



Coastal Communications



National Coastal Assessment: Alabama ORD/ADEM/Region 4/OW

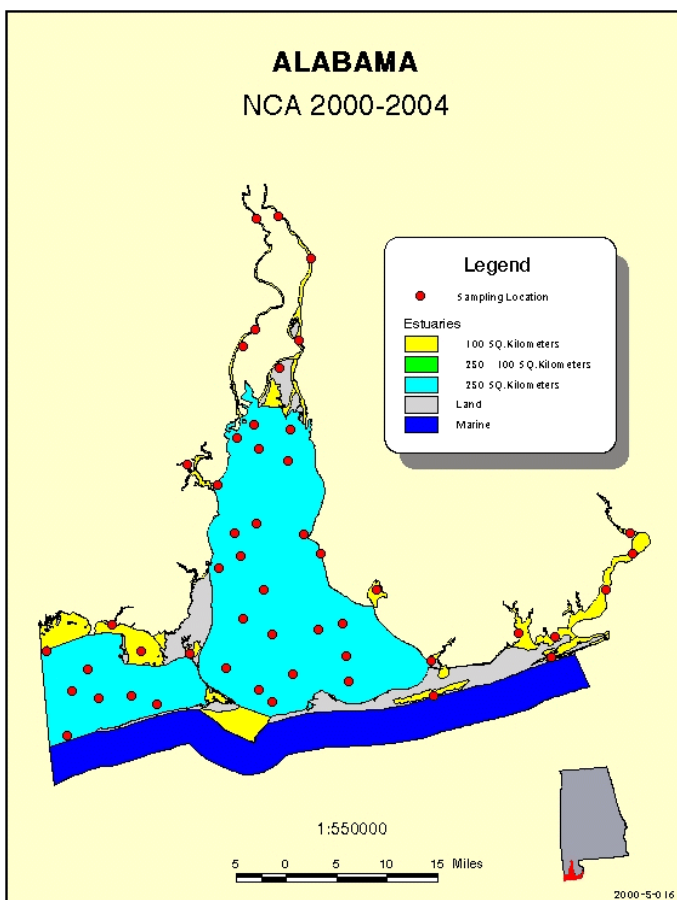


Background

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 Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). This joint effort will determine the condition of estuarine waters in the coastal resources of Alabama, 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 Gulf Ecology Division in Gulf Breeze, Florida.

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 Alabama.



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 Scott Brown at the Alabama Department of Environmental Management at (334) 450-3400 or jsb@adem.state.al.us; or William 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>.