

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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.

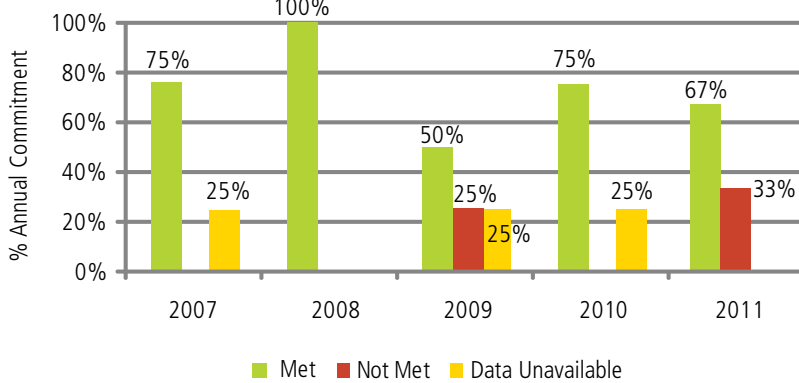
For the measure summary tables in each subobjective chapter, a green "up" arrow means that a measure met its FY 2011 commitment, and a red "down" arrow indicates that the annual commitment was not met. The letter "I" means that the measure is an indicator measure and did not have an annual commitment 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: Safe Swimming**

EPA was successful in meeting two-thirds of its commitments under the Water Safe for Swimming subobjective in 2011. There has been a great deal of variability in the number of commitment measures met and not met over the past five years (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Safe Swimming Subobjective Five-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 2.1.3 Safe Swimming				
SP-9	Beach days safe for swimming	▲	5/5 ★	D-14
SS-1	Enforceable long-term CSO control plan with specific dates and milestones in place	▲	4/5	D-14/Fig. 14
SS-2	Public beaches monitored	▲	4/5	D-15

Note: CSO=combined sewer overflow.

FY 2011 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.¹²

Beach Monitoring and Safety: For coastal and Great Lakes beaches monitored by state-based beach safety programs, EPA found that 96% of beach season days were open and safe for swimming. This result met the FY 2011 target of 91%, and EPA has consistently met its annual targets over the past six years. Seven of eight EPA regions met their FY 2011 targets (Regions 7 and 8 do not have beaches under the program) (SP-9). States monitored and managed 100% of all Tier 1 (significant) public beaches covered under the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act program in 2011, which exceeded the annual goal of 97% (SS-2). All regions met their commitments in 2011.

Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs): During storm events, overflows from combined storm and sanitary sewers in urban areas can release high levels of pathogens. Since urban areas are often upstream from recreational waters, these overflows are a significant source of unsafe pathogen levels. Over the past five years, EPA and the states have made consistent progress in increasing the number of CSO permits or enforcement orders with compliance schedules in place (Figure 14). Eight of nine EPA regions with CSOs (Region 6 does not have any CSOs) met their commitments for this measure in 2011 (Figure 15). As of 2011, approximately 86% (734 of 853) of the CSO permittees now have approved or accepted CSO long-term control plans with enforceable compliance schedules in place, which is a 37% improvement over the 2008 baseline (SS-1) (Figure 16).

Figure 14: CSO Permit Schedules in Place Trend by Fiscal Year (SS-1)

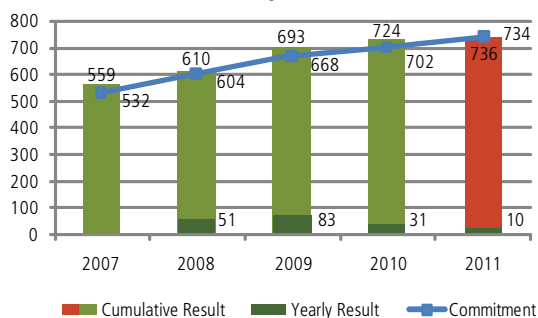


Figure 15: FY 2011 CSO Permit Schedules in Place by Region (SS-1)

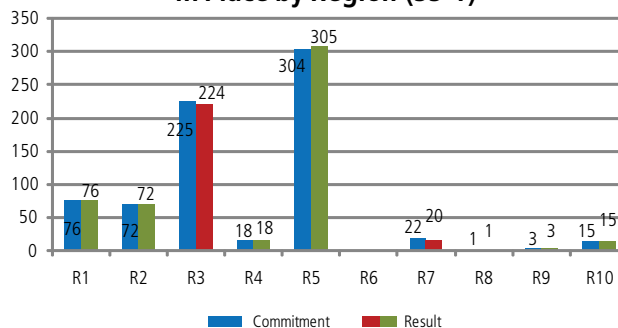
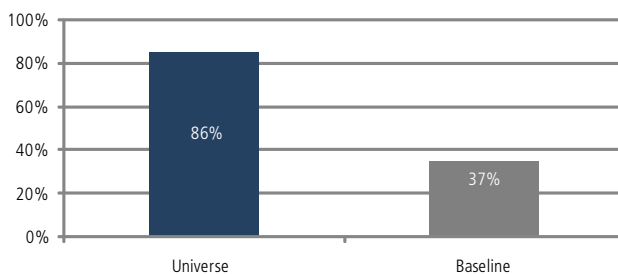


Figure 16: Percent Toward Universe and Baseline (SS-1)



¹² By "recreational waters," EPA means waters officially designated by states, authorized tribes, and territories for primary contact recreational use or similar full-body contact use.