



Coastal Communications



National Coastal Assessment: Maine ORD/REGION 1/OW/CBNEP

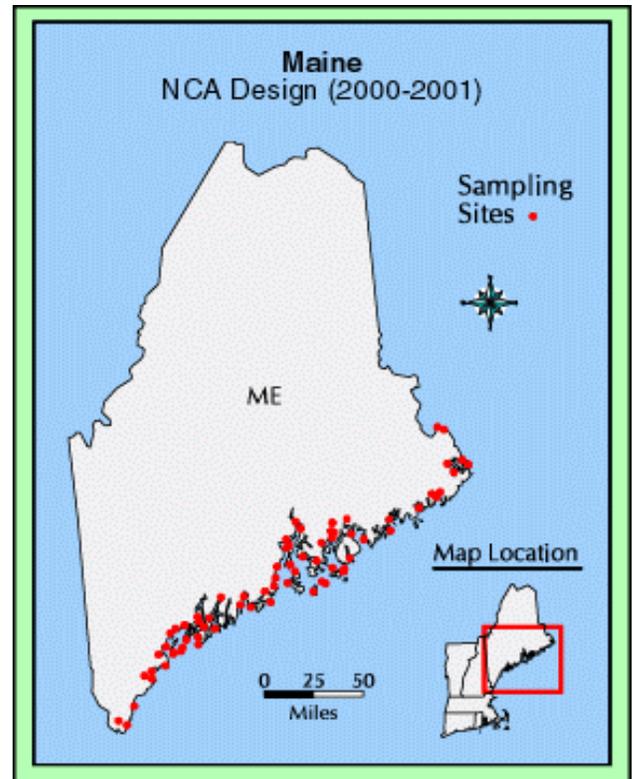


Background

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 state of Maine, EPA Region 1, and the Casco Bay National Estuary Program (CBNEP) located at the University of Southern Maine. This joint effort will determine the condition of estuarine waters in Maine, 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

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 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 final 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 Maine. Elements of the existing Casco Bay National Estuary Program's water quality surveys have been integrated into the NCA activities.



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

Further Information

For further information, please contact Diane Gould at EPA Region 1 at (617) 918-1569 or gould.diane@epa.gov; or Lee Doggett at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection at (207) 287-7666 or lee.doggett@state.me.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>