



Coastal Communications



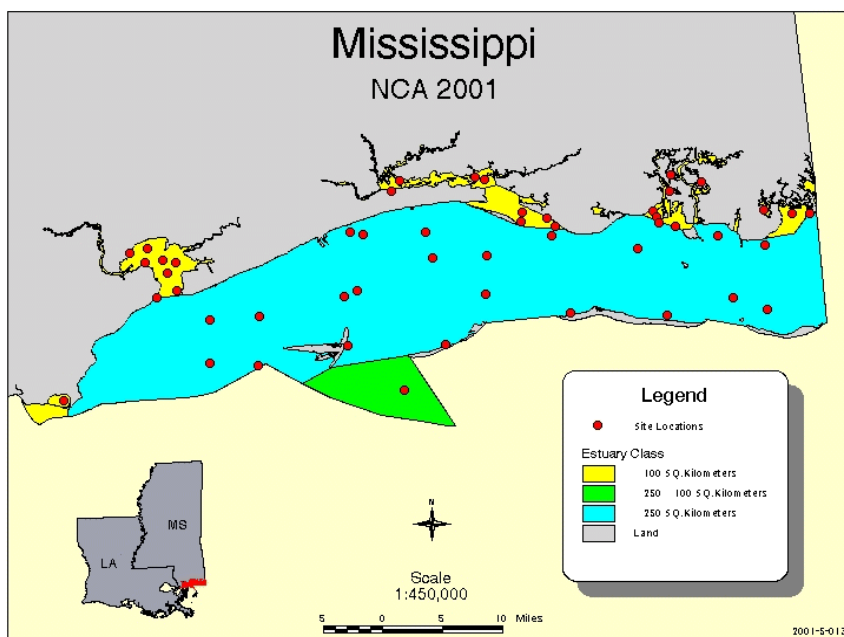
National Coastal Assessment: Mississippi

ORD/MDEQ/Region 4/OW



Background

The U.S. EPA's National Coastal Assessment (NCA), 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 4, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). This program integrates elements of existing Mississippi estuarine and coastal monitoring and assessment efforts. This joint effort will determine the condition of estuarine waters in Mississippi and



permit comparison to other U.S. coastal areas. The effort is being coordinated by the ORD National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory's Gulf Ecology Division in Gulf Breeze, Florida.

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 data will be made available for public access on the Internet. The map shows the coastal areas included in the 2001 survey and the number of sampling sites in estuarine waters of Mississippi.

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 Jeff Thomas at the MDEQ at (601) 961-5157 or jeff_thomas@deq.state.ms.us ; or Bill Walker at the ORD National Health and Environmental Effects Laboratory's Gulf Ecology Division at (850) 934-9247 or walker.bill@epa.gov. Visit the coastal communications web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ged/crc.htm>.