



Coastal Communications



National Coastal Assessment: Delaware ORD/Region 3/OW/DNREC

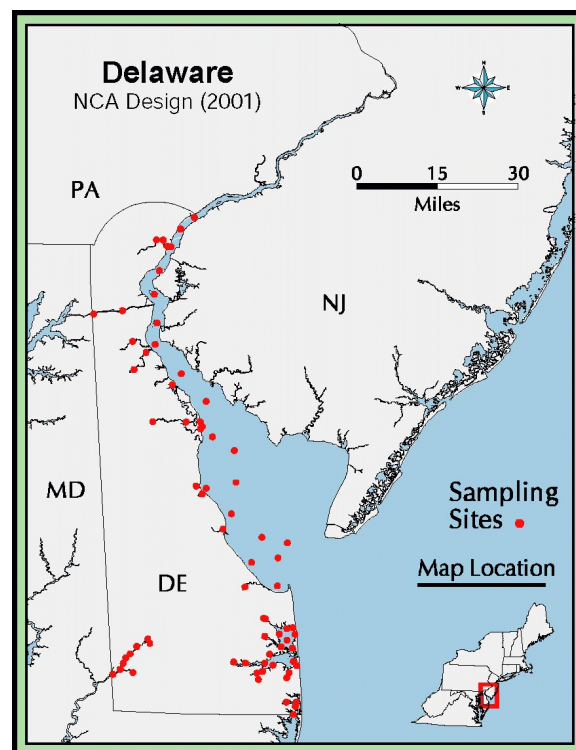


Background

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 the state of Delaware, EPA Region 3, and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). This joint effort will determine the condition of estuarine and inland bay waters in Delaware, 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 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 the estuarine and inland bay waters of Delaware. Selected sampling sites from the existing Delaware Bay Monitoring Program were incorporated into this NCA survey.



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 Ben Anderson at the DNREC, (302) 735-4590, or benanderson@dnrec.state.de.us; or Jim Butch at the U.S. EPA, Region 3, (215) 814-2762, or butch.jim@epa.gov; or Jerry Pesch at ORD's National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory's Atlantic Ecology Division, (401) 782-3007 or pesch.gerald@epa.gov. To learn more about the NCA program, including the Delaware Bay NCA monitoring program, visit the ORD web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ged/crc.htm>.