

EPA Coastal Communications



NATIONAL COASTAL REPORT CARD COASTAL 2000 - ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO ASSESSMENT ORD/REGION 4/OW/APNEP

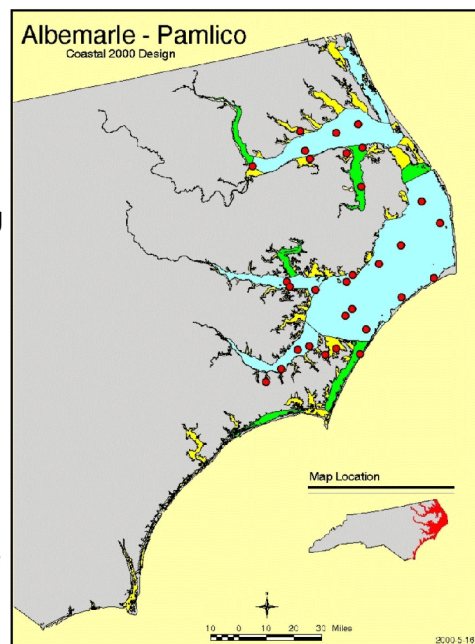


Background

The U.S. EPA's Coastal 2000 is a multi-year partnership among EPA's Office of Research and Development, EPA Regional Offices, EPA's Office of Water, coastal states and selected territories to assess the condition of coastal resources. The effort described here is conducted in special partnership with the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program (APNEP). This joint effort will evaluate the changing condition of Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds, the Neuse and Pamlico Rivers, and their tributaries as part of a region wide assessment for EPA Region 4. EMAP has collected earlier baseline data in 1994-1996.

Coastal 2000 Strategy

The strategy for Coastal 2000 focuses on a partnership with all coastal states within the United States. Using a compatible, probabilistic design and a common set of survey indicators, each state or NEP will conduct the survey and assess the condition of their coastal resources independently, yet, these estimates can be aggregated to assess conditions at the EPA Regional, biogeographical, and National levels. The map illustrated here shows the coastal resources included in the survey and the intended number of sampling sites in the Albemarle-Pamlico system for 2000. Since the study design is probabilistic, the condition of the entire NEP study area can be described using the indicators below. For example, the confidence of that condition information for the entire NEP based upon the 31 stations sampled provides a confidence level of about 90%. The addition of only 10 more stations would increase the confidence in the data to nearly 95%. Information will be available at the EMAP/Coastal 2000 website for the results of the 2000 survey in the late summer of 2001. Data of the 1994-1996 and 2000-2001 surveys will allow the examination of recovery of this system from recent extreme climate events, e.g., hurricanes.



Water Quality	Sediment Quality	Biota
Dissolved oxygen Salinity, temperature, depth pH Nutrients Chlorophyll	Grain size Total organic carbon Sediment chemistry Benthic community structure Sediment toxicity	Community structure External pathology Tissue analyses

Further Information

For further information, please contact Kevin Summers at the National Health and Environmental Effects Laboratory's Gulf Ecology Division at (850) 934-9244 or summers.kevin@epa.gov. General information on the U.S. EPA EMAP is available at <http://www.epa.gov/emap>.