

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.

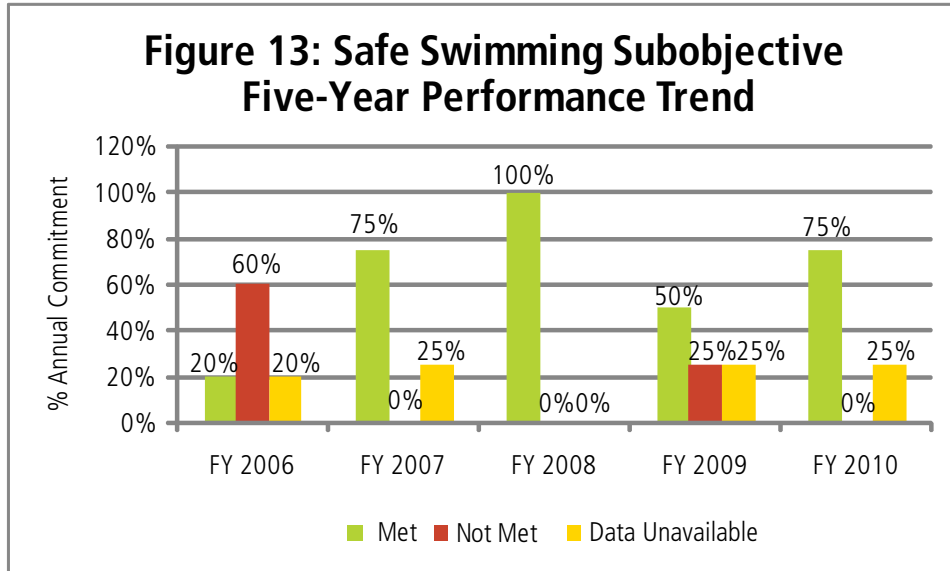
### Key for Reading Performance Measure Charts and Tables

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: Safe Swimming**

EPA was successful in meeting three-fourths of its commitments under the Water Safe for Swimming subobjective in 2010. There has been a great deal of variability in the number of commitment measures met and not met over the past five years. Data availability continues to be an issue for tracking waterborne disease. (Figure 13)



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
<b>Subobjective 2.1.2 Long Island Sound</b>				
SP-8	Waterborne disease and swimming	Data Unavailable	1/3	D-11
SP-9	Beach days safe for swimming	▲	5/5 ★	D-11
SS-1	CSO permits schedules in place	▲	4/5	D-12/Fig. 14
SS-2	Public beaches monitored	▲	3/5	D-12

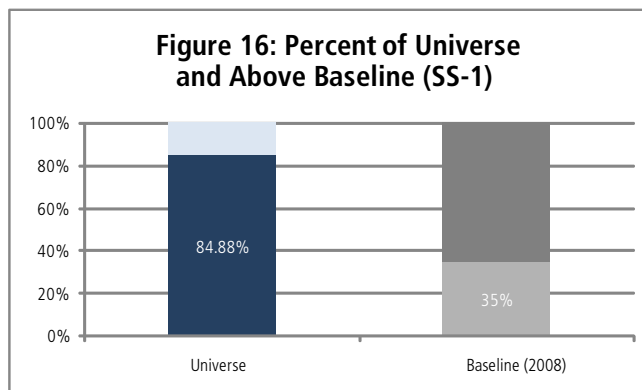
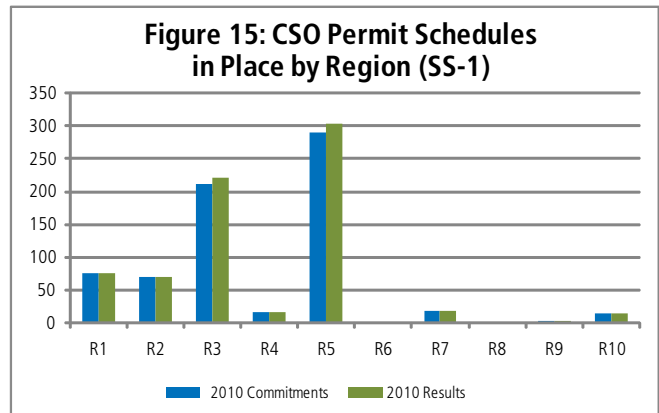
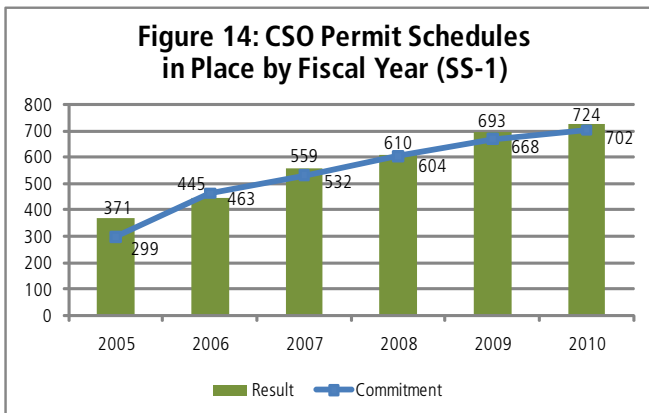
Note: CSO=combined sewer overflow.

## FY 2010 Performance Highlights and Management Challenges

The nation's waters, especially beaches in coastal areas and the Great Lakes, provide recreational opportunities for millions of Americans. Swimming in some recreational waters, however, can pose a risk of illness resulting from exposure to microbial pathogens.<sup>1</sup>

**Beach Monitoring and Safety:** For coastal and Great Lakes beaches monitored by state-based beach safety programs, EPA found that 95% of beach season days were open and safe for swimming. This result met the FY 2010 target of 95%, and EPA has consistently met its annual targets over the past six years. Seven of eight EPA regions met their FY 2010 targets (Regions 7 and 8 do not have beaches under the program) (SP-9). States monitored and managed 99% of all Tier 1 (significant) public beaches covered under the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act program in 2010, which exceeded the annual goal of 97% (SS-2). All regions met their commitments in 2010.

**Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs):** Overflows from combined storm and sanitary sewers in urban areas can result in high levels of pathogens being released during storm events. Because urban areas are often upstream from recreational waters, these overflows are a significant source of unsafe levels of pathogens. Over the past five years, EPA and the states have made consistent progress in increasing the number of CSO permits with compliance schedules in place. As of 2010, EPA and states had 724 CSO permits with compliance schedules (SS-1) (Figure 14). This exceeded the 2010 national commitment of 702. The program has met its commitments in all of the past four years. Eight of nine regions met their commitment for this measure in 2010 (Figure 15). Approximately 85% of the universe of CSO permits now have compliance schedules in place, which is a 35% improvement over the 2008 baseline (Figure 16).



EPA was unable to report in FY 2010 the number of waterborne disease outbreaks attributable to swimming in or other recreational contact with coastal and Great Lakes waters (SP-8). EPA is currently working to replace this measure with an indicator that provides more meaningful data on waterborne disease.

<sup>1</sup> By "recreational waters," EPA means waters officially recognized by states, authorized tribes, and territories for primary contact recreational use or similar full-body contact use.