

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.

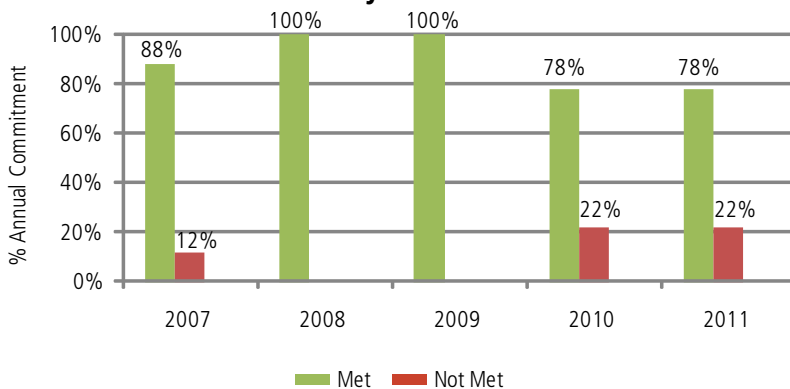
For the measure summary tables in each subobjective chapter, a green "up" arrow means that a measure met its FY 2011 commitment, and a red "down" arrow indicates that the annual commitment was not met. The letter "I" means that the measure is an indicator measure and did not have an annual commitment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

EPA's Coastal and Ocean Protection program met 78% (seven of nine) of its commitments in 2011. This was consistent with the FY 2010 results (Figure 37).

Figure 37: Coastal and Oceans 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 2.2.2 Coastal and Oceans				
2.2.2	Improve coastal aquatic system health	▲	5/5 ★	D-38/Fig. 38
SP-16	Maintain aquatic health—Northeast	▲	4/4 ★	D-38
SP-17	Maintain aquatic health—Southeast	▲	4/4 ★	D-39
SP-18	Maintain aquatic health—West Coast	▲	4/4 ★	D-39
SP-19	Maintain aquatic health—Puerto Rico	▲	4/4 ★	D-40
SP-20	Ocean dumping sites acceptable conditions	▼	2/4	D-40/Fig. 41
4.3.2	NEP acres habitat protected or restored	▼	3/5	D-43/Fig. 40
CO-2	Coastline miles protected vessel sewage			D-41
CO-3	NEP priority actions completed			D-41
CO-4	Rate of return federal investment for NEP			D-41
CO-5	Dredged material management plans in place			D-42
CO-6	Active dredged material sites monitored annually			D-42
CO-7	Maintain aquatic health—Hawaii Region			D-43
CO-8	Maintain aquatic health—South Central Alaska	▲	2/2	D-43

FY 2011 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 the additional actions 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 38). 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 the 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 (excluding Alaska and Hawaii, the score remains 2.3) (Figure 39). Since 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. The NCCR IV, using data from NCA for years 2003–2006, is expected to be released in the third quarter of FY 2012. New scores will be available for the FY 2012 end of year performance highlights.

Figure 38: Overall Condition of U.S. Coastal Waters

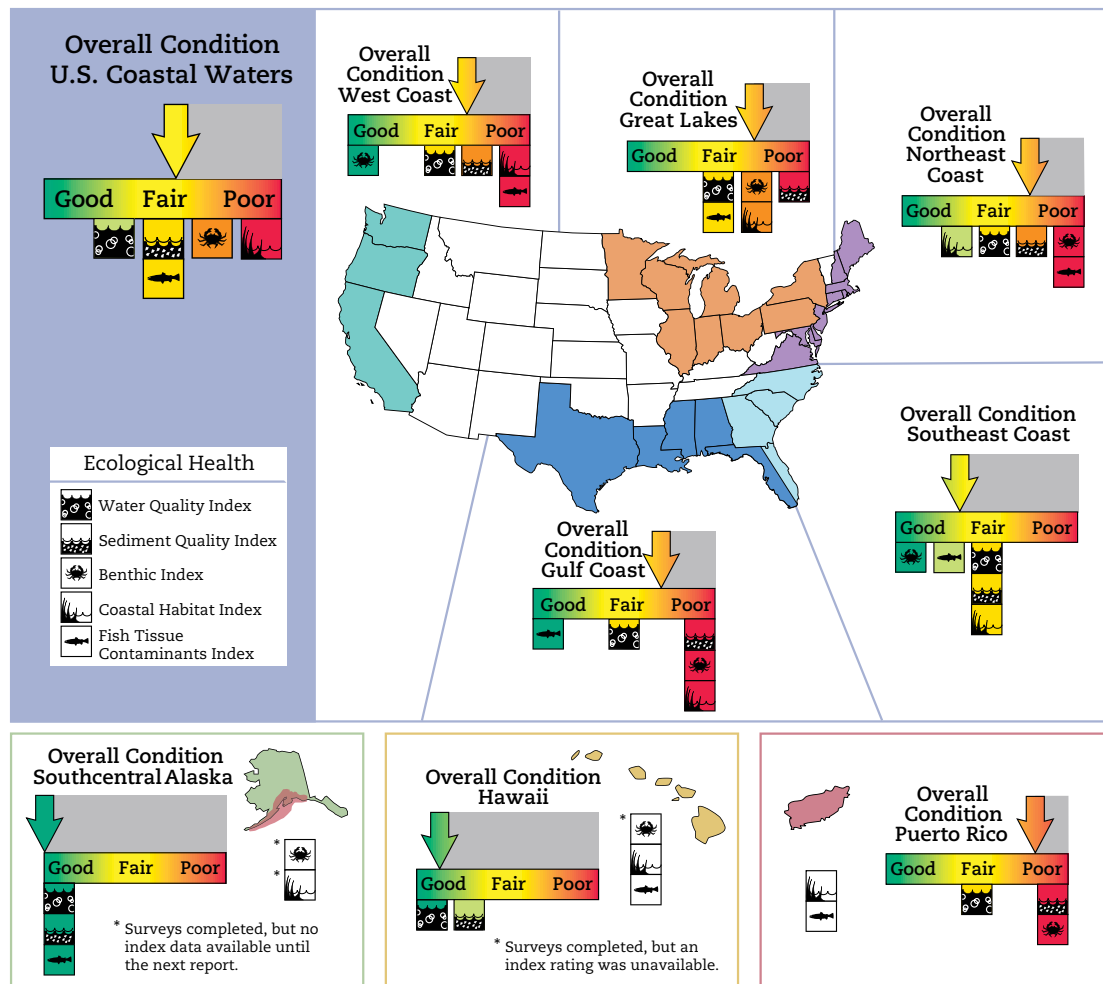


Figure 39:

Comparison of Scores for Indicators of Condition by Geographic Region From Three National Coastal Condition Reports^a

Report	Gulf Coast	Southeast Coast	Northeast Coast	S. Central Alaska ^b	Hawaii ^b	West Coast ^c	Great Lakes ^c	Puerto Rico ^c	United States ^d
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

^a 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.

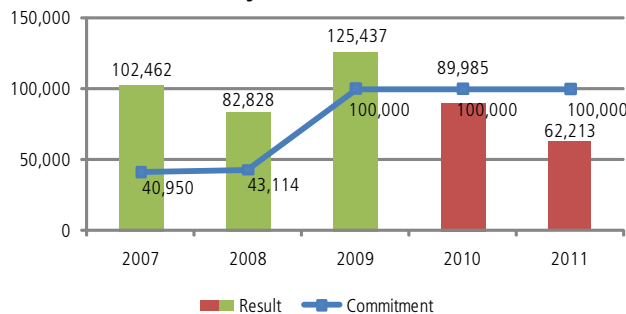
^b Alaska and Hawaii were not reported in the NCCR I or NCCR II. The NCCR I assessment of the Northeast Coast region did not include the Acadian Province. The West Coast ratings in the NCCR I were compiled using data from many different programs.

^c 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).

^d U.S. score is based on a 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 more than 62,000 acres of habitat within the NEP study areas—almost 37,000 acres short of EPA’s goal of 100,000 acres (Measure 4.3.2) (Figure 40). There are a number of variables that affect the habitat acres actually reported at the end of the year. Two of the biggest factors are 1) the economy (nonfederal match is a significant challenge because state and local budgets have been severely cut in recent years, so matching funds are more difficult to obtain); and 2) the number of larger projects has greatly diminished over the last few years, leaving relatively smaller, and often more costly, parcels for protection or restoration. EPA expects these factors will continue to influence the results for this measure in the future. As a result, EPA is working with its NEP partners to determine a more appropriate target for the future.

Figure 40: NEP Acres Habitat Protected or Restored Trend by Fiscal Year (4.3.2)



In FY 2011, the 28 NEPs played the primary role in directing \$662 million in additional funds toward Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) implementation (leveraged from approximately \$29 million in EPA Section 320 and earmark funds), which is a ratio of almost \$23 raised for every \$1 provided by EPA. This significantly higher ratio (compared to the FY 2010 leveraging ratio of 14:1) was due largely to sewage treatment plan upgrades and CSO abatements funded through the EPA's CWSRF program and municipal government revenues (CO-4). Approximately 90% 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 2011, 93% 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). The year-end result fell short of the annual commitment of 98% (Figure 41).

Although the FY 2011 end of year result for this measure did not meet its annual commitment, EPA regions are focusing more attention on their Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDSs) (Figure 42). Therefore, EPA believes that end of year results in the future will continue to show improvement, as they have over the last two fiscal years (FY 2010 result = 90%, FY 2011 result = 93%).

The number of dredged material management plans that are in place for major ports increased from 37 in FY 2010 to 40 in FY 2011, whereas the number of active dredged material ocean dumping sites that are monitored remained at 33 in 2011.

Figure 41: Ocean Dumping Sites Acceptable Conditions by Fiscal Year (SP-20)

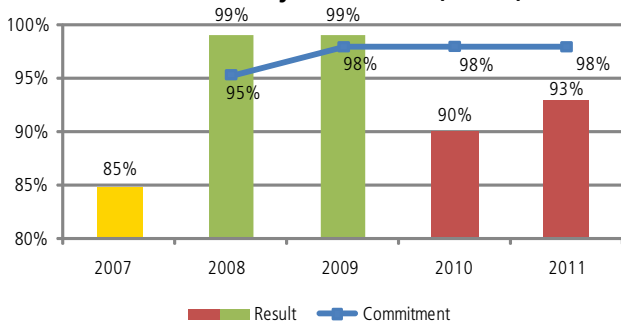


Figure 42: FY 2011 Ocean Dumping Sites Acceptable Conditions by Region (SP-20)

