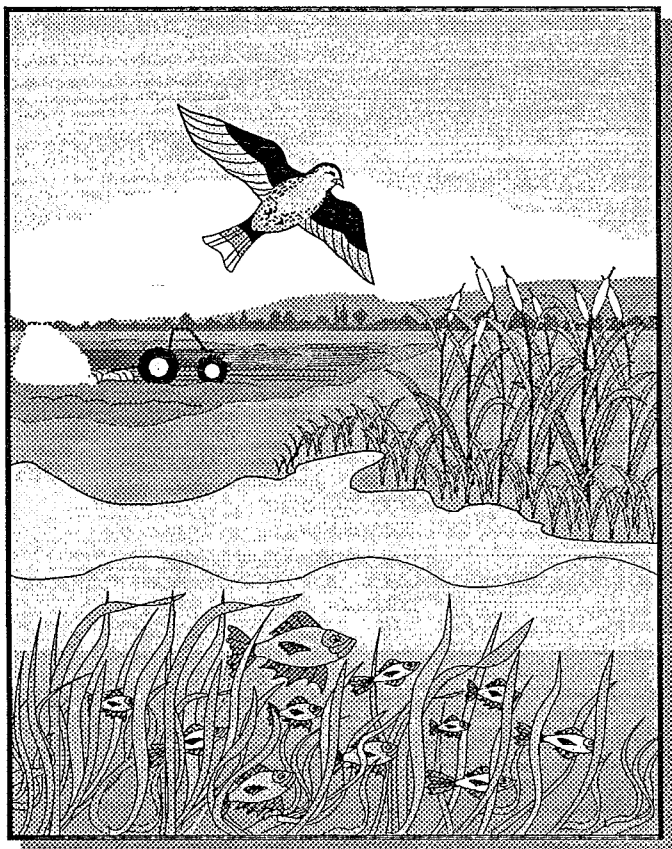


• INTRODUCING THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM •



The Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program

EMAP was initiated by EPA's Office of Research and Development, in conjunction with other Federal agencies, to assess the status and trends of the Nation's ecological resources. The program was designed in 1988 in response to EPA's Science Advisory Board recommendation for increased research, monitoring, and assessment of our Nation's natural resources. The program was initiated in 1990 and is presently conducting pilot and demonstration projects in seven resource categories (Agroecosystems, Arid Ecosystems, Estuaries, Forests, Great Lakes, Surface Waters, and Wetlands) across the Nation. In addition, EMAP also has an integrated landscape ecology component.

EMAP will provide decision makers with assessments of ecological status and trends information at the regional and national levels. The national EMAP design is flexible



*The Regional
Environmental
Monitoring and*

Assessment Program (R-EMAP) is a component of EPA's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP), an interagency program that documents the status and trends in the condition of the Nation's ecological resources. R-EMAP is a partnership of EMAP, EPA Regional Offices, other Federal agencies, and the States to assess ecological issues on the State and local scale. This fact sheet provides an overview of R-EMAP and the objectives of R-EMAP projects selected to date.

and can be enhanced to make assessments at the subregional level, for example, State and smaller scales. Because of this adaptability, EMAP's approach is increasingly being used by the EPA Regional Offices and States to assess ecological resources in high interest areas within the regions.

The Regional Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program

R-EMAP is coordinated through EPA Regional Offices, other Federal agencies, and States. The objectives of R-EMAP are to:

- Evaluate and improve EMAP concepts for state and local use;
- Assess the applicability of EMAP indicators at differing scales; and
- Demonstrate the utility of EMAP for resolving issues of importance to EPA Regions and States.

R-EMAP proposals are submitted to EMAP by the EPA Regional Offices for studies on small geographic scales and timeframes. All proposals undergo a competitive peer-review process before being approved for funding. Listed below are the primary objectives of the projects that have been selected for funding.



Projects and Objectives

Region I

Fish Tissue Contamination in the State of Maine

Quantify the current status of metal contamination in fish in high value lakes of the state, the number of lakes at risk, and attempt to derive associations between contamination and potential stressors.

Region II

Sediment Quality of the NY-NJ Harbor and the Regional Validation of Indicators of Sediment Quality

Characterize the quality of the benthic environment in the six major sub-basins of the harbor system; derive associations between sediment contamination and benthic condition; and develop an index of environmental quality for the harbor system.

Region III

Surface Water Quality Indicators

Assess the relationship between water quality and biological condition of streams in the central Appalachian Ridge and Valley Ecoregion.

Region VI

Toxics Characterization of Selected Texas Estuaries

Measure fish and benthic invertebrate condition and determine the relationship between biological degradation and the extent of sediment contamination in Galveston Bay and other major tributaries of the south Texas Gulf Coast.

Region VII

Estimating the Status of the Health of Fisheries in EPA Region VII

Measure the fishery quality in the Region and determine the relationship between the quality of the fishery and habitat and physical/chemical water quality data.

Region IX

Assessment of Aquatic and Riparian Ecosystems in a Highly Modified, Agriculturally-Influenced Environment (California's Central Valley)

Evaluate the current condition of aquatic biota (fish and macro-invertebrates) in California's Central Valley as measured by physical, chemical, and biological parameters and develop biotic integrity indices from observed community assemblages for future use as environmental indicators.

Region X

Biological Assessment of Wadable Streams in the Coast Range Ecoregion and the Yakima River Basin

Determine the condition of the first through third order streams in the Coast Range Ecoregion and the Yakima River Basin and determine the relationship between the condition of the biota in these streams and the surrounding land uses.

Regions IV, V, and VIII

Projects for these Regions are currently in the planning stages for implementation.

Additional information can be obtained by writing to:

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