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.

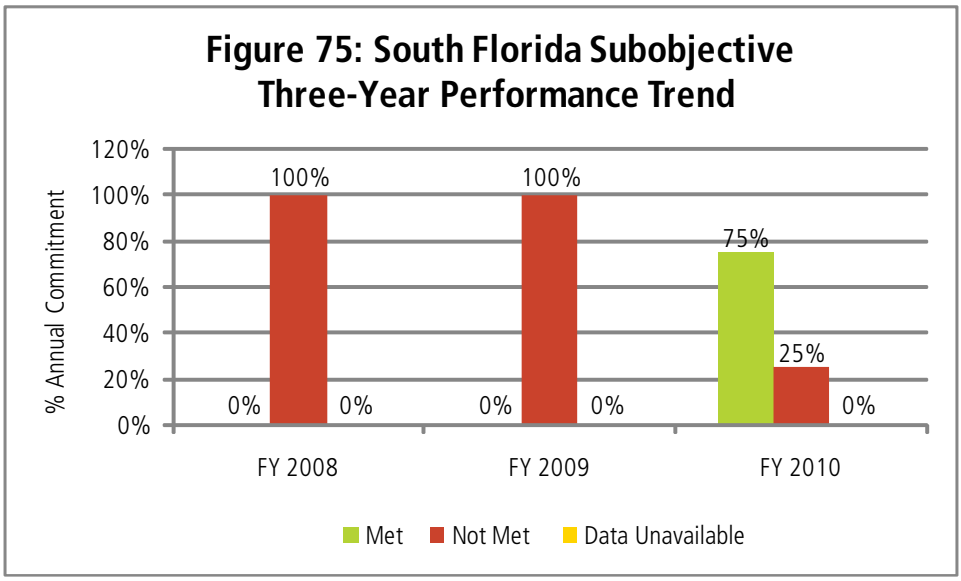
Key for Reading Performance Measure Charts and Tables

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: South Florida

EPA made significant improvements in the performance of its South Florida program in FY 2010. The Agency and its partners met three of four commitments. (Figure 75)



FY 2010 ACS Code	Measure Description	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 4.3.7 South Florida				
SP-45	Achieve no net loss in South Florida stony coral	▲	1/3	D-59
SP-46	Maintain health of South Florida sea grass	▲	1/3	D-59
SP-47	Maintain South Florida coastal water quality	▲	1/3	D-60
SP-48	Improve Everglades water quality	▼	0/3	D-61

FY 2010 Performance Highlights and Management Challenges

The South Florida ecosystem encompasses three national parks, more than 10 national wildlife refuges, a national preserve, and a national marine sanctuary. It is home to two Native American Nations, and it supports the largest wilderness area east of the Mississippi River, the only living coral barrier reef adjacent to the United States, and the largest commercial and sport fisheries in Florida. Rapid population growth, however, is threatening the health of this vital ecosystem. South Florida is home to about 8 million people, greater than the population of 39 individual states.

For the first time, EPA and its federal, state, regional, and local partners were able to show a significant increase in stony coral cover (mean percent stony coral cover) in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) and in the coastal waters of Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties, Florida, in 2010 (SP-45). The Coral Reef Evaluation and Monitoring Project (CREMP) recorded an increase in the mean stony coral cover from 6.6% to 7.3% across the region, except in the Dry Tortugas and Back Country Patch reefs. The 7.3% coverage is the highest percentage cover reported since 2003. Stony corals are extremely vulnerable to physical damage from hurricanes, and what may be occurring is a recovery from the extremely active 2004–2005 hurricane season.

The overall health and functionality of the sea grass beds in the FKNMS stayed within the baseline established in 2005 (SP-46). Health and functionality of the seagrass beds are determined by their composition and abundance, productivity, and nutrient availability. None of the indicators for these elements was significantly different from the baseline, but the trend shows a decline, suggesting that the goal may not be met within the next few years.

EPA and its partners were able to maintain the overall water quality of the near shore and coastal waters of the FKNMS in FY 2010 (SP-47). To measure water quality, EPA uses four status indicators: light attenuation, chlorophyll, dissolved inorganic nitrogen, and total phosphorus (TP). In FY 2010 (2009 data), all water quality parameters met the 1995–2005 baseline. While maintenance of the water quality baseline cannot be attributed to any particular action, nearshore water quality is expected to improve due to improvements in wastewater and stormwater controls.

For the third consecutive year, the Agency did not see an improvement in water quality of the Everglades ecosystem as measured by TP. EPA and its partners failed to meet the TP criterion of 10 parts per billion (ppb) throughout the Everglades Protection Area. Source controls and stormwater treatment areas (STAs) or wetlands are not adequate for treating all water to the discharge limits. In September 2010, EPA filed an Amended Determination in federal court stating that Florida needs to build an additional 46,000 acres of STAs, or an equivalent remedy, to assure that inflows to the Everglades meet the 10 ppb criterion.

In the past 10 years, the city of Key West has moved to advance wastewater treatment and eliminated its outfall. In addition, EPA designated all state waters of the Florida Keys a no discharge zone to eliminate sewage discharge from vessels. Moreover, septic tank/cesspit issues are being eliminated (approaching 50% complete) as homeowners and businesses are being required to hook up the advanced wastewater treatment systems as they come online. EPA and its partners have been able to make aggressive moves such as these based on the strong science from an effective monitoring program and a series of special studies.