FY 2011 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 2011 National Water Program Guidance*. Each subobjective chapter includes the following information:

- A brief summary of overall performance in 2011 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 2011 commitments. Indicator measures are discussed where trends significantly differ from previous year's results. Annual Commitment System (ACS) measure codes (e.g., SP-1) are provided in the text in parentheses.

Key for Reading Performance Measure Charts and Tables

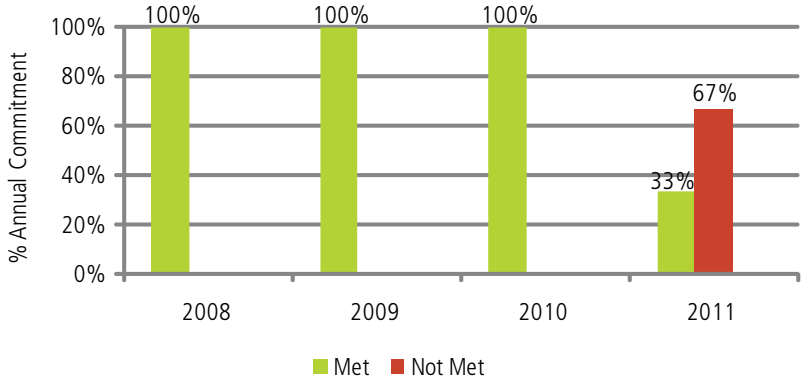
For all charts with national trend results, commitments are reflected by blue trend lines and results by vertical bars. For charts with regional FY 2011 results, a dotted line (in orange) indicates the national FY 2011 commitment for that particular measure. Although regions use the national commitment as a point of reference in setting their annual commitments, regional commitments may vary based on specific conditions within each region. Green bars in both national and regional charts identify commitments met, and red bars identify measures not met. A purple bar indicates that the Agency did not set a commitment for that year.

For the measure summary tables in each subobjective chapter, a green "up" arrow means that a measure met its FY 2011 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 2011. Measures without data or not reporting in FY 2011 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 (A-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: Puget Sound

EPA failed to meet two of its three commitments for the Puget Sound subobjective in FY 2011. This was a significant decline in performance over the results from the previous three years (Figure 66).

Figure 66: Puget Sound Subobjective Four-Year Trend by Fiscal Year



FY 2011 ACS Code	Abbreviated 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 4.3.8 Puget Sound				
SP-49	Increase acres of Puget Sound shellfish areas	▼	3/4	D-69/Fig. 67
SP-50	Remediate Puget Sound contaminated sediments	▼	3/4	D-69
SP-51	Restore acres of Puget Sound estuarine wetlands	▲	4/4★	D-70

EPA's Puget Sound program works to ensure that the natural, cultural, and economic benefits of the Puget Sound ecosystem are protected and sustained, today and into the future. The Puget Sound ecosystem encompasses roughly 20 rivers and 2,800 square miles of sheltered inland waters that provide habitat to hundreds of species of marine mammals, fish, and sea birds. The waters in this basin also provide a significant source of seafood for both commercial and recreational harvesters.

FY 2011 Performance Highlights and Management Challenges

Approximately 30,000 acres of potentially recoverable shellfish-bed growing areas in Puget Sound were closed to harvest as of FY 2007 due to nonpoint source pollution. By the end of 2010, the Puget Sound program had improved water quality, which resulted in the lifting of harvest restrictions for 4,453 acres (cumulative) of shellfish-bed growing areas. In 2011, 1,109 additional acres in Puget Sound had harvest restrictions lifted due to improved water quality. However, also in 2011, there were 4,037 acres of shellfish bed growing areas that were placed under new harvest restrictions, primarily due to pathogen pollution exacerbated by La Niña weather conditions in Puget Sound's Samish Bay. This resulted in a net loss of 2,928 harvestable acres, with a cumulative end of year total of 1,525 acres. This was short of the Agency's annual goal of restoring 4,953 acres of harvestable shellfish beds (SP- 49) (Figure 67).

In response to the downgrading of significant acres of shellfish beds, the Puget Sound program is strategically directing resources in FY 2012 and beyond to address the pathogen pollution problem impacting shellfish harvest in Puget Sound. In particular, the program has expanded implementation of Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) programs to 12 of the 14 counties surrounding Puget Sound. The program is addressing pathogen pollution in the near term by focusing on specific geographical locations (e.g., Samish Bay) and in the long term by focusing on the universe of potentially recoverable shellfish acres basin-wide in Puget Sound.

As of 2011, EPA and its partners had opened approximately 5% of the total acres of shellfish beds impacted by degraded or declining water quality in the Puget Sound (30,000 acres). The program has achieved 35% of its FY 2015 goal of 4,300 acres of harvestable shellfish beds. The FY 2011 end of year results represent a 374% improvement over the FY 2007 baseline of 322 acres (Figure 68).

Figure 67: Increase Acres of Puget Sound Shellfish Areas by Fiscal Year (SP-49)

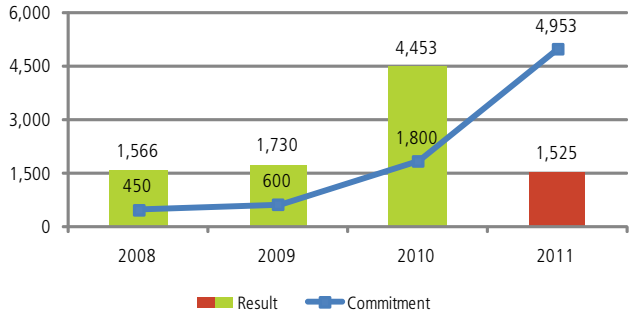
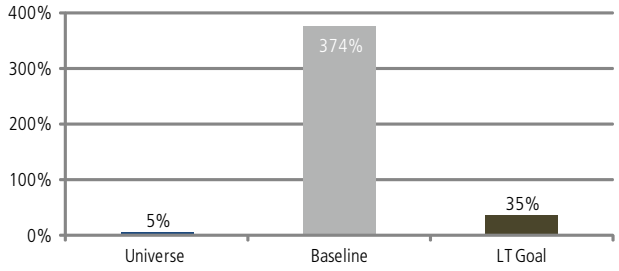


Figure 68: Percent Toward Universe, Baseline, and Long Term Goal (SP-49)



As of the end of FY 2011, EPA and its partners were still working to achieve and report additional results in remediating acres of prioritized contaminated sediments (commitment = 163; result = 123; cumulative starting in FY 2006) beyond FY 2009 (SP-50). Work anticipated to meet this measure was delayed. Contaminated sediments are not counted as remediated until potential sources of recontamination are also identified and controlled. The additional acres projected for remediation in FY 2011 are still being worked on to complete the cleanup. This measure has been deleted for Puget Sound reporting in FY 2012, largely because the Superfund cleanup program is responsible for funding the sediment remediation projects and reports the results under CERCLA and/or RCRA programs.

Approximately 14,600 acres of tidally and seasonally influenced estuarine wetlands have been restored in the Puget Sound Basin since FY 2006 (SP-51). In FY 2011, the Puget Sound program tallied an annual increase of 4,566 acres, exceeding the annual increment needed to meet the cumulative target of 12,363 acres. Most of the FY 2011 results came from projects that were initiated between 2007 and 2009, when significant numbers of habitat projects were funded, particularly those supporting salmon recovery needs under the Endangered Species Act. In addition, a number of large acquisition projects were completed in FY 2011 through land trust activities.