



Coastal Communications



NATIONAL COASTAL ASSESSMENT: RHODE ISLAND ORD/REGION 1/OW/RI DEM

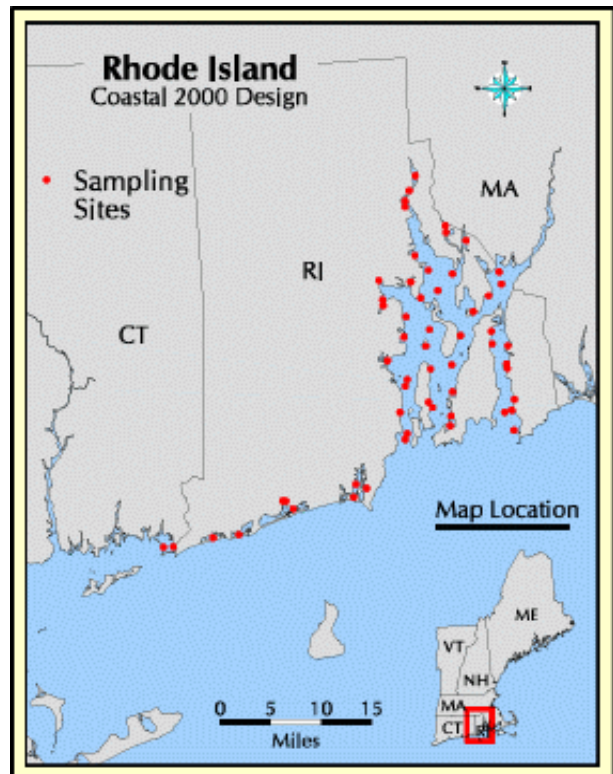


Background

The U.S. EPA's National Coastal Assessment (NCA), referred to as Coastal 2000 during the first year of this program, is a multi-year partnership among EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD), EPA's Office of Water (OW), EPA's Regional Offices, all coastal states, and selected territories. As part of this effort, ORD has developed a coastal monitoring program with EPA Region 1 and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM). This joint effort will determine the condition of estuarine waters in Rhode Island (RI), and permit comparison to other U.S. coastal areas. This effort is being coordinated by the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory's Atlantic Ecology Division in Narragansett, Rhode Island.

National Coastal Assessment Strategy

The National Coastal Assessment is a strategic partnership between EPA and the coastal states and other federal agencies. Each state uses a compatible probabilistic design and a common set of environmental indicators (see Table below) to independently survey its coastal resources and assess their condition. These estimates can then be aggregated to assess conditions at the EPA Regional, biogeographical, and national levels. All data will be made available for public access on the Internet. The map shows the coastal areas included in the survey and the number of sampling sites intended for estuarine waters of Rhode Island. The existing trawl surveys conducted by the RI DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife have been integrated with the NCA activities. Roger Williams University is conducting this effort for the RI DEM.



Water Quality	Sediment Quality	Biota
Dissolved oxygen	Grain size	Benthic community structure
Salinity, temperature, depth	Total organic carbon	Fish community structure
pH	Sediment chemistry	Fish external pathology
Nutrients	Benthic community structure	Fish tissue chemical analyses
Chlorophyll	Sediment toxicity	

Further Information

For further information, please contact Chris Deacutis at the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management at (401) 222-3961 x7270 or deacutis@etal.uri.edu; or Hilary Snook at the EPA New England Regional Laboratory in Region 1 at (617) 918-8670 or snook.hilary@epa.gov; or Tim Scott at Roger Williams University at (401) 254-3563 or tscott@rwu.edu; or John Paul at the National Health and Environmental Effects Laboratory's Atlantic Ecology Division at (401) 782-3037 or paul.john@epa.gov. Visit the coastal communications web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ged/crc.htm>.