Territories
- \$4K/site NCA (2,000 sites) vs. \$8K/site Section 106 grant (1,000 sites)
- Equipment and staff capacity after 4 year layover
- New/modified NCA/NCCR indicators and variables
- Others ??

Coastal Planning Workgroup

- Commence national workgroup beginning in Spring 2008
- Federal, State, Territory, watershed and NEP representatives to answer these and other issues
- Allocate resources for coasts in 2009 for 2010 assessments
- Contact me (<u>burgan.barry@epa.gov</u>) or Virginia Engle (<u>engle.virginia@epa.gov</u>)

