

Developing a Coordinated Regional Coastal Monitoring Program – The Atlantic Northeast Coastal Monitoring Summit

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Carlton Hunt is a Research Leader in Battelle's Duxbury, MA office where he applies his chemical oceanography and ecology background to coastal assessment and restoration projects. He currently provides technical support to the US Environmental Protection Agency Oceans and Coastal Protection Division and the US Army Corps of Engineers on a variety of coastal projects including workshop facilitation for the National Estuary Program. Barry Burgan is a senior marine biologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water, Oceans, and Coastal Protection Division. Most recently he co-authored the interagency *National Coastal Condition Report* and the *Coastal Research and Monitoring Strategy*. Prior to that, he managed the national 305(b) program and revitalized the state reporting and monitoring of water quality.

Mr. Keeley has worked for over 25 years in environmental management, policy development, and planning with an emphasis on coastal and estuarine issues. He directed Maine's Coastal Management Program for eight years and was instrumental in forming the international Gulf of Maine Program, a state-provincial environment and economy initiative. He received EPA's Environmental Merit Award in 2002 and NOAA's Coastal Steward of the Year Award in 2003 for his accomplishments and dedication to ocean and coastal management.

Mr. Smith is the Director of the Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program and has worked on coastal policy development in Massachusetts as well as technical efforts for coastal wetland habitat assessments, invasive species, and coastal monitoring. He has worked with the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management on the development of the state's Stormwater Policy and planning for coastal wastewater discharges.

Mr. Krahforst is the Marine Monitoring Scientist for the Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program where he coordinates and directs the state's participation in EPA's Coastal Assessment efforts for the state of Massachusetts. He also coordinates the Massachusetts contribution to the Mussel Watch Program, a long term monitoring effort sponsored by the Gulf of Maine Council to track contaminant loadings.

Ms. McLeod is a Project/Program Manager at Battelle's Duxbury, MA office where she supports the USEPA and US Army Corp of engineers. She conducts workshops for the National Estuary Program in support of monitoring program development and manages projects developing Environmental Impact Statements.

Abstract

In 2002 a workshop was held to develop a framework for a coordinated regional ocean monitoring network for US states and Canadian provinces bordering the northwest Atlantic Ocean. The workshop brought together environmental managers, scientists, and NGO's to develop a strategy for an ecologically driven regional program and to identify monitoring and research gaps to support the region's pressing management needs. Discussions focused on nutrient over-enrichment, habitat loss, restoration, and toxic contaminants to address how the monitoring network might be organized; define challenges and benefits of a coordinated regional monitoring network; and how these efforts could be effective in resolving regional environmental issues. The workshop addressed information on ongoing monitoring, regional concerns, and questions that should be answered by a coordinated effort. The conveners developed a follow-up plan to further develop the program, obtain seed money,

and establish critical involvement from key groups. One of the actions was to hold a workshop to determine appropriate indicators for a regional *State of the Environment Report*. The indicators workshop, held in January 2004, reviewed previous indicator efforts, developed lessons learned compendium, identified key issues (fisheries, eutrophication, contaminants, land use, aquatic habitat, and climate change) requiring indicators, and developed key questions and indicators necessary to convey the status of the environment in this region. The process followed for these workshops provides a model for developing regional information to support environmental policy managers and the growing consensus on the need for integration of coastal information at the national scale.