United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development Washington, DC 20460
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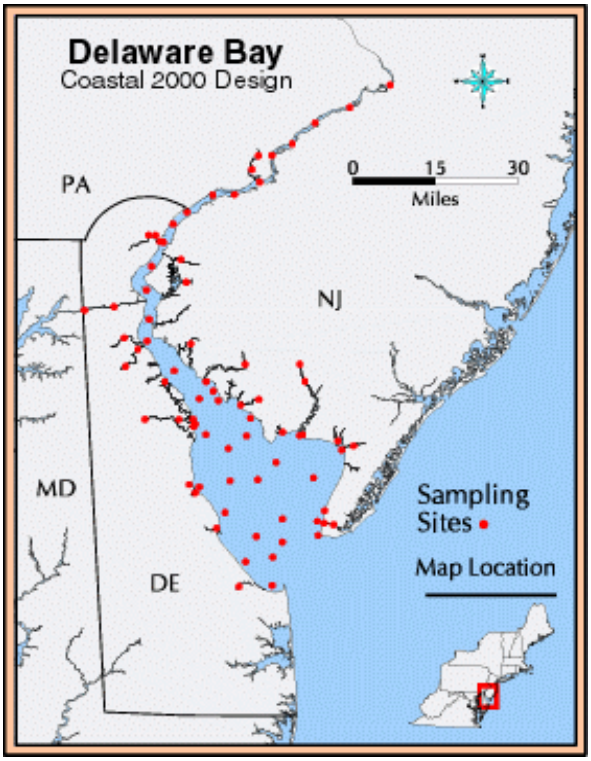
Coastal Communications

NATIONAL COASTAL ASSESSMENT: DELAWARE BAY ORD/REGIONS 2 & 3/OW/DRBC

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 the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, EPA Regions 2 & 3, and the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). This joint effort will determine the condition of estuarine waters in Delaware Bay, and permit comparison to other U.S. coastal areas. This effort is being coordinated by the ORD National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory's Atlantic Ecology Division in Narragansett, Rhode Island.



National Coastal Assessment Strategy

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 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 Delaware Bay. Elements of the existing Delaware River Basin Commission water quality surveys have been integrated into the NCA activities.

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 Darvene Adams at EPA Region 2 at (732) 321-6700 or adams.darvene@epa.gov; or Catherine Libertz at EPA Region 3 at (215) 814-2737 or libertz.catherine@epa.gov; or Edward Santoro at the Delaware River Basin Commission at (609) 883-9500 (ext. 268) or esantoro@drbc.state.nj.us; or Jerry Pesch at the ORD National Health and Environmental Effects Laboratory's Atlantic Ecology Division at (401) 782-3007 or pesch.gerald@epa.gov. Visit the coastal communications web site at http://www.epa.gov/ged/crc.htm.