

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

FY 2010 National Water Program End of Year Performance by Subobjective

The following chapters provide a summary of the progress made toward accomplishing environmental and program goals for each subobjective described in the FY 2010 *National Water Program Guidance*. Each subobjective chapter includes the following information:

- A brief summary of overall performance in 2010 and the previous four years for measures under each subobjective.
- A description of performance highlights, including what commitments were met and what factors contributed to success.
- A description of management challenges, if appropriate, identifying key factors that led to measures not being met and next steps to improve performance for the future.

Each subobjective section focuses primarily on measures with FY 2010 commitments. Indicator measures are discussed where trends significantly differ from previous year's results. Annual Commitment System (ACS) measure codes are provided in the text in parentheses.

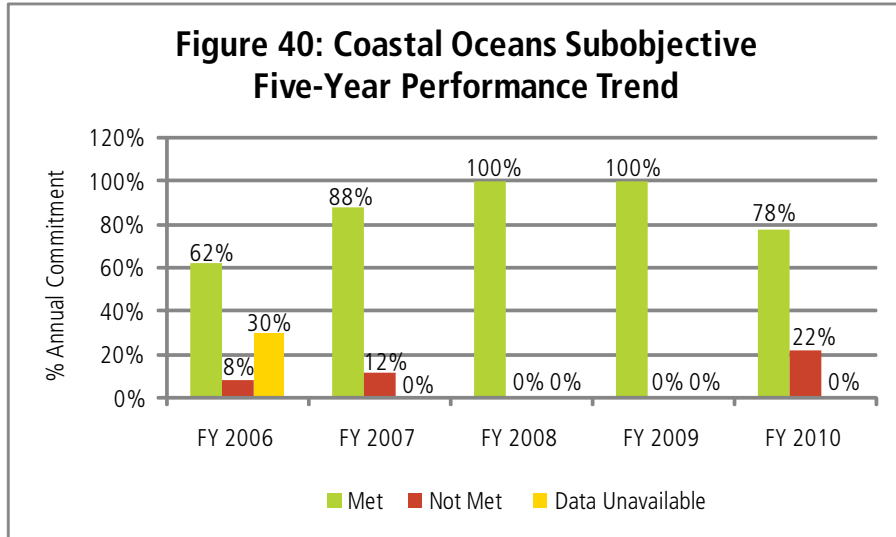
Key for Reading Performance Measure Charts and Tables

For all charts with national trend results, commitments are reflected by trend lines and results by vertical bars. For charts with regional FY 2010 results, a dotted line indicates the national FY 2010 commitment for that particular measure. Although regions use the national commitment as a point of reference in setting their annual commitments, regional commitments may vary based on different conditions. Green bars in both national and regional charts identify commitments met, and red bars identify measures not met.

For the measure summary tables in each subobjective chapter, a green "up" arrow means that a measure met its FY 2010 commitment, and a red "down" arrow indicates that the annual commitment was not met. The letter "I" means that the measure is an indicator measure and did not have an annual commitment for FY 2010. Measures without data or not reporting in FY 2010 are indicated by "Data Unavailable." An "LT" symbol notes that the measure has a long-term goal and does not have an annual commitment. A gold star (★) in the past trends column highlights that the measure has met its annual commitment 100% of the time over the past four or five years. And finally, the appendix number represents the page in Appendix D (D-00) on the website where additional details about the measure can be found, and the figure number is the number of the chart in the chapter.

 **Subobjective: Coastal Oceans**

EPA's Coastal and Ocean Protection program met 78% (seven of nine) of its commitments in 2010. This was a decrease from the FY 2008 and FY 2009 rate of 100% of commitments met. (Figure 40)



FY 2010 ACS Code	Measure Description	Commitment Met/Not Met (I = Indicator) (Data Unavailable = No Data/Not Reporting) (LT = Long-Term Target)	Past Trends: # of Years Met	Appendix Page Number (D-0)/ Figure Number
Subobjective 2.2.2 Coastal/Oceans				
2.2.2	Improve coastal aquatic system health	▲	5/5 ★	D-31
SP-16	Maintain aquatic health—Northeast	▲	3/3	D-31
SP-17	Maintain aquatic health—Southeast	▲	3/3	D-32
SP-18	Maintain aquatic health—West Coast	▲	3/3	D-32
SP-19	Maintain aquatic health—Puerto Rico	▲	3/3	D-32
SP-20	Ocean dumping sites acceptable conditions	▼	2/3	D-33/Fig. 44
4.3.2	NEP acres habitat protected or restored	▼	4/5	D-36/Fig. 43
CO-1	Coastal waterbody impairments restored			D-33
CO-2	Coastline miles protected vessel sewage			D-34
CO-3	NEP priority actions completed			D-34
CO-4	Rate of return federal investment for NEP			D-34
CO-5	Dredged material management plans in place			D-35
CO-6	Active dredged material sites monitored annually			D-35
CO-7	Maintain aquatic health—Hawaii Region	▲	1/1	D-36
CO-8	Maintain aquatic health—South Central Alaska	▲	1/1	D-36

FY 2010 Performance Highlights and Management Challenges

In December 2008, the federal government released the third *National Coastal Condition Report* (NCCR III), which highlights EPA's National Coastal Assessment (NCA) data, collected primarily in 2001 and 2002. The findings from this report serve as a foundation for EPA and its partners to meet their commitments to water quality and offer insights on what additional actions are needed to better protect, manage, and restore coastal ecosystems. According to the NCCR III, the overall condition of the nation's coastal waters is rated fair (Subobjective 2.2.2) (Figure 41). This rating is based on five indicators of ecological condition: water quality index (including dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll-a [Chla], nitrogen, phosphorus, and water clarity); sediment quality index (including sediment toxicity, sediment contaminants, and sediment total organic carbon [TOC]); benthic index; coastal habitat index; and fish tissue contaminants index. Comparison of the coastal condition scores shows that overall condition of U.S. coastal waters has improved slightly since the 1990s. Although the overall condition of U.S. coastal waters is rated as fair in all three reports, the score increased from 2.0 to 2.3 from NCCR I to NCCR II and increased to 2.8 in NCCR III with the addition of Alaska and Hawaii (the score is 2.3 not including Alaska and Hawaii) (Figure 42). Because EPA is not collecting data annually on this measure, it is able to maintain the same target for the period within which a particular NCCR is applicable.

Figure 41

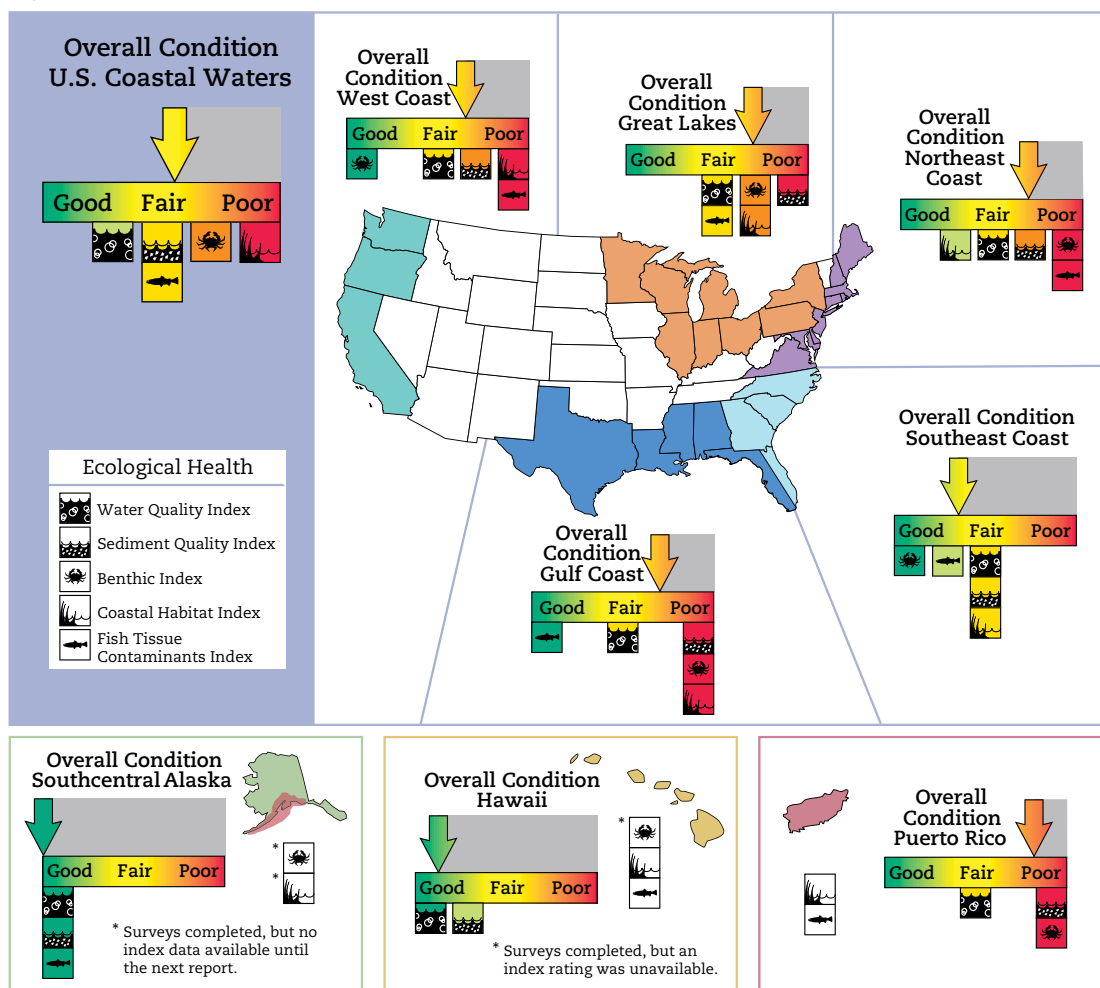


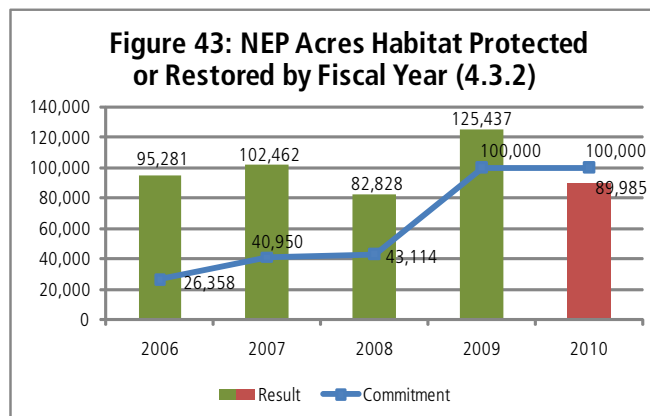
Figure 42

Comparison of Scores for Indicators of Condition by Geographic Region from Three National Coastal Condition Reports¹

Report	Gulf Coast	Southeast Coast	Northeast Coast	S. Central Alaska ²	Hawaii ²	West Coast ³	Great Lakes ³	Puerto Rico ³	United States ⁴
NCCR I 1990-1996	1.8	3.6	1.8			2.0	1.4		2.0
NCCR II 1997-2000	2.4	3.8	1.8	5.0		2.0	2.2	1.7	2.3
NCCR III 2001-2002	2.2	3.6	2.4		4.5	2.4	2.2	1.7	2.3 2.8

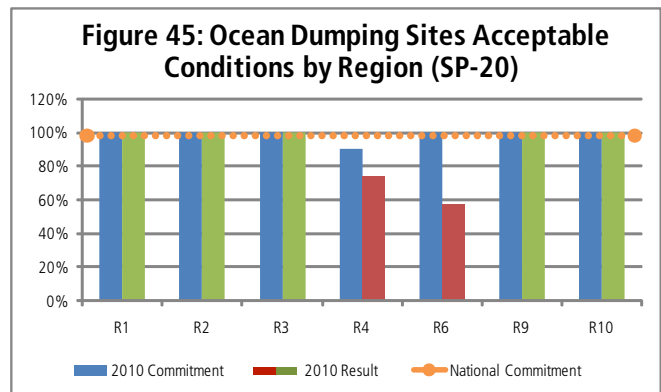
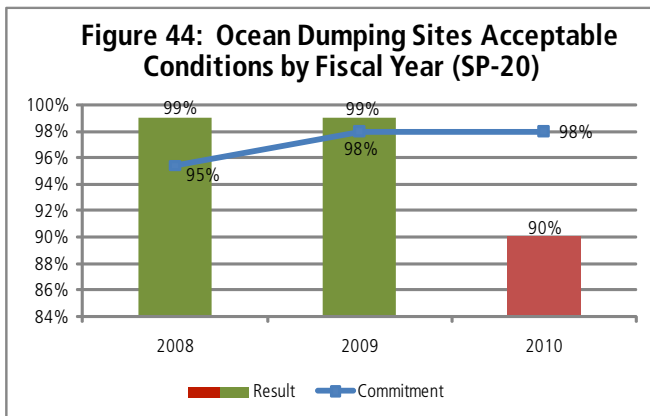
- 1 Ratings scores are based on a 5-point system, where a score of less than 2.0 is rated poor; 2.0 to less than 2.3 is rated fair to poor; greater than 2.3 to 3.7 is rated fair; greater than 3.7 to 4.0 is rated good to fair; and greater than 4.0 is rated good.
- 2 Alaska and Hawaii were not reported in the NCCR I or NCCR II. The NCCR I assessment of the Northeast Coast region did not include the Acadian Province. The West Coast ratings in the NCCR I were compiled using data from many different programs.
- 3 West Coast, Great Lakes, and Puerto Rico scores for the NCCR III are the same as NCCR II (no new data for the NCCR III except for the West Coast benthic index).
- 4 U.S. score is based on an areally weighted mean of regional scores. The first U.S. score is excluding South central Alaska and Hawaii. The second U.S. score includes South central Alaska and Hawaii.

National Estuary Program (NEP). The 28 NEPs and their partners protected or restored almost 90,000 acres of habitat within the NEP study areas—10,000 short of EPA’s goal of 100,000 acres (4.3.2) (Figure 43). This is still a substantial accomplishment despite the fact that several of the Gulf NEPs and their partners diverted their attention away from habitat protection and restoration projects in order to respond to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. EPA has learned that habitat protection and restoration is not an easy process to forecast due to such factors as weather variability, funding, and negotiations with landowners.



In FY 2010, the 28 NEPs played the primary role in directing nearly \$274 million in additional funds toward Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) implementation (leveraged from approximately \$20 million from EPA Section 320 and earmarked funds), which is a ratio of \$14 raised for every \$1 provided by EPA. This is slightly higher than the 12:1 leveraging ratio in FY 2009 (C/O-4). Nearly 95% of these leveraged resources were invested in on-the-ground activities, such as habitat restoration and stormwater management, rather than overhead or operations.

Ocean Protection. Several hundred million cubic yards of sediment are dredged from waterways, ports, and harbors every year to maintain the nation’s navigation system. All of this sediment must be disposed of without causing adverse effects to the marine environment. EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) share responsibility for regulating how and where the disposal of dredged sediment occurs. In FY 2010, 90% of ocean dumping sites with active dredged material achieved environmentally acceptable conditions, as reflected in each site’s management plan and measured through onsite monitoring programs (SP-20). This fell short of the annual commitment of 98% (Figure 44). Due to potential impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill on the ocean dumping sites in the Gulf of Mexico, Region 4 reported that multiple ocean dumping sites in the Gulf of Mexico (i.e., Gulfport Western, Gulfport Eastern, Pensacola Offshore, and Pascagoula) likely do not meet environmentally acceptable conditions. Region 6 reported that a number of ocean dumping sites may not meet environmentally acceptable conditions because resources were diverted to oil spill efforts (Figure 45).



Both the number of dredged material management plans that are in place for major ports and the number of active dredged material ocean dumping sites that are monitored dropped in FY 2010 compared to the previous year, from 38 to 37 and from 38 to 33, respectively.