



NATIONAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Working Together for Clean Water

The National Water Quality Monitoring Network for U.S. Coastal Waters and their Tributaries

ACWI

January 17, 2007



History

- Charge to ACWI from Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) accepted in February, 2005
- Design report presented to ACWI in January, 2006
- ACWI requested two new recommendations
 - **Small Interagency staff to coordinate next steps**
 - **One or more pilot studies to test concepts and further develop design**
- ACWI formally accepted report in April, 2006



Network Presentations

- Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
- National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)
 - SWAQ (Subcommittee on Water Availability and Quality)
 - JSOST (Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology)
- Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR)



Network Presentations

- GEO (U.S. Group on Earth Observations)
- ORRAP (Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel)
- ICOSRMI (Interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Resource Management Integration)
- Federal Agencies (EPA, NOAA, USGS, DOI)



Network Presentations

- National Water Quality Monitoring Conference
 - May 8-11, 2006
 - Approximately 900 attendees from Federal and State agencies, Tribes, academia, private sector, volunteer monitoring community
 - Plenary presentations
 - 4 special sessions with open dialogue



Current Interagency Coordination

- Interagency Coordination Staff
 - OSTP, EPA, NOAA, and USGS
- Tasking statement
 - Approved by ICOSRMI
 - Directed to NOAA, EPA, USGS
 - Agree to move forward with Pilot Studies
- Letter from Committee on Ocean Policy requests continued involvement of ACWI in Pilot Phase



A Review of the Design Features

- Clearly defined objectives that address management needs
- Linkage with IOOS
- Coordinated monitoring of resources in upland, coastal, and ocean areas
- Flexibility over time
- Includes
 - metadata,
 - quality assurance, and
 - data management system that provides accessible data



Structure of the Design

- Nine resource compartments
- Fixed station and probabilistic designs
- Core variables and sampling frequencies specified
- Provisions for data comparability, management & access

A continuum of Observations

- Estuaries
- Nearshore
- Offshore and EEZ
- Great Lakes
- Coastal Beaches (BEACH Act)
- Wetlands

With Flow and Flux from

- Rivers
- Atmosphere
- Groundwater



Network Implementation: Overall Process

- Phase 1: Network design (completed)
- Phase 2: Develop and carry out 2 or more pilot studies (calendar year 2007)
- Phase 3: Demonstration projects
- Phase 4: Nation-wide implementation



Pilot studies & Demonstration projects

- Pilot Studies
 - Conduct inventory of on-going monitoring
 - Refine Network design
 - Identify gaps
 - Investigate data comparability and data sharing issues
 - Undertake with existing resources in 2007
- Demonstration projects
 - New instrumentation and field work to fill gaps
 - New resources required
 - Calendar year 2008 and beyond



Pilot Study Selection Criteria

- Identify and commit resources, including in-kind contributions
- Agree to complete Pilot Study and prepare draft report by January, 2008
- Ability to leverage on-going Federal efforts and cooperative efforts in study area



Pilot Study Selection Criteria (cont.)

- Identify water-quality resource management needs
- Communicate role of Network and progress of Pilot Studies to monitoring community
- Organize and integrate current monitoring projects into template that could be augmented by Network design



Pilot Study Selection Criteria (cont.)

- Knowledge of and accessibility to monitoring data in the study area for all appropriate resource compartments
- Not more than 3 States preferred. Several data sources preferred.



Next Steps

- Announce our plans to potential regional partners
- Select partners and confirm project timing
- During Pilots, Interagency working group will
 - Coordinate its work with ACWI and its subgroups
 - Report every 4 months to JSOST, SIMOR, and SWAQ
 - Keep potential partners in future phases informed
- Present report with results of pilot studies in January 2008



Potential Partners

- Eleven Regional IOOS Associations
- Three EPA Great Waters Programs
 - CBP, GL, Mississippi RB
- National Estuary Program Sites
- National Estuarine Research Reserves
- Marine Sanctuaries
- River Basin Commissions
- States
- Professional organizations