

# Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

Implementing the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan:  
Progress Made Toward Restoring and Maintaining the Ecological Integrity of a  
Nationally Significant Estuary

October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2009



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The Wiki Link: <http://implementationreview2010.wikispaces.com/Links>

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## **Implementing the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan: Progress Made Toward Restoring and Maintaining the Ecological Integrity of a Nationally Significant Estuary**

### **Overview**

This program evaluation package has been prepared to report on the progress Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) has made toward restoring and maintaining the ecological integrity of the Mobile Bay estuary. It includes information on activities, partnerships, outputs, and outcomes and discusses other factors affecting the implementation of a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP). This plan was developed by over 300 stakeholders over the course of a six year period (1996-2002) and was approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency in 2002.

Since the CCMP's approval, 87 of the 101 actions outlined in the plan are in progress, 10 have been completed and 4 have yet to be initiated. This evaluation package, or implementation review, is the third report prepared by MBNEP. The first review covered the first seven years of the program (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 2003), the second covered the next three year period (October 1, 2003-September 30, 2006) and this report covers the most recent four years (October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2009). MBNEP Annual Work plans included in this evaluation include Years 10, 11, 12, and 13.

The activities reported in this evaluation have been accomplished with a combination of U.S. EPA funding, state, local and private contributions, and competitively awarded grants from other federal programs totaling \$3,249,607. US EPA funding invested during the reporting period totaled \$2,014,316 (10- \$511,966, 11- \$492,600, 12- \$418,000, 13- \$591,750 ). These EPA dollars leveraged other non-federal funding or match totaling 5,199,734, (state- \$2,126,547 local- \$1,404,527 private- \$562,346 and the value of in-kind services 1,106,314); competitively awarded grants received from other federal and state programs totaling \$830,248. Thus, \$2,014,316 in EPA funding over a four year period has yielded an additional \$6,029,982 in leveraged resources for continued implementation of the CCMP.

This publication has been organized for ease of program evaluators. The first section, Program Management Core Elements Response, provides a review of the MBNEP's program management practices including core elements of **Program Implementation and Reporting and Ecosystem Status and Trends**. The sub-elements addressed in this section include: Financial management, tracking and reporting of CCMP activities, outreach and public involvement, research conducted, ongoing assessment and monitoring activities, and reporting status and trends.

The second section, MBNEP's Workplan Narrative Summary, provides a review of "how" the MBNEP's annual work plans have been implemented to achieve the goals of the CCMP including core elements of **Ecosystem Restoration and Protection Projects and Technical Assistance and Capacity Building**. The sub-elements addressed in the section include: Habitat, water quality, living resource and healthy community activities; tools and training developed and made available; and direct assistance provided. Within each sub-element of this section, MBNEP addresses key actions accomplished, partnerships developed, outputs created, outcomes achieved, activity support for the goals of the Clean Water Act, and any external factors affecting success. Finally, MBNEP provides an update on how MBNEP has addressed challenges identified in previous program evaluations.

The third section of the Program Evaluation package includes detailed information on the financial management of the program. This information includes EPA dollars, match dollars, and competitively received external grants received and spent.

The Program Evaluation Team has scheduled an on-site visit for April 27-28, 2010. During this time, program evaluators will have an opportunity to visit with program staff, project recipients, management conference members, and community stakeholders. An itinerary for this two day is currently being developed and when complete will be incorporated into this package.



**Performance Measure Worksheet**

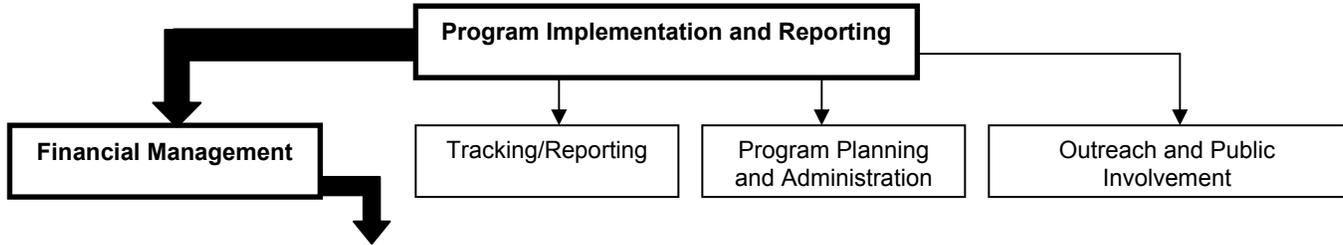
Core Element: **Program Implementation and Reporting**  
 Sub-element: **Financial Management**

<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
√	The Program researches, identifies, and tracks prospective donors and funding opportunities (applicable for non-profit organizations).	Member of Foundation Directory; See List of External Grants received
√	Program staff, Management Conference members, and volunteers have received finance/fundraising training if appropriate.	Two Grant Writing workshops provided to CAC members
√	The majority of the Program's outreach materials contain funding information (e.g., thanking donors, acknowledging project funding, including a membership form, etc.).	All outreach materials acknowledge project funding; MBNEP has no donor, membership programs
<b>GOOD</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
	The Program has a current finance plan (approved by the Management Conference within the past six years) that includes estimated costs, funding sources, goals, responsibilities, and milestones.	MBNEP Draft Finance Strategy ; See clarifying comments; See section 2:Workplan Narrative Summary, Addressing Previous Challenges
√	The Program integrates finance planning into its annual workplan (i.e., an assessment of funding obtained in the previous year, current funding, and funding to be pursued in the coming year).	See Year 8,9, 10 Workplan-pg. 15; Year 11 Workplan-pg 7-9 and appendix; Year 12 Workplan-pg 7-9, 22; Year 13 Workplan-pg 8-10,23.
√	The Program has a monthly revenue and expenditure tracking system.	MBNEP is administratively sponsored by Dauphin Island Sea Lab-both MBNEP staff and DISL staff track all expenditures; Reports are available for any time period needed
√	The Program has a case statement (a brief statement outlining accomplishments and results that could occur with additional resources).	Case Statement packages developed for targeted audiences.
<b>FULLY PERFORMING</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES: Baseline Expectations (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
√	The Program meets its non-federal match obligation and provides detail in the annual workplan submittal to the EPA about match funding sources and uses (e.g., workplan tasks).	MBNEP provides comprehensive detail on funding sources and uses by program activity; See appendices in Workplans 10, 11, 12, 13
√	The Program has a plan for diversifying and augmenting funding sources that is approved by the Management Conference and includes estimated costs, goals, responsibilities, and milestones.	Finance Committee recommendations to reach out to localities approved by Executive Committee; MBNEP has assertively expanded partnerships beyond management conference (Workplan 13-pg 12)
√	The Program has the partnerships and strategic alliances to identify and secure resources to implement its CCMP.	MBNEP has build credibility in community through alliances with State officials (Workplan 11-pg 8) other federal entities (Workplan 13-pg12) and business interests (Stormwater, Land Use Land Cover activities, Chamber resiliency efforts)
<b>MINIMALLY PERFORMING</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
	The Program does not meet <b>all</b> of the performance measures in the Fully Performing level.	



**Clarifying Comments**

**Core Element: Program Implementation and Reporting**  
 Sub-element: **Financial Management**



LEVEL	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<b>Excellent</b>	MBNEP demonstrates <i>Excellent</i> performance because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o It aggressively pursues private and public funding opportunities and cultivate relationships with public officials and private industry for expanded partnerships</li> <li>o Program staff, Management Conference members, and volunteers are provided opportunities to learn about grant writing and fund raising</li> <li>o All Program outreach materials acknowledge project funding although MBNEP does not actively solicit memberships</li> </ul>
<b>Good</b>	MBNEP demonstrates <i>Good</i> performance because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Although it does not have a current finance plan approved by the Executive Committee, there is a draft plan in place that identifies projected revenue and funding sources</li> <li>o MBNEP clearly includes finance planning into its annual workplan</li> <li>o MBNEP has a revenue and expenditure tracking system that generates reports for any time period (week, month, quarter)</li> <li>o MBNEP produces targeted “case” packets outlining accomplishments and finances for the purpose of acquiring additional resources). In addition, MBNEP has provided presentations to City of Mobile, Mobile County, Baldwin County, Baldwin County Mayoral Association and other to present the case for investing in the program.</li> </ul>
<b>Fully Performing</b>	MBNEP demonstrates baseline expectations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o MBNEP meets its non-federal match obligation and provides detail in each annual workplan submittal to the EPA about match funding sources and uses.</li> <li>o MBNEP augments base funding with competitively awarded external grants</li> <li>o MBNEP has partnerships and strategic alliances with state legislators, local officials, industry and other federal agencies to identify and secure resources to implement its CCMP.</li> </ul>
<b>Minimally Performing</b>	

Supporting Documents

1. List of External Grants Received
2. Grant Writing Workshops Documentation
3. Outreach material acknowledgements (examples in Wiki)
4. Financial Reports
5. Case Statement for ADECA, Baldwin County
6. Finance Strategy and Match Calculation



**Performance Measure Worksheet**

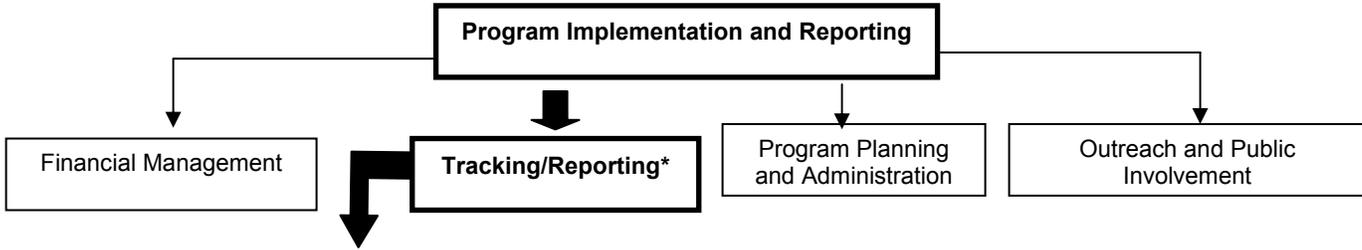
Core Element: Program Implementation and Reporting  
 Sub-element: **Tracking/Reporting\***

<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (TRACKING/REPORTING)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
√	Biannual written reports are delivered to the EPA Regional Project Officer.	MBNEP regularly submits quarterly reports to EPA Regional Project Officer (Note: Program office is aware that this practice has been irregular in past year due to staff changes) documentation
√	The Program creates a document based on CCMP implementation tracking system data for the public (via the Program's website, public database, hard copies, and/or other media), that reports on progress toward annual workplan milestones and goals, and funding use at least annually.	See Year 10-13 Workplans, Past Year Accomplishments section; CCMP tracking online viewer developed and being prepared for public launch documentation
√	Programmatic results are reported to the public and other stakeholders at least every two years.	MBNEP prepares an annual report of activities which is included in Dauphin Island Annual Report which is distributed to public and DISL constituents documentation
<b>GOOD</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (TRACKING/REPORTING)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
	Annual reports are delivered to the EPA Regional Project Officer.	
	The Program's CCMP implementation tracking system contributes to reporting of environmental results.	
	The Program's CCMP implementation tracking system is available to stakeholders and the public via the Program's website, public database, hard copies, and/or other media.	
	Programmatic results are reported to stakeholders and the public at least every three years.	
<b>FULLY PERFORMING</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES: Baseline Expectations (TRACKING/REPORTING)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
√	The Program submits approved annual workplan to the EPA HQ and Regions that tracks budgets and reports progress toward milestones, targets, and goals.	See Year 10-13 Workplans
√	The Program has a CCMP implementation tracking system that outlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o CCMP actions/priorities;</li> <li>o project description (including location/geo-referencing) and status (initiation, completion, delivery dates);</li> <li>o cost of project (total, NEP contribution, source/type of funds); and</li> <li>o partners involved and lead entity.</li> </ul>	CCMP tracking online viewer developed and being prepared for public launch documentation
√	Habitat/GPRA ( <b>Attachment 3</b> ) and Leveraging ( <b>Attachment 4</b> ) data are reported as required by the EPA Annual Funding Guidance.**	See NEPORT data
<b>MINIMALLY PERFORMING</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (TRACKING/REPORTING)</b>	
	The Program does not meet <u>all</u> of the performance measures in the Fully Performing level.	



**Clarifying Comments**

Core Element: Program Implementation and Reporting  
 Sub-element: **Tracking/Reporting\***



LEVEL	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<b>Excellent</b>	MBNEP demonstrates <i>Excellent</i> performance because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MBNEP has an online CCMP implementation tracking system in place for public view on its website that reports on progress toward implementation of the CCMP by objective area.</li> <li>○ MBNEP prepares an annual report which is included in the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Annual report and distributed widely.</li> </ul>
<b>Good</b>	MBNEP demonstrates <i>Good</i> performance because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Annual reports are delivered to the EPA Regional Project Officer.</li> <li>○ The Program's CCMP implementation tracking system is available to stakeholders and the public via the MBNEP's website and is available to the public in hardcopy upon request.</li> <li>○ Programmatic results are reported to stakeholders and the public annually.</li> </ul>
<b>Fully Performing</b>	MBNEP baseline expectations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MBNEP submits approved annual workplans to the EPA HQ and Regions that tracks budgets and reports progress toward milestones, targets, and goals.</li> <li>○ MBNEP has a CCMP implementation tracking system that outlines:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CCMP actions/priorities;</li> <li>▪ project descriptions (including location/geo-referencing) and status (initiation, completion, delivery dates);</li> <li>▪ cost of project (total, NEP contribution, source/type of funds); and</li> <li>▪ partners involved and lead entity.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ MBNEP reports Habitat/GPRA (<b>Attachment 3</b>) and Leveraging (<b>Attachment 4</b>) data as required by the EPA Annual Funding Guidance.**</li> </ul>
<b>Minimally Performing</b>	

Supporting Documentation

1. MBNEP Quarterly Report example
2. CCMP Tracking Database link
3. DISL Annual Report



**Performance Measure Worksheet**

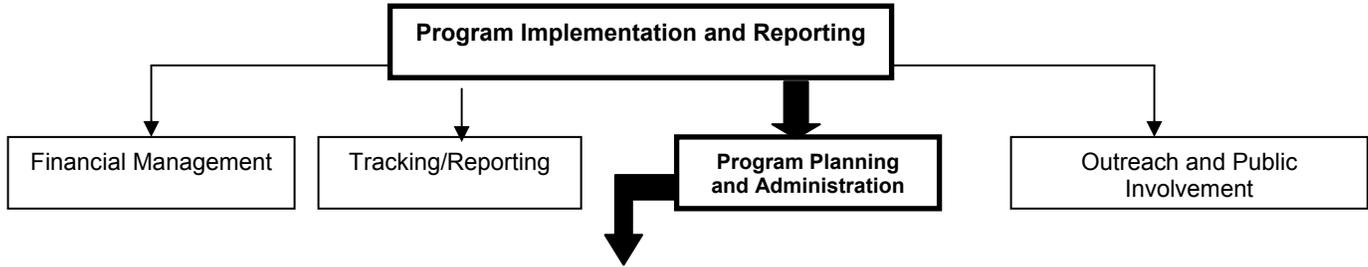
Core Element: **Program Implementation and Reporting**  
 Sub-element: **Program Planning and Administration**

EXCELLENT		
	PERFORMANCE MEASURES (PROGRAM PLANNING and ADMINISTRATION)	EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS
√	The Program encourages professional development opportunities for staff members.	Access Training provided to three staff members; See Conference Attendance; See Workshops Attendance.
√	The Program is a leader in the transfer of lessons learned in watershed management.	See Community Presentations; See Yr 10 Workplan, pg-11 (Shrimp Trawls), pg-12 (AMRAT); Yr 12 Workplan, pg 10 (Coastal Planning Summit), pg-11 (Eight Mile Creek, Clean Water Partnership) Yr 12 Workplan, pg-12 (Regional Stormwater Management) pg-15 (D'Olive Watershed); Presentations
GOOD		
	PERFORMANCE MEASURES (PROGRAM PLANNING and ADMINISTRATION)	EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS
√	The Program has a Management Conference that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o has a written vision statement and/or mission and goals;</li> <li>o is fully engaged in developing and implementing the workplan;</li> <li>o assists in building active partnerships;</li> <li>o ensures broad stakeholder representation in priority setting and Program oversight;</li> <li>o provides a clear and transparent decision-making process that includes the public (e.g., operating procedures, agreements and/or bylaws for committees, etc.); and</li> <li>o has a mechanism for identifying existing and emerging issues.</li> </ul>	See Workplans 10, 11, 12, 13 Program Overview; Yr 10 Workplan, pg-15 (Strategic Planning, Indicator Development); Yr 12 Workplan, pg-9-10 (Re-organization of Management conference) Documentation of Presentation for public input 2008-2009 Request for Proposals in 2008-2009 with committee reviews (documentation in file at program office); conducts quarterly meetings of subcommittees
√	The Program is seen as a leader in watershed management.	MBNEP has taken lead role in bringing cross section of stakeholders together to develop solutions to issues/challenges. MBNEP is often asked to coordinate meeting for other groups due to our credibility and extensive network (Flood Plains Workshop; Regional Sediment Management Workshop)
FULLY PERFORMING		
	PERFORMANCE MEASURES: <i>Baseline Expectations</i> (PROGRAM PLANNING and ADMINISTRATION)	EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS
√	The Program has a Management Conference that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o is fully staffed;</li> <li>o provides Program direction;</li> <li>o oversees development and approves annual budget/workplan;</li> <li>o ensures sufficient Program resources;</li> <li>o sets a framework for bringing together diverse interests in a collaborative fashion (e.g., develop synergy among various organizations);</li> <li>o ensures communication between Program committees;</li> <li>o ensures Program actions are based on both stakeholder priorities and good science;</li> <li>o communicates about and supports the Program; and</li> <li>o has a process for reevaluating its priorities.</li> </ul>	See Year 10 Workplan, pg-13; See Year 11 Workplan, pg-10; See Year 12 Workplan, pg-10; See Year 13 Workplan, pg-11
√	The Program staff coordinates and supports Management Conference responsibilities.	Meetings with conference committees quarterly; MBNEP staff provide notice, minutes; See Yr 12 Workplan pg-18; meeting minutes;
√	The Program has human resources principles in place (e.g., staff members have position descriptions and periodic performance reviews).	Job descriptions for each staff person; performance reviews performed annually (documentation in office files)
√	The Program office has autonomy with regard to the host entity (e.g., sets and follows its own priorities, exhibits visibility in the watershed, etc.).	MBNEP visible at local/regional/national meetings; DISL has no influence outside of management conference
MINIMALLY PERFORMING		
	PERFORMANCE MEASURES (PROGRAM PLANNING and ADMINISTRATION)	EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS
	The Program does not meet <u>all</u> of the performance measures in the <i>Fully Performing</i> level.	



**Clarifying Comments**

Core Element: **Program Implementation and Reporting**  
 Sub-element: **Program Planning and Administration**



LEVEL	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<b>Excellent</b>	MBNEP demonstrates <i>Excellent</i> performance because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MBNEP encourages staff to seek out professional development opportunities both online and live. Most recently three members became more proficient in Access to improve management of citizen databases and conference engagement.</li> <li>○ MBNEP is a leader in the transfer of lessons learned in watershed management by taking advantage of opportunities to speak locally, regionally and nationally.</li> </ul>
<b>Good</b>	MBNEP demonstrates <i>Good</i> performance because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Program has a Management Conference that has remained engaged in the implementation of the program. In 2006 MBNEP began a strategic reorganization that grew its management conference from 50 to 90 stakeholders. Although this organizational change has not yet been fully optimized due to staff limitations/change-over, the foundation is set to re-engage a large cross section of community leaders in guiding future program efforts to focus actions and coordinate resources.</li> </ul>
<b>Fully Performing</b>	MBNEP meets baseline expectations because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MBNEP has a Management Conference with a very committed executive committee, a re-engaged community action committee and a active science advisory committee. The combined efforts of these groups provide program direction; approval of the annual budget and workplan through the Executive Committee; and work to ensure sufficient Program resources (have actively visited local and state officials and Press Register editorial board to help elevate the profile of the MBNEP)</li> <li>▪ MBNEP's Executive Committee ensures communication between program committees as it is made up in part with representatives from each committee and ensures program actions are based on both stakeholder priorities and good science through citizen input sessions and Science Advisory Committee issue review;</li> <li>▪ MBNEP's management conference is excellent at communicating about and supporting the program by providing opportunities for MBNEP to speak publically; and be featured in conference sponsored media.</li> <li>▪ MBNEP's Executive Committee conducts an annual retreat to reevaluate its priorities and make programmatic changes.</li> <li>○ MBNEP staff coordinate and support Management Conference responsibilities.</li> <li>○ All staff have job descriptions and are evaluated annually</li> <li>○ MBNEP's relationship with its host, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, remains at arm's length.</li> </ul>

Supporting Documentation

1. Conference Attendance
2. Workshops Attendance
3. Presentations Given
4. Citizen meeting Power Point
5. Meetings Coordinated- Flood Plains, Sediment Management
6. Management Conference Meeting Minutes



**Performance Measure Worksheet**

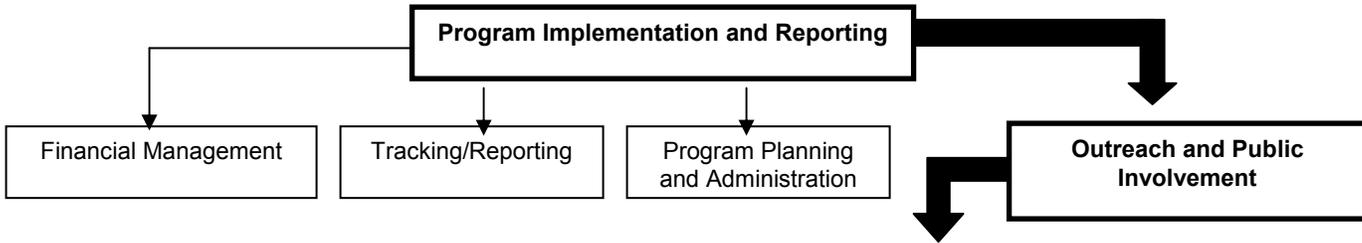
Core Element: **Program Implementation and Reporting**  
 Sub-element: **Outreach and Public Involvement**

<b>EXCELLENT</b>		<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (OUTREACH and PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
		The Program supports citizen recommendations by implementing/supporting priority projects via the annual workplan.	
		The Program has a media/marketing campaign underway, such as a social marketing campaign, with a specific behavior change message related to a CCMP priority issue(s).	
X		The Program has a brand/image and related graphics, tag lines, etc. that effectively promote and create widespread recognition of the Program.	See MBNEP IR wiki Links page for MBNEP logo and mission statement.
		The Program has socio-economic indicators to monitor and report on the impact of outreach and public involvement activities.	
		Efforts exist to achieve and document behavior change.	
<b>GOOD</b>		<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (OUTREACH and PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
X		The Program has an active CAC or analogous structure that proposes workplan projects and is represented during Management Conference or executive committee meetings.	See MBNEP IR wiki Links page for CAC roster. See also FY 06 Workplan, p. 44-46; FY 08 Workplan, p. 60;
X		The Program, through the communication plan, actively conducts outreach through such things as signage, radio/TV spots, special events, public presentations, topic-specific workshops, etc.	See MBNEP IR wiki Links page for presentations, signage, and other documentation.
X		The Program supports efforts to develop and implement such things as environmental education curricula, teacher training, ecotourism programs, small grant programs, estuary celebrations, and/or citizen recognition programs.	See FY 06 Workplan, p. 42, 44, 46; FY 07 Workplan, p. 31, 33; FY 08 Workplan p. 55; FY 09 Workplan, p. 64; See MBNEP IR wiki Links page for participation in area events.
X		The Program shares innovations and lessons learned at regional and national meetings (e.g., Estuarine Research Federation (ERF) biennial meeting, The Coastal Society (TCS) biennial meeting, Coastal Zone (CZ) biennial meeting, NEP national meeting, etc.).	NEP has presented at NEP national meeting, CZ, and other regional conferences. See presentations on the MBNEP IR wiki Links page.
<b>FULLY PERFORMING</b>		<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES: Baseline Expectations (OUTREACH and PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
X		Citizens are involved in Program decision-making and implementation (e.g., Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) or analogous structure, system for public input, open meetings, public notice of meetings and events, and/or opportunities for reviewing and prioritizing outreach and public involvement projects, etc.).	See FY 06 Workplan, p. 44-46; FY 08 Workplan, p. 60; See MBNEP IR wiki Links page for CAC minutes from 9/11/08
X		The Program has a multi-year, strategic communication plan that includes needs, target audience(s), objectives, project descriptions, deliverables, and deadlines.	See CCMP Vol. III, pg. 249. See also FY 06 Workplan p. 46-48; FY 07 Workplan, p. 33-34; FY 08 Workplan, p. 54-55, 57-59;
X		The Program has multi-media communication tools (e.g., newsletters, annual reports, fact sheets, website, listserves, and/or videos/CDs, etc.) that are updated as needed.	See FY 08 Workplan, p. 54, 56-58; FY 09 Workplan, p. 63-65; See MBNEP IR wiki Links page for outreach materials and communications tools.
<b>MINIMALLY PERFORMING</b>		<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (OUTREACH and PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
		The Program does not meet <u>all</u> of the performance measures in the Fully Performing level.	



**Clarifying Comments**

Core Element: **Program Implementation and Reporting**  
 Sub-element: **Outreach and Public Involvement**



LEVEL	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<b>Excellent</b>	MBNEP demonstrates <i>Excellent</i> performance because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MBNEP program staff keep abreast of citizen concerns and to the best extent possible implements/supports priority projects via the annual workplan.</li> <li>○ MBNEP has used the same logo on publications and all other outreach and education materials since the signing of the CCMP in 2002. MBNEP also includes its mission statement in all press releases, newsletters, and other general MBNEP publications.</li> </ul>
<b>Good</b>	MBNEP demonstrates <i>Good</i> performance because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MBNEP's CAC Co-Chairs serve as voting members of the Executive Committee, giving the CAC an active role in the governance of the program. The CAC has also initiated projects that have been included in the MBNEP workplan, such as the CAC's water quality training program for grassroots organizations.</li> <li>○ MBNEP has funded the installation of interpretive signage at various restoration sites across the watershed, and also partnered with the Alabama Gulf Coast Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau to install interpretive signage along the Alabama Scenic Byway. In addition, MBNEP provides frequent presentations to civic groups, non-profit organizations, and local environmental groups regarding Mobile Bay issues and program focus areas.</li> <li>○ MBNEP's Mini-Grant program distributed over \$35,000 to local grassroots organizations from 2006 to 2009. In addition, MBNEP continues to support the development of a coastal Alabama "Waters to the Sea" environmental education program as well as the creation of a 15-minute educational video for K-12 audiences.</li> <li>○ MBNEP's Director has presented at NEP national meetings, the annual Coastal Zone conference, and the Mississippi-Alabama Bays and Bayous Symposium.</li> </ul>
<b>Fully Performing</b>	<b>Baseline expectations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MBNEP Community Action Committee provides input on MBNEP's outreach programs and priorities of the MBNEP in general. The MBNEP CAC's primary initiative in this review period has been the creation of a comprehensive water monitoring program to build the capacity of grassroots organizations to lead water monitoring efforts in their local area and to connect and educate them about water resources.</li> <li>○ MBNEP outreach focuses on issues that take advantage of existing partnerships to stretch financial resources and undertaking projects that are highly visible and have the most "bang for the buck" in terms of watershed restoration. MBNEP continues to loosely follow the Communications Strategy of the CCMP (Vol III).</li> <li>○ Priority audiences for MBNEP outreach include municipalities and local elected officials, the business and development community, the scientific and research community, and the general public.</li> <li>○ MBNEP uses a wide array of communications tools, including an extensive website with electronic publications; regularly updated social networking sites including Facebook and Twitter; citizen surveys; a bi-annual newsletter and e-newsletter; and regular press releases.</li> </ul>

Supporting Documentation

- |                           |                       |                         |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Logo/Mission Statement | 2. CAC Roster/Minutes | 3. Special Events List  |
| 4. Presentations List     | 5. Press Release List | 6. Scenic Byway Signage |
| 7. Mini Grant Package     |                       |                         |



**Performance Measure Worksheet**

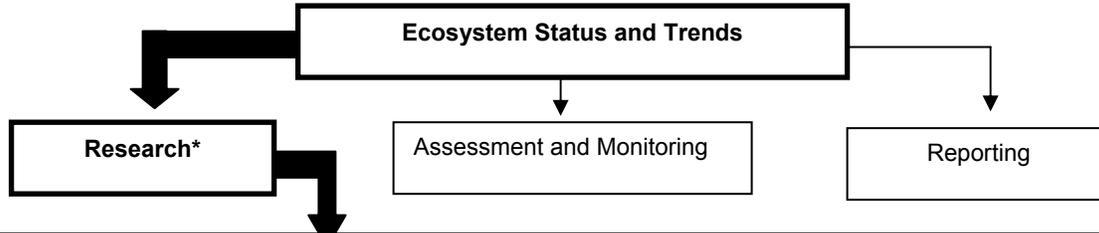
Core Element: Ecosystem Status and Trends  
 Sub-element: **Research\***

<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (RESEARCH)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
	Research is used to change policy.	
	The Program shares its science and technology research and findings at regional and national meetings (e.g., Estuarine Research Federation (ERF) biennial meeting, The Coastal Society (TCS) biennial meeting, Coastal Zone (CZ) biennial meeting, NEP national meeting, etc.).	
	Scientific and technical reports produced by the NEP are peer reviewed.	
	Program staff sits on state and national science boards and committees.	
<b>GOOD</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (RESEARCH)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
√	Research is conducted by appropriate partners.	Yr 10 Workplan, pg-22 (Eight Mile Creek); Yr 13 Workplan, pg-29 (Sediment Loading Analysis), pg-30 (Land Use Impacts on Fish River), pg-33 (Pathogen Source ID Fish River), pg-39 (Restoration for blue Crab), pg-49 (Shoreline Stabilization Strategies), pg-59 (D'Olive Watershed)
√	Research identifies significant, missing data that warrant additional monitoring or sampling.	Yr 10 Workplan, pg-21(Delta), pg-22 (Eight Mile Creek);
√	The Program uses research results to develop management options and implement solutions.	Yr 10 Workplan, pg-22 (Eight Mile Creek); pg-59 (D'Olive Watershed) See Supporting Documentation
√	Results from research are combined and translated into plain English for reporting to the public.	See State of Bay Report
√	The Program or its partners have established a process to regularly reevaluate its research needs.	Gulf of Mexico Alliance /Gulf of Mexico Regional Research Plan
<b>FULLY PERFORMING</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES: Baseline Expectations (RESEARCH)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
√	The Program or its partners has a process to identify research needs.	Gulf of Mexico Alliance/ Gulf of Mexico Regional Research Plan
√	The research needs are consistent with CCMP goals and actions.	YES
√	The Program's research needs are approved by the Management Conference.	Program research needs are developed and recommended by Science Advisory Committee and incorporated into Workplan Planning
<b>MINIMALLY PERFORMING</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (RESEARCH)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
	The Program does not meet <u>all</u> of the performance measures in the Fully Performing level.	



**Clarifying Comments**

Core Element: Ecosystem Status and Trends  
 Sub-element: **Research\***



LEVEL	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<b>Excellent</b>	
<b>Good</b>	MBNEP demonstrates <i>Good</i> performance because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MBNEP participates in the funding of research by other partners that have peer review panels in place (Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, National Estuarine Research Reserves) and similar objectives to reduce duplication of effort.</li> <li>○ Most research funded indicates a need for additional study; Delta salinity study has redirected efforts toward the understanding of the ecosystem services provided by Millfoil; Eight Mile Creek research led to the development of a watershed management plan which will include in a monitoring plan; shoreline stabilization strategies resulted in additional projects with modification to distances from shore for maximum benefit.</li> <li>○ MBNEP only supports research that can be ultimately applied to an improved method for restoring or protecting the integrity of the estuary. (Ex. Best method for restoring SAV, hydrologic modifications, management plans to reduce sediment loading, etc. )</li> <li>○ Through newsletter articles, newspaper articles, and public presentations, MBNEP translates esoteric science into plain English for public consumption.</li> <li>○ MBNEP is an active participant in the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and the Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant Consortium Advisory Council. Both the Alliance and the gulf Sea Grant programs, evaluate research needs on a regular basis (3 year periods). MBNEP participation ensures that the research need reflect the objectives of the CCMP.</li> </ul>
<b>Fully Performing</b>	MBNEP Baseline expectations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ When the management conference was restructured in 2006, a Science Advisory Committee was established and has remained active. Any research needs brought to the attention of the MBNEP are vetted through the SAC before any further action is taken.</li> </ul>

Supporting Documentation

1. Eight Mile Creek Report (see narrative)
2. Magnolia River Sediment Loading Analysis (see narrative)
3. Land Use Impacts on Fish River (Pending) (see narrative)
4. Pathogen Source ID Fish River (Status Report- Project ongoing) (see narrative)
5. Restoration Strategies in Weeks Bay for Blue Crab Report (see narrative)
6. Helen Wood Park Shoreline Stabilization Strategies (see narrative)
7. D'Olive Watershed Sediment Loading Analysis (see narrative)
8. State of the Bay Report (see narrative)
9. Gulf of Mexico Alliance Action Plans 1 & 2
10. Gulf of Mexico Regional Research Plan
11. Science Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



**Performance Measure Worksheet**

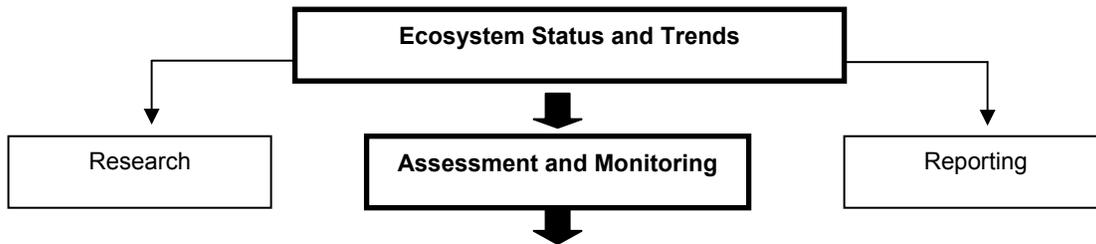
Core Element: **Ecosystem Status and Trends**  
 Sub-element: **Assessment and Monitoring**

<b>EXCELLENT</b>		
	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (ASSESSMENT and MONITORING)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
	The monitoring plan produces sufficient data to support a comprehensive and integrated analysis of environmental conditions.	
√	The Program or its partners seeks more efficient and cost-effective technologies for monitoring as appropriate.	See Yr 13 Workplan, pg-12; see Yr 12 Workplan, pg-60
√	The Program trains volunteer groups to improve the quality of data collection.	see Yr 12 Workplan, pg-60
<b>GOOD</b>		
	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (ASSESSMENT and MONITORING)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
√	The Program uses monitoring data to assess and re-direct management actions and programs implemented under the CCMP as necessary.	See Yr 12 Workplan, pg 29, 59;
	The monitoring plan has a schedule for review/updates that is approved by the Management Conference.	
√	The Program uses monitoring data to identify gaps in knowledge.	See Workplans Yr 10, 11, 12 (Monitoring Sub estuaries) Dog River, Bayou la Batre; See Workplans Yrs 10, 11, 12, 13 Real Time Monitoring and Atmospheric Deposition Monitoring ( <a href="http://www.mymobilebay.com">www.mymobilebay.com</a> , and <a href="http://nadp.sws.uiuc.edu/MDN/">http://nadp.sws.uiuc.edu/MDN/</a> )
√	Available data is analyzed for ecosystem status and trends.	See Workplans Yr 10, 11, 12,13- Wetland Status and Trends (Comparison of NLCD with NWI); See Workplans Yr 11, 12, 13- SAV Mapping; See Land Use Land Cover Changes from 1974-2008; Analysis of Long term Fisheries Assessment and Monitoring Program;Delta Hydrological Modifications Impact Study; Sediment Loading D'Olive Watershed.
√	The Program promotes the establishment of volunteer monitoring groups to supplement NEP monitoring efforts.	See Workplan Yr 12,pg-60 (CAC Water Monitoring); See Workplan Yr 13, pg-36
<b>FULLY PERFORMING</b>		
	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES: Baseline Expectations (ASSESSMENT and MONITORING)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
√	The Program has a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) or analogous structure to ensure that Program decision-making is tied to good science.	See Science Advisory Roster/minutes; See Workplan Yr 13, pg- 12-13 (MBNEP partnership with NASA and Northern Gulf Institute)
√	The Program has indicators in use that are recognized by the Management Conference.	See State of Bay Report
<b>MINIMALLY PERFORMING</b>		
	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (ASSESSMENT and MONITORING)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
	The Program does not meet <u>all</u> of the performance measures in the Fully Performing level.	



**Clarifying Comments**

Core Element: Ecosystem Status and Trends  
 Sub-element: **Assessment and Monitoring**



LEVEL	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<b>Excellent</b>	MBNEP demonstrates <i>Excellent</i> performance because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MBNEP has assertively partnered with NASA in an effort to investigate the usage of remote sensing data for providing alternative and cost-effective technologies for monitoring as appropriate. Although MBNEP recognizes that this data has its limitations, remote sensing provides an excellent source of data to focus ground truthing efforts for further study.</li> <li>○ MBNEP supports the Manatee Monitoring Network and grassroots volunteer groups in improving water monitoring data collected. Additional data (YSI monitoring of water column) is being provided to Alabama Water Watch in a pilot study for developing more comprehensive water quality data.</li> </ul>
<b>Good</b>	MBNEP demonstrates <i>Good</i> performance because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MBNEP supports ongoing monitoring of meteorological and atmospheric data to support Alabama Department of Environmental Management monitoring efforts throughout the bay. In addition, MBNEP has provided ADEM support to undertake monitoring programs in three sub-estuaries to establish baseline data in impaired waters.</li> <li>○ MBNEP has supported mapping of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation twice (2002, 2009), and habitats for 2002 which have led to the development of Status and Trend Reports for each; MBNEP support for sediment loading analyses in D'Olive Watershed and Magnolia River provided baseline data for use in watershed planning and Outstanding Alabama Water designation.</li> <li>○ MBNEP has organized grassroots groups in developing a comprehensive water quality monitoring program. These groups were trained to use YSI monitoring in their watersheds and data is provided to Alabama Water Watch.</li> <li>○ MBNEP support the Manatee Monitoring Network to track presence of these animals in fringe habitats</li> </ul>
<b>Fully Performing</b>	MBNEP meets baseline expectations because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MBNEP has an active Science Advisory Committee that has established estuarine indicator themes, assisted with the production of the 2008 State of the Bay Report, and has vetted issues of fish passage and hydrologic modifications along Mobile Bay's causeway. The SAC is now focused on developing an assessment of monitoring needs related to the indicators outlined in the State of the Bay Report to develop data sets that were not available for the 2008 report.</li> <li>○ MBNEP has an approved monitoring plan which was prepared as part of the development of the CCMP. This plan is being reviewed and modified to address areas beyond water quality.</li> </ul>
<b>Minimally Performing</b>	The Program does not meet <b>all</b> of the performance measures in the <i>Fully Performing</i> level.

Supporting Documentation

1. Sub-Estuary Monitoring Report- Bayou la Batre, Dog River
2. Comparison of NLCD with NWI Classification of Baldwin and Mobile Counties
3. Land Use Land Cover Analysis 1974-2008
4. SAV Mapping of Mobile Bay Alabama and Adjacent Waters
5. Mobile Tensaw Delta Hydrological Modifications Study Final Report
6. Analysis of Sediment Loading D'Olive Watershed/Magnolia River
7. <http://manatee.disl.org> , [www.mymobilebay.com](http://www.mymobilebay.com), <http://nadp.sws.uiuc.edu/MDN/>
8. Science Advisory Committee Roster/Minutes
9. State of the Bay Report



**Performance Measure Worksheet**

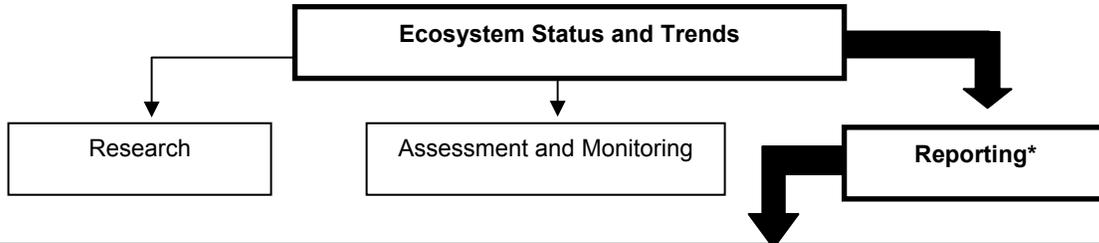
Core Element: **Ecosystem Status and Trends**  
 Sub-element: **Reporting**

<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (REPORTING)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
	Reports discuss adaptive management strategies.	
	Reports recognize new and emerging issues to be considered in updates or revisions to the CCMP.	
<b>GOOD</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (REPORTING)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
√	The Program has an environmental progress report that communicates ecosystem status and trends to the public every three to five years (e.g., "State of the Bay" report, Environmental Report Card, significant newspaper insert, newsletters, websites, etc.).	See State of Mobile Bay
√	Major reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ discuss the Program's goals and priorities, indicators in use, ecosystem status and trends, and maps of study area;</li> <li>○ discuss the health of the estuary (i.e., habitat, water quality, and living resources); and</li> <li>○ include conceptual models that represent the best understanding of current ecosystem processes.</li> </ul>	See Presentations List
<b>FULLY PERFORMING</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES: Baseline Expectations (REPORTING)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
√	The Program has an environmental progress report that communicates ecosystem status and trends to the public on a periodic basis (e.g., "State of the Bay" report, Environmental Report Card, significant newspaper insert, newsletters, websites, etc.).	See State of Mobile Bay; see newsletters, see website; see press releases/media coverage
√	Major reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ are linked to CCMP actions, goals, priorities, indicators, and monitoring systems;</li> <li>○ feature a narrative description of the Program's study area in plain English explaining the relationship between human activities and impacts on resources; and</li> <li>○ are approved by the Management Conference.</li> </ul>	See Workplans Yrs 10, 11, 12,13; See State of Mobile Bay;
<b>MINIMALLY PERFORMING</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES (REPORTING)</b>	<b>EVIDENCE/WORKPLAN CITATION and, if necessary, CLARIFYING COMMENTS</b>
	The Program does not meet <u>all</u> of the performance measures in the Fully Performing level.	



**Clarifying Comments**

Core Element: **Ecosystem Status and Trends**  
 Sub-element: **Reporting**



LEVEL	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<b>Excellent</b>	
<b>Good</b>	MBNEP demonstrates <i>Good</i> performance because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MBNEP has produce three “environmental progress reports” since its establishment: Hard Rain (1998), Where the River Meets the Sea (2003) and State of Mobile Bay, A Status Report on Alabama’s Coastline from the Delta to our Coastal Waters (2008). These publications have evolved from one to the next, culminating in the latest version which communicates ecosystem status and trends to the public through discussion of 15 indicator themes.</li> </ul>
<b>Fully Performing</b>	<b>Baseline expectations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MBNEP produces State of the Bay reports every five years (see above).</li> <li>○ MBNEP produces Annual Workplans that are distributed to public venues for viewing and on our website that :               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ are linked to CCMP actions, goals, priorities, indicators, and monitoring systems;</li> <li>○ feature a narrative description of the Program’s study area in plain English explaining the relationship between human activities and impacts on resources; and</li> <li>○ are approved by the Management Conference.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ MBNEP provides access to reports on ecosystem status and trends from various sources on its website under publications.</li> </ul>
<b>Minimally Performing</b>	

Supporting Documentation

1. State of the Bay Report
2. Work Plans for years 10, 11, 12, 13
3. Newsletters
4. Website
5. Media Coverage



**Work Plan Narrative Summary**

Core Element: Ecosystem Restoration and Protection  
Sub-element: **Habitats**

**WORKPLAN GOAL:** 2006, 2008- Habitat Management (Acquisition Support)

**Summary of Key Activities:** Acquisition of Giddens Tract

In facilitating the Coastal Habitats Coordinating Team (CHCT), and in support of the "Coastal Habitat Atlas": Aquisition and Restoration Priorities of Mobile and Baldwin Counties (March, 2006) MBNEP established a fund to provide non-regulatory incentives for the acquisition and/or restoration of prioritized sites of particular sensitivity, rarity, or value throughout the MBNEP focus area. MBNEP issued requests for proposals to conduct these habitat restoration projects, with an emphasis on improvements with some degree of permanence (25 years or greater).

One acquisition support project was funded in 2007. MBNEP supported the purchase of the **Giddens Tract**, a 1,642 acre parcel of piney flatwoods adjacent to existing State of Alabama tracts owned by the Forever Wild Land Trust program. This project was identified in the Coastal Habitats Atlas. Funding for the habitat incentive program was postponed in the 2009 program year following MBNEP's initiation of a partnership with NOAA and NASA to better prioritize habitats in need of assistance. *This project addresses MBNEP CCMP goal HM A1.2.*

**Partnerships:** Coastal Habitats Coordinating Team (a group of over 50 federal, state and local public and private habitat resource managers), Forever Wild

**Outputs:** Acquisition of 1,642 acres of piney flatwoods

**Outcomes:** Increase in the number of acres of unfragmented habitat that serves multiple species of wildlife

**Additional Information:** Components of this project were included in the FY 2007 NEP GPRA Report under the following heading:  
*FY 2007- Grand Bay Savanna- Giddens Tract Addition*

**CWA Collaborative Role:** N/A



## Work Plan Narrative Summary

Core Element: Ecosystem Restoration and Protection  
Sub-element: **Habitats**

**WORKPLAN GOAL:** 2006, 2009- Habitat Management (Restoration Activities)

**Summary of Key Activities:** Magnolia Springs Restoration  
Helen Wood Park Wetlands Restoration  
Helen Wood Park Shoreline Stabilization  
Dog River Park Shoreline Stabilization

As part of the Habitats Incentive Program established a fund to provide non-regulatory incentives for the acquisition and/or restoration of prioritized sites of particular sensitivity, rarity, or value throughout the MBNEP focus area, from 2006 to 2008, MBNEP partnered with the Baldwin County Commission in the stabilization of **Magnolia Springs** Park to prevent on-site erosion and stormwater infiltration, as well as the restoration of the wetland, riparian, and stream habitat to its natural state. These activities were part of a comprehensive plan on the part of the Town of Magnolia Springs to re-classify the Magnolia River as an Outstanding Alabama Water. That designation was received in late 2009. *This project addresses MBNEP CCMP objective HM A1.2.*

In 2008, MBNEP began a restoration of the wetlands bordering the developed area of the City of Mobile's **Helen Wood Park** with a Community Restoration Partnership grant award. After failed attempts to kill the invasive *Phragmites* through burning and herbicide treatments, the area was excavated to reduce the elevation of the marsh by six inches. The natural tidal saturation of the marsh with water was restored, which significantly reduced re-sprouting of *Phragmites*. Large patches of native bulrush (*Schoenoplectus* sp.) began to grow on the site. In Fall 2009, almost 13,400 native plants were planted by volunteers on the marsh site, including black needlerush (*Juncus roemerianus*), smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), and marsh hibiscus (*Hibiscus moscheutos*). The marsh will be monitored in hopes that the productive native marsh plants establish themselves within the restored site. Interpretive signage explaining the benefit of salt marshes, the greater Dog River watershed, and the marsh ecosystem will be installed during the 2010. *This project addresses MBNEP CCMP objectives HM D3.4 and HU C1.2.*

In the 2008 and 2009 program years, MBNEP participated in two projects with the objective of restoring shoreline habitats. The first, a Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) study, examined the potential benefit of restoring shallow subtidal oyster reefs on adjacent nearshore habitats. DISL researchers established a site on a state-owned shoreline adjacent to the City of Mobile's **Helen Wood Park** where changes from the addition of artificial oyster reefs to shoreline configuration and quantity of marsh vegetation were documented. In 2009, MBNEP began the site assessment and design of a shoreline restoration initiative at the City of Mobile's **Dog River Park**. The restoration, funded by an ANEP Community Restoration Project (CRP) grant, will include planting of native vegetation where emergent grasses and other riparian habitat have been impaired by wave energy and the installation of timber sheets that will both equalize shoreline erosion and create habitat. *These projects address MBNEP CCMP objective HM D3.4.*

**Partnerships:** Coastal Habitats Coordinating Team, Baldwin County Commission; Gulf of Mexico Foundation, ADCNR-State Lands Division-Coastal Section, The City of Mobile; Coastal Alabama Clean Water Partnership, Mobile County Wildlife Conservation Association, Dog River Clear Water Revival, ANEP; Dauphin Island Sea Lab, The Nature Conservancy



- Outputs:**
- Magnolia Springs: Restoration of 8 acres of wetland, riparian, and stream habitat;
  - Helen Wood Park: Removal of invasive species; Restoration of 3.5 acres of wetlands with native emergent grasses
  - Helen Wood Park: Due to project design, inconclusive shoreline restoration. However, roughly 1100 linear feet of fish and shellfish habitat were created.
  - Dog River Park: Future outputs to include 350 linear feet of restored shoreline as well as the creation of fish and shellfish habitat.
- Outcomes:** Improved wetland functions; Increase in habitat for living resources; Reduction of lost shoreline
- Additional Information:** Components of this project were included in the FY 2007 and FY 2008 NEP GPRA Reports under the following headings:  
*FY 2007- Magnolia Springs Restoration Project*  
*FY 2007- Helen Wood Park Restoration, Phase II*  
*FY 2008- Magnolia Springs Restoration Project, Phase II*  
*To be reported in FY 2010- Helen Wood Park and Dog River Park Shoreline Restorations*
- CWA Collaborative Role:** MBNEP had a **significant** role in the Magnolia Springs restoration. MBNEP had a **primary** role in the Helen Wood Park wetlands restoration, Dog River shoreline stabilization, and Helen Wood Park shoreline stabilization. These projects conform to the main objective of the Clean Water Act to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters by controlling nonpoint source pollution on a watershed basis.



## Work Plan Narrative Summary

Core Element: Ecosystem Restoration and Protection  
Sub-element: Water Quality

**WORKPLAN GOAL:** 2006, 2008, 2009 Addressing Impaired Water Bodies

**Summary of Key Activities:**

- Eight Mile Creek Pathogen Source Identification
- Juniper Creek Pathogen Source Reduction
- Fish River Pathogen Source Identification
- Moore and Montlimar Creeks Trash Barrier Installation
- D'Olive Watershed Sediment Analysis
- Magnolia River Watershed Sediment Analysis

From 2006 through 2008, MBNEP, in partnership with Mobile Engineering LLC (Mobile Group, Inc.) undertook the **Eight Mile Creek Pathogen Source Identification** project. The final report, *Source Assessment Report for Eight Mile Creek Watershed*, provides a detailed baseline of information on the sewer network for this community, as well as information on watershed boundaries, 3-D surface hill shade, existing land use, soil series, hydrologic soils, and a comprehensive source assessment map. *This project addressed MBNEP CCMP objective WQ C1.1.*

The Juniper Creek Watershed is a 5,936-acre watershed located within the Upper Big Creek Lake sub-watershed of the Escatawpa River in southwestern Alabama. It is a tributary to Big Creek Lake, the drinking water source for the City of Mobile and has been on the State of Alabama's 303(d) use impairment list since 1998 for Pathogens (Fecal Coliforms). In 2008, MBNEP/Clean Water Partnership and the Mobile County Soil and Water Conservation District received funding to conduct activities for **pathogen source reduction at Juniper Creek**. Historically pathogen inputs via water quality testing had been linked to a small dairy farm adjacent to the creek and aging septic systems in residential development upstream of the dairy farm. To reduce pathogen inputs associated with the dairy, fencing was replaced to restrict cattle access to the creek and the farm's waste water lagoon was pumped out in July 2009. To address the septic tank issue, educational seminars are scheduled for spring 2010. *This project addresses MBNEP CCMP objective WQ C1.1.*

In 2008, MBNEP funded a two year project with the Weeks Bay Foundation to identify likely sources of pathogens at base flow and high water events in upper **Fish River**. E. coli counts at high water events have been enumerated at periodic intervals. Multiple antibiotic resistance testing at the University of West Alabama has proceeded on Fish River samples. Students in the Biology Department have conducted the work under the supervision of Professor Brian Burnes. Over 300 isolates have been examined.

As a special project for the International Baccalaureate program at Fairhope High School, a student under the supervision of the project manager isolated E. coli cells from known human (domestic wastewater influent from three local wastewater treatment facilities) and bovine (fecal material collected from three local farms) sources. Antibiotic resistance testing was conducted on the E. coli of known sources and compared to resistance patterns of the Fish River samples. Additional human and equine E. coli cells were also collected for this purpose and analysis is ongoing. Preliminary data indicate the presence of bovine cells yet the resistance patterns of many of the Fish River isolates do not match those of known sources. Additional source tracking using PCR-based methods are planned for late winter/early spring and summer 2010. Additionally, a network of volunteer rainfall monitors has been established and is providing detailed information on rainfall in the upper **Fish River**



watershed. In addition, two of the six volunteers act as sentinels reporting qualifying storm events. *This project addresses MBNEP CCMP objective WQ C1.1.*

Mid-2008 Dog River Clearwater Revival received funding from the MBNEP for **the installation of trash barriers on Moore and Montlimar Creeks**. These new trash barriers will function similarly to the barrier installed along Esclava Creek in 2006. Dog River Clearwater Revival is currently in discussions with the City of Mobile over the best course of action for maintaining and emptying the barriers. MBNEP and the CACWP facilitator have supported this project by working with the Dog River Clearwater Revival to determine best placement of the barriers and most efficient maintenance schedule. *This project addresses MBNEP CCMP objective WQ A1.2.*

MBNEP has supported two **sediment loading analyses** with the goal of protecting and improving water quality for impaired waterways. The first analysis, funded by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, was conducted by the Geological Survey of Alabama for **the D'Olive watershed**, which has served as the "poster child" for the impacts of increased storm water run-off and sediment loading in coastal Alabama since the mid-1970s. Accelerated erosion within the watersheds of D'Olive and Tiawassee Creeks in Daphne and Spanish Fort, Alabama has contributed to this problem. This sediment analysis determined that the watershed's streams received between two and two hundred times greater annual sediment loads than predicted when compared to natural geologic erosion rates. Data from this study is currently being used as part of a comprehensive watershed management plan being facilitated by MBNEP that will recommend actions need to reduce sediments through improved stormwater management and stream restoration.

The second sedimentation study was funded by the MBNEP and conducted by the Geological Survey of Alabama along the **Magnolia River** in South Baldwin County, Alabama, an otherwise pristine waterbody that could be negatively impacted by future growth. South Baldwin County has experienced a tremendous increase in development, resulting in increased turbidity along the river. The information from the final report, which assessed suspended sediment and bed loads, was used by the Town of Magnolia Springs, Alabama to successfully re-designate the status of the Magnolia River as an Outstanding Alabama Water. *These projects address MBNEP CCMP objective WQ B2. 1.*

**Partnerships:**

Eight Mile Creek: MBNEP, ADEM, the Gulf of Mexico Program, Mobile Engineering Company and the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC)

Juniper Creek: Mobile County Soil and Water Conservation District, Coastal Alabama Clean Water Partnership, Alabama Department of Environmental Management

Fish River: Weeks Bay Foundation, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Auburn University

Moore and Montlimar Creeks Trash Barriers: Dog River Clearwater Revival, City of Mobile

D'Olive Bay: ADCNR, Baldwin County Commission, Cities of Daphne and Spanish Fort, ADEM, US Army Corps of Engineers, Baldwin County legislative delegation, Lake Forest Property Owners Association, Geological Survey of Alabama



Magnolia River: The Town of Magnolia Springs, Geological Survey of Alabama

**Outputs:**

Source Assessment Report for Eight Mile Creek Watershed

[Analysis of Sediment Loading Rates and Impacts of Land-use Change on the D'Olive and Tiawasee Creek Watersheds, Baldwin County, Alabama \(2007\)](#)

Analysis of Sediment Loading Rates for the Magnolia River Watershed, Baldwin County, Alabama 2009

**Outcomes:**

Improve safety of water for body contact; Improve water quality to sustain aquatic life, Increased understanding of Water Quality Issues, Improved identification of and response to point and non-point sources of pollution that negatively impact water quality, Decrease concentrations of toxic substances

**Additional Information:**

NEPORT data are not relevant to these projects.

**CWA Collaborative Role:**

MBNEP played a **significant** role in the Eight Mile Creek project as it relates to improved water quality monitoring and controlling non-point source pollution on a watershed basis.

In the Juniper Creek and Fish River pathogen studies, the Trash Barrier Installation, and the D'Olive and Magnolia River Sediment Loading Analyses, MBNEP played a **supporting** role as these projects relate to improved water quality through the control of non-point source pollution on a watershed basis.



## Work Plan Narrative Summary

Core Element: Ecosystem Restoration and Protection  
Sub-element: Living Resources

**WORKPLAN GOAL:** 2007, 2008, 2009 Living Resources

**Summary of Key Activities:**

- Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan
- Hydrological Modification Impact Study on the Causeway
- Colonial Nesting Bird Surveys
- Oyster Gardening/Reef Restoration
- Salt Marsh Restoration Strategies for Blue Crab

The MBNEP has sought opportunities for ecosystem restoration and protection that provide benefits for living resources. To implement CCMP Action Item LR-B1 (identify nuisance species and develop plans to dampen or control negative effects on habitats and/or water quality) and in response to a 2006 approach by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, MBNEP funded and assisted in the development of an **Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan for Alabama** (the last gulf state to initiate any action on development of such a Plan). Staff members attended workshops to gather data, build upon a recently completed Rapid Assessment Survey, and prepare the Plan for comment. The plan, currently in draft form, will be finalized within the next year and lay out a strategy for controlling nuisance species throughout the state.

MBNEP funded a multi-year **study of the impacts of hydrological modifications on the lower Mobile-Tensaw Delta and upper Bay** conducted by Dr. John Valentine. Since 1923, some 20 large dams and other major water control structures have been built on the Delta's two primary feeder systems – the Alabama/Coosa/Tallapoosa and the Tombigbee/Black Warrior. Within the Delta proper, a large dike-like causeway built in the late 1920s has sealed off a number of once-open bays from immediate contact with the Gulf. Additional hydrologic impacts may be forecast because of multi-state water compact negotiations. By altering the seasonal variation and volume of flows, these hydrological modifications have potentially altered the ecological function and biodiversity of one of North America's largest, most productive and diverse estuaries, on a local and system-wide basis. The results of this preliminary study point strongly towards a significant impact of the Causeway on ecological function in the lower Mobile-Tensaw Delta. Given the intense short-term episodic hydrographic variations superimposed upon causeway induced differences in sediment grain size, future studies will include both additional monitoring and ecological experimentation to tease apart the impacts of local regional land use practices from Causeway impacts on the ecology of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta.

In the spring and summer of 2007 MBNEP and ADCNR State Lands Division - Coastal Section partnered with the National Audubon Society Coastal Bird Conservation Program (CBCP) to conduct the first comprehensive **standardized survey of the Alabama coast (including islands) for breeding beach-nesting birds** to determine status and trends for management decisions and public information. The sites covered included: Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Dauphin Island, west Dauphin Island, Isle aux Herbes, Pelican (Sand) Island, Cat Island, Gulf State Park, and Barton Island Peninsula. The resulting total number of breeding birds located for each species was: Snowy Plover, 10 pairs; Wilson's Plover, 13 pairs; American Oystercatcher, 12 pairs; Least Tern, 63 pairs; Gull-billed Tern, 30 pairs; Common Tern, nine pairs; and Black Skimmer, 56 pairs. CBCP is currently engaging in discussions to implement protective measures with the cooperation of local state and federal agencies to preserve and enhance habitats for Alabama's small but precious beach-nesting bird



population. In the 2008 field season, the MBNEP and Conservation Department supported the CBCP to conduct a second season of surveying and begin a monitoring/protective signage program. This survey resulted in identifying 7 locations for snowy plovers, 7 locations for Wilsons Plovers, 4 locations for American oystercatchers, and 2 locations for black skimmers.

Throughout the review period, the MBNEP continued its partnership with the Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center (AUMERC) and the ADCNR-Marine Resources Division to conduct the **Mobile Bay Oyster Gardening Program**, an initiative that was started in 2001 as a community involvement activity. Volunteers are trained to grow oysters under piers or in open waters, measure their growth, and harvest them for placement on Mobile Bay reefs. The purpose of the program is to teach citizens about oysters and their importance to Bay water filtration and habitat creation and to restore relic oyster reefs in Mobile Bay. Each year, AUMERC and MBNEP recruited, trained, and provided technical assistance to volunteers to produce another harvest of oysters to be placed on Cedar Point Reef and on other reefs throughout the bay. The program deployed 55,000 oysters in 2006, 63,000 in 2007, 59,000 in 2008, and 45,000 in 2009. In 2008, MBNEP's obtained an Americorps volunteer whose charge was to assess current program components and develop a strategy for expansion of the program. This effort resulted in an oyster gardener needs assessment, an improved program manual, and several changes to the program.

Another opportunity involved funding a Dauphin Island Sea Lab study of **Salt Marsh Restoration Strategies to Optimize Habitat Use by the Blue Crab**, an important local fisheries resource. In the northern Gulf, black needlerush, *Juncus roemerianus*, dominates high marsh zones and smooth cordgrass, *Spartina alterniflora*, is limited to fringing bands and patches along the water's edge. Gulf Coast marsh restoration often involves re-planting *Spartina* under an un-corroborated assumption that natural ecosystem function will follow, and it is unclear whether planting *Juncus* is the preferable alternative. Different grazing snail species – with *Callinectes* the primary predator of both – are characteristic of the two marsh grasses, and this study has attempted to determine whether *Littoraria-Spartina* and *Neritina-Juncus* communities are ecologically redundant and, therefore, indistinguishable to *Callinectes*, or whether the replacement of one system by the other would have an impact on population densities of this commercially important crab species.

**Partnerships:**

ANS Management Plan: ADCNR-WFF, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, Alabama Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, University of South Alabama, ADCNR-MRD

Hydrological Modification Study: (EPA) Gulf of Mexico Program, Mobile BayKeeper, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, The Nature Conservancy, Alabama Power, Coastal Conservation Association, and Alabama Wildlife Federation

Colonial Nesting Bird Surveys: ADCNR-SLD, Coastal Section; National Audubon Society CBCP, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Oyster Gardening: AUMERC, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, ADCNR-MRD

Developing Salt Marsh Restoration Strategies: Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve



**Outputs:**

Alabama Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan (Draft)

Mobile – Tensaw Delta Hydrological Modifications Impact Study  
Beach-nesting Bird Breeding Census and Report for Coastal  
Alabama – 2008

Oyster Gardening Manual, 2009. 2006, 55,044 oysters; 2007,  
63,352 oysters; 2008, 59,100 oysters; 2009, 45,000.

Developing Salt-marsh Restoration Strategies to Optimize  
Habitat Use by the Blue Crab, *Callinectes sapidus* (pending)

**Outcomes:**

Improved understanding of the impact of non-native species on  
the environment; Reduction in populations of non-native species,  
mitigation of impacts related to hydrologic changes due to  
development, increased acreage of nesting habitat for colonial  
and migratory birds, and improved the populations of fisheries  
resources

**Additional Information:**

N/A

**CWA Collaborative Role:**

MBNEP played a **significant role** in the study of the impacts of  
hydrological modifications on the lower Mobile-Tensaw Delta and  
upper Bay. The information from this project supports the  
main objective of the Clean Water Act to restore and maintain the  
chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters  
by strengthening water quality standards and controlling  
nonpoint source pollution on a watershed basis.

MBNEP played a **supporting role** in The Aquatic Nuisance  
Species Management Plan. This plan supports the main  
objective of the Clean Water Act to restore and maintain the  
chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters  
by strengthening water quality standards.

MBNEP's role in the Colonial Nesting Bird Surveys, the Oyster  
Gardening/Reef Restoration, and the Salt Marsh Restoration  
Strategies for Blue Crab projects was not applicable to the CWA.



## Work Plan Narrative Summary

Core Element: Ecosystem Restoration and Protection  
Sub-element: **Healthy Communities**

**WORKPLAN GOAL:** 2009 Human Uses

**Summary of Key Activities:** Graphical Ecological Characterization of Eight Mile Creek Watershed  
Shoreline Assessment Upper Fish River  
Impacts of Land Use on Lower Fish River Watershed

In 2008, MBNEP was invited to visit Reading Park, an infill passive park located in Prichard Alabama, an urban community with a high percentage of low income residents. This park had been developed with 100% volunteer effort and resources and represented the community's budding commitment to expanding green space, "getting people outside" and focusing environmental activities that addressed the "Protection of Natural Resources" part of a recently adopted comprehensive plan. MBNEP's partnership with the Prichard community began with the application for environmental justice funding, which was not awarded but triggered the need for the community to establish a grassroots group that would focus on these environmental needs. Thus, PERK (Prichard Environmental Restoration Keepers) was established. To support initial efforts of this group, MBNEP funded a **Graphical Ecological Characterization of the Lower Eight Mile Creek Watershed** to better communicate environmental strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to PERK and the community at large. This project included five main objective areas: 1) to characterize the ecosystems and shoreline stream conditions along Eight Mile Creek; 2) to assess stream health; 3) to design walking trail extensions to Reading Park within the watershed; 4) to identify green space opportunities; and 5) to propose educational opportunities for surrounding neighborhoods. To present the findings of this study an all day conference was held to gather the community together with the many difference resources available for environmental planning and action. With the characterization complete, the Coastal Alabama Clean Water Partnership has begun facilitation of a community watershed planning process that will produce a comprehensive watershed management plan for these urban waters. (See associated project: Pathogen Source Tracking in Eight Mile Creek Watershed- Ecosystem Restoration: Water Quality). Empowered by these planning efforts, PERK and the City of Prichard recently, secured a \$100,000 EPA CARE grant to help residents understand and reduce local pollution and associated health disparities, a project similar to the one developed in the environmental justice grant request. *This project addresses MBNEP CCMP goal HU A1.1.*

In 2008, MBNEP's Project Implementation Committee (PIC) focused its attention on better understanding and developing actions to improve conditions of the Fish River Watershed, particularly as it related to improved water quality, habitat management, and land use planning. To this extent, the PIC recommended funding three projects focused on the river. The first was a **shoreline assessment of upper Fish River** in Baldwin County, Alabama to collect data for potential use in watershed habitat restoration planning, recreational and land use planning, and education and outreach. Alabama Coastal Foundation staff and volunteers paddled upper Fish River, noting invasive plant species, lack of erosion control measures, and log and debris jams in the study area and geospatially referenced this data for further analysis. This project addressed MBNEP CCMP goal HU A1.1. Complementary to this effort, MBNEP funded a two year study to identify pathogen sources in the upper Fish River watershed (See associated project: Pathogen Source Tracking in Fish River- Ecosystem Restoration: Water Quality). The third project, funded primarily by Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant and to a lesser extent by MBNEP, was a two year interdisciplinary approach to quantifying the impact of land use/cover changes on water quality in the Fish River basin to preserve and improve the environmental and ecosystem health of the Weeks Bay area. This project included the



development of a geospatial tool that would compile all data being collected/generated by the other projects and would use the geospatial characterization to conduct a community charrette related to implementation of low impact land uses. The sampling aspect of this project is nearing completion with two more site visits necessary for sampling. Data collected in the past by various groups will then be analyzed along with data collected by the Auburn team to determine relationships between land use/land cover and various water quality constituents. GIS analysis and modeling are also nearing completion and are expected to be delivered to the MBNEP by summer 2010.

**Partnerships:**

Prichard activities: City of Prichard, Prichard Environmental Restoration Keepers; Auburn University

Shoreline Assessment: Alabama Coastal Foundation  
Land Use/Cover Impacts: Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant, Auburn University

**Outputs:**

City of Prichard activities: Graphic visualizations of the Eight Mile Creek ecosystems and their components; Stream assessment report; Drawings for trail extensions to Reading Park; GIS maps and database; Drawings for design of educational signage; Brochure of project highlights; Website; Final report

Fish River: Shoreline Assessment Final Report with recommendations and Data; GIS data/visualization of Land Use Impacts Final Report and products

**Outcomes:**

Improved management of human use activities related to land use.

**Additional Information:**

NEPORT data is not applicable to these projects.

**CWA Collaborative Role:**

MBNEP had a **significant** role in these projects as they related to support of improved water quality monitoring and improved water quality through the control of non-point source pollution on a watershed basis.



## **Work Plan Narrative Summary**

Core Element: Technical Assistance/Capacity Building  
Sub-element: **Tools**

**WORKPLAN GOAL:** 2007, 2009 Human Uses- Comprehensive Land Use Planning

**Summary of Key Activities:** Dauphin Island Conservation Planning  
Bayou La Batre Smart Growth Planning

Recovery from the impacts of Hurricanes Ivan (2004) and Katrina (2005) provided opportunities for comprehensive strategic planning by two coastal Alabama communities: the City of Bayou La Batre and Town of Dauphin Island. Along with devastation by storms, negative economic impacts affecting the fishing industry, shrinking economies, and declining population left municipal officials and residents of both communities uncertain about strategic approaches to recovery and revitalization.

Bayou La Batre residents were divided; some preferred focus on existing economic activities (primarily fishing and shipbuilding) as the key to community revitalization, while others favored rebuilding the city to draw tourists, new residents, and increased commerce. Community involvement was viewed as crucial in drafting a community plan that was both agreeable to residents and feasible to implement. Mac Martin, a graduate student in Auburn University's Community Planning Program (CPP), undertook this project, funded by the MBNEP, and with support of a faculty advisory committee. He conducted in-the-field research, created a community profile, facilitated visioning workshops with the City Planning Commission and citizen participants, and drafted a future land-use plan employing SmartCode that met the needs expressed by workshop participants. He obtained "buy-in" from the City Council and Mayor then left implementation work to be accomplished by project partners and his AU CPP cohorts.

Facing similar recovery pressures, the Town of Dauphin Island undertook a community based comprehensive planning process led by the MBNEP to build a more hazard resistant community that balances its economic growth with its environmental sustainability. Over 1,000 island stakeholders participated (through surveys, workshops, Internet programming, personal conversations, etc.) to identify the important focus areas and strategic actions to move the community toward sustainability. Recommendations included a working waterfront; a centralized small-town/village business district; alternative development patterns for the Island's west end beach area; low impact design processes and zoning to protect the sensitive, forested east end, groundwater resources, and ecosystems. The plan recommended creation of a "brand" that speaks to the shared community vision of the Island that must be developed and religiously employed for guiding every action the Town takes in its reinvention process.

**Partnerships:** City of Bayou La Batre, the Community Planning Program of Auburn University, the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium (MASC), the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission.

Town of Dauphin Island, MASC, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Lands Division; and Five E's Unlimited



<b>Outputs:</b>	<p>The Future of Bayou la Batre: Creating a Better Community through Planning and Design Community Planning Synthesis</p> <p>Dauphin Island Strategic Plan – A 20 Year Vision – Final Report &amp; First Five Years of Implementation Recommendations.</p>
<b>Outcomes:</b>	<p>Improved management of human use activities related to land use.</p>
<b>Additional Information:</b>	<p>NEPORT data is not applicable to this project.</p>
<b>CWA Collaborative Role:</b>	<p>MBNEP played a <b>significant</b> role in the Bayou la Batre planning initiative and the Dauphin Island strategic planning initiative. These projects comply with Section 320 of the Clean Water Act to collect, characterize, and assess data on toxics, nutrients, and natural resources within the estuarine zone to identify the causes of environmental problems. This will strengthen water quality standards and improve water quality monitoring.</p>



## Work Plan Narrative Summary

Core Element: Technical Assistance/Capacity Building  
Sub-element: **Tools**

**WORKPLAN GOAL:** 2007, 2009 Human Uses- Public Access

### **Summary of Key Activities:**

Dauphin Island Boater Access Planning  
Scenic Byway Interpretive Signage

In July, 2005, Auburn University (AU) Landscape Architecture students designed and conducted a study to determine the feasibility of **expanding boater access points on Dauphin Island**. This study included a survey to count numbers of boat trailers utilizing public access points on Dauphin Island and around the DI Causeway. Additionally they asked users of existing access points questions to assess their opinions about potential and alternative launch/fishing sites. In 2006 (after a delay caused by Hurricane Katrina), the MBNEP and Dauphin Island Sea Lab hosted a public meeting to share the results of the AU study and seek further citizen input on potential access sites in southern Mobile County. With identification of a need for additional public access at sites other than the eastern end of DI, planning was undertaken to develop a public access improvement project at Heron Bay Cutoff with future plans to improve Bay Front Park.

In 2008, as part of an ongoing effort to develop standardized **interpretive signage** along the coast of Alabama, MBNEP joined an effort to educate and bring public attention to important environmental and geographical features and to stimulate sustainable tourism while highlighting the linkage between the economy and ecology. A series of these signs will be installed across southern Mobile and Baldwin Counties on a scenic byway. The Alabama Coastal Connection Scenic Byway runs from I-10 at Grand Bay to the west, south and east through Bayou La Batre and Bellingrath Gardens, Dauphin Island to the Ferry, across the Bay to Fort Morgan, through Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, up Wolf Bay through Elberta, then back west through Foley along Highway 98 north to the Eastern Shore and north to reconnect with the Interstate. The project, funded by the MBNEP, will complement and coordinate objectives within the Foley, Orange Beach, Gulf Shores, Elberta, Alabama Gulf Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau (AGCCVB), and the Wolf Bay Watershed Watch (WBWW) Comprehensive Plans, the Alabama Coastal Connections' Corridor Management Plan, and the MBNEP Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan. Sign placement is currently proposed for the following locations: Bayou La Batre waterfront (2); Coden/Mon Louis Island Viewshed near Bellingrath Road; DI Ferry Landing and Estuarium (2); Fort Morgan Ferry Landing and Birding Area (2); Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge (2); Gulf State Park (2); Perdido Pass; organ Beach Waterfront park; Orange Beach Canoe Trail (3); Foley Eco-Park (3); Elberta Park; Wolf Bay locations (2); Weeks Bay NERR/mouth of Fish River; Gator Alley/Eastern Shore Trail; and the Fairhope Pier.

### **Partnerships:**

Auburn University Landscape Architecture Department; ADCNR, State Lands Division-Coastal Section; Town of Dauphin Island; Mobile County Commission; Dauphin Island Sea Lab; Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

Heron Bay Cutoff: ADEM; ADCNR-State Lands Division-Coastal Section and Marine Resources Division; Alabama Department of Transportation,; Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center, Mobile County; and a citizen representative of local fishermen.



Partners in the interpretive signage project include the AGCCVB; WBWW; ADNCR, State Lands Division-Coastal Section; Dauphin Island Sea Lab; Cities of Orange Beach, Foley, and Elberta

**Outputs:**

Feasibility Study for Public Access Opportunities: Dauphin Island Alabama  
Alabama Coastal Connection Scenic Byway- 26 signs

**Outcomes:**

Increase in the importance of protecting the Estuary and its environment

**Additional Information:**

**CWA Collaborative Role:** N/A



**Work Plan Narrative Summary**

Core Element: Technical Assistance/Capacity Building  
Sub-element: **Tools**

**WORKPLAN GOAL:** 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 Habitat Management

**Summary of Key Activities:**

Mississippi-Alabama Habitats Database  
Habitat Prioritization  
Alabama Habitat Mapper

In 2006, the **Mississippi-Alabama Habitats Database** was developed by the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program in partnership with the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium and Dauphin Island Sea Lab to track habitat restoration projects in the two-state area that are planned, ongoing, and completed. Database entries include project information such as restoration technique, latitude and longitude, primary funding sources, and partners, fields that dovetail with EPA GPRA reporting and NOAA's NERI. When the database was developed, it included a mapping feature depicting the distribution of projects across the eleven coastal counties of Alabama and Mississippi. However, the map was limited in the amount of data it could communicate.

In 2008, the Nature Conservancy and NOAA partnered with Mobile Bay National Estuary Program in a effort to identify **priority habitats across Mobile and Baldwin Counties** and develop a new interactive mapping tool that would incorporate that priority habitat information. Using the NOAA developed Habitat Priority Planner, MBNEP brought its Coastal Habitats Coordinating Team (50 + habitat resource managers) together over the course of a year to identify related datasets (land use, water quality, parcel, etc), define selection criteria and develop priority habitat patches for 10 different habitat types or "goals". The product of this effort was a set of geospatial layers to be included in a more interactive mapping feature for the database.

The **Alabama Habitat Mapper** brings the projects from the database together with these habitat priority patches for terrestrial, fresh water, and salt water habitats together with other datasets, including Mobile and Baldwin County parcel data, impervious cover, urbanized areas, and impaired water bodies to help the user identify protection strategies based on various protection objectives. The mapper can produce maps showing selected priority habitat patches in a defined area or priority habitats that are contained within a single parcel of land. As new data is acquired, it will be added to the mapper's inventory as a layer in anticipation of a subsequent habitat analysis, providing resource planners and other stakeholder groups such as chambers of commerce and transportation and recreation planners with information necessary to optimize resource investment and protect critical habitats. *The Mississippi-Alabama Habitats Tool addresses MBNEP CCMP goal HM A1.2.*

**Partnerships:**

Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Gulf of Mexico Program, NOAA Coastal Service Center, The Nature Conservancy, Coastal Habitats Coordinating Team

**Outputs:**

Mississippi Alabama Habitats Tool (<http://habitats.disl.org>)

**Outcomes:**

Increase in the number of acres of unfragmented habitat

**Additional Information:**

**CWA Collaborative Role:**

N/A



**Work Plan Narrative Summary**

Core Element: Technical Assistance/Capacity Building  
Sub-element: **Training**

**WORKPLAN GOAL:** 2007, 2009 Human Uses- Comprehensive Land Use Planning

**Summary of Key Activities:** Water Runs Down Hill- Innovative Low Impact Design Training

With over 53% of the U. S. population living in coastal counties, pressure along the coast to convert natural landscapes to roads, buildings, and other impervious surfaces underlies mounting problems related to stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution in our waters. The MBNEP funded a project to develop and disseminate on-site, on-line, and continuing education programs for realtors, engineers, developers, and other professionals working in land use fields by *grassroots, inc.* (including local experts real estate broker Emily Sommer, Dauphin Island Sea Lab Director Dr. George Crozier, landscape architect Terry Plauche, and USA Civil Engineering Professor Dr. Kevin White. Three different continuing education courses, In June, 2006, MBNEP received and EPA Education grant to hire *grassroots, inc.* to conduct a seminar entitled "Innovative Low-Impact Site Design which was presented to over thirty participants and included a bus tour to demonstrate low-impact design sites locally. Subsequently, an on-line course entitled "Water Runs Down Hill" was developed to educate and encourage these professionals on alternative developmental practices that reduce impacts associated with stormwater runoff while preserving wetlands and natural features that contribute to environmental sustainability. The on-line course was initially offered to Mobile area professionals and has since been disseminated to eight different real estate boards across the State of Alabama. Courses provided three to six professional continuing education units (CEUs) to participants. Efforts by *grassroots, inc.* are ongoing.

**Partnerships:** *grassroots, inc.*, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, and the Mobile Area Association of Realtors., USEPA

**Outputs:**

- "Water Runs Down Hill," Developing to maximize the landscape features, (Three hours CE credit), June 21, 2006, 9 a. m. – noon, Mobile Area Association of Realtors office
- "What in the Heck Am I Gonna Do With This Swamp?" Using wetlands as development amenities, (Three hours CE credit), June 21, 2006, 1:30-4:30 p. m., Mobile Area Association of Realtors office
- "Sandcastles," Building and developing on the beach, (Three hours CE credit), June 23 and August 8, 2006, 1:30-4:30 p. m., Mobile Area Association of Realtors office
- "Innovative Low-Impact Design," (Six hours CE credit), June 15, 2006
- On-line presentation: "Water Runs Down Hill" (Three hours credit), initially offered through Mobile Area Association of Realtors then statewide through eight real estate boards.



**Outcomes:**

Improved management of human use activities related to land use.

**Additional Information:**

**CWA Collaborative Role:**

MBNEP played a **significant** role in grassroots, Inc.-Water Runs Down Hill- Innovative Low Impact Design Training project in that it obtained a USEPA Education Grant to fund these activities. This project conforms to reducing non-point source pollution on a watershed basis.



**Work Plan Narrative Summary**

Core Element: Technical Assistance/Capacity Building  
Sub-element: **Direct Assistance**

**WORKPLAN GOAL:** 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 Stormwater Management- BCWC

**Summary of Key Activities:** Baldwin County Stormwater Management Authority

Since 2004, the MBNEP has led an effort to coordinate Baldwin County governments and stakeholders for the purpose of establishing a regional/cross-jurisdictional stormwater authority. In 2006, MBNEP funded (with financial participation from all but one municipality and the County, Alabama Coastal Foundation, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR), and the Wolf Bay Watershed Watch (WBWW) a feasibility assessment that brought together a coalition of municipal and county representatives including staff as well as elected officials, representatives of local environmental organizations, state legislators, and interested citizens to investigate how to come together voluntarily on a regional basis, across political boundaries, to manage flooding, drainage, and water quality problems caused by stormwater. This Feasibility Assessment conceptually outlined how such an authority might be developed. Since Alabama constitutionally denies cross jurisdictional cooperation between municipalities and county governments, establishment and existence of this authority depended on the passage of enabling legislation. MBNEP staff, BCSWG members, and Baldwin County state legislators crafted legislation in the form of a *local constitutional amendment* that would permit the Baldwin County and its city governments to seek passage of a local referendum to form a stormwater authority funded by the collection of user fees from residents and businesses. The bill, first introduced in 2007, required passage by all 67 counties within the State. In the 2008 legislative session both the House and the Senate passed the new local constitutional amendment, Act 2008-507, enabling local governments to proceed with establishing a Baldwin County regional stormwater authority.

In preparation for a November, 2010, referendum, In early 2009, MBNEP issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to provide the design and implementation of a stormwater utility. Gresham, Smith, and Partners were selected from among applicants and funded by the MBNEP to direct/guide efforts by the renamed Baldwin County Watershed Coalition (BCWC) to develop a public corporation to create a revenue stream and address stormwater issues throughout the County. Under their direction, three committees are currently involved in design and development of the public corporation (Steering Committee), an inventory of needs and prioritization protocol (Technical Committee), and education/outreach in preparation for the public referendum (Education Committee)

**Partnerships:**

ACF, WBNERR, WBWW, Baldwin County, the Cities of Bay Minette, Daphne, Elberta, Fairhope, Foley, Gulf Shores, Loxley, Magnolia Springs, Orange Beach, Perdido, Robertsedale, Silverhill, Summerdale, Spanish Fort, Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance, Homebuilders Association, Board of Realtors, community groups

**Outputs:**

Baldwin County Stormwater Cooperative Feasibility Assessment, December, 2006

Act 2008-507, a local Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alabama

Stormwater Pamphlet, Presentation



**Outcomes:** Improved water quality to sustain aquatic life

**Additional Information:**

**CWA Collaborative Role:** MBNEP played a **primary** role in the Baldwin County Storm Water Management project which relates to addressing non-point source pollution on a watershed scale.



## **External Factors and Challenges to Implementation of the CCMP**

### ***Climate Change and Impacts of Storm Events***

In a period of anticipated extreme weather events, and in the wake of recent hurricane activity, continued protection of our coastal resources is challenged by an increasingly dynamic landscape. According to the USEPA, along much of the Florida Panhandle and Alabama Gulf coast, sea level already is rising by approximately 9 inches per century and is likely to rise another 20 inches by 2100. At present, coastal Alabama continues to grapple with the impacts of Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina which hit the northern gulf coast in 2004 and 2005 respectively. Severe coastal erosion, degradation of marshes, de-forestation, marine debris, and saltwater intrusion were among products of these two storms that continue to be environmental challenges for coastal resource managers. Continued sea level rise will lead to flooding of low-lying property, continued loss of coastal wetlands and erosion of beaches, and decreased longevity of low-lying roads, causeways, bridges and other infrastructure. Coastal resource management alternatives to this include building walls to hold back the sea, allowing the sea to advance and adapting to it, and raising the land by replenishing beach sand, elevating houses and infrastructure. This last option is one that the Town of Dauphin Island continues to pursue. While arguments for funding island replenishment have shifted from protection of the local tax revenue to the importance of an intact barrier island as a protective buffer for mainland Mobile County during extreme storm events, astronomical costs (rough estimates are in the order of \$20-50 million dollars) for necessarily repetitive remedy demand more serious consideration of adaptation. These coastal hazards, and the prognosis for their continued and increased trend over the next several years, have affected the Program and community's ability to carry out some prescribed actions. But the challenges of such storms have also provided fresh opportunities for working with new partners, such as the Town of Dauphin Island on conservation planning, the City of Bayou la Batre in implementing form zoning (smart code), and the community's realization of the value of wetlands.

EPA can assist in addressing the challenge of climate change by continuing to develop outreach pieces for general public distribution, assisting MBNEP with technical assistance related to adaptation planning, and providing targeted information on sea level rise statistics and other climate change impacts focused on the Alabama coast.

### ***The Economic Downturn and Program Financing***

Lack of financing and resources to accomplish the broad scope of our mandate has been challenging and continues to be elusive, particularly as we experience a worldwide recession. In the past two years we have been laying the groundwork for improved relationships and outreach that are necessary to better attract community match to fulfill our federal grant requirements. One of the first steps in developing a finance strategy is in elevating the profile of MBNEP among stakeholders. To that extent, MBNEP and members of its management conference have met with the Mobile Press Register Editorial Board to ask their assistance in providing consistent coverage of environmental issues throughout the community. In addition, MBNEP has begun cultivating relationships with new industry moving to the area, and is investigating ways that MBNEP can partner with the local area Chambers of Commerce to more effectively conduct outreach and education on key environmental issues. Ultimately, our challenge is to develop and communicate MBNEP's value for a number of different target audiences.

Although the National Estuary program represents only one aspect of EPA, the activities related to the implementation of 28 different CCMPs cut across every aspect of the agency. To this extent, EPA could communicate the value of MBNEP within its own agency as an effective mechanism for coordination of and communication of EPA activities and successes at the local level. By utilizing us



as a clearing house for all EPA activities directed at the implementation of the CCMP, we can facilitate and coordinate activities, actions, resources, and identify leverage opportunities in ways that other regulatory entities could not.

In addition, EPA could better support the activities of the MBNEP by targeting more of the Agency's resources through MBNEP as opposed to applying them to projects in an isolated or piecemeal fashion such as with the 319 program Clean Water Partnership or CARE. Where there are NEPs in place, funding should be passed through the NEP. An example of how Section 319 funds are currently being allocated: Funding for the Alabama Clean Water Partnership received funding from ADEM. They take an administrative fee. Funding is then passed to County soil and water conservation districts. They take an administrative fee. Then- funding is passed to MBNEP (DISL takes administrative fee) who manages the facilitator for the coastal basin. By elevating the NEPs within EPA as a point of pass through, EPA could better use NEPs to more effectively target resources to local priority problems.

### ***The Alabama Constitution***

Coastal resource managers continue to work around laws that govern the State of Alabama, prescribed through a constitution that prohibits cooperative local efforts to protect watersheds by establishing control of local actions at the State level. An example of this is the recently adopted state legislation that gave Baldwin County and its municipalities "permission" to hold a local referendum asking voters to approve of the creation of a public corporation that would assess monthly fees to support stormwater management on a watershed scale. Requiring state legislation as a condition of local action is a difficult challenge due to the lack of connection between most state legislators and the unique environmental issues that coastal Alabama faces.

The best way for EPA to support MBNEP in Alabama is to provide opportunities for MBNEP forging a stronger partnership with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. By advocating the value of MBNEP to ADEM, MBNEP can cultivate a stronger partnership with this very vital department within state government.

### ***Regionalization: The Gulf of Mexico Alliance and other Activities***

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance is a partnership of the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, with the goal of significantly increasing regional collaboration to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. The five U.S. Gulf States have identified six priority issues that are regionally significant and can be effectively addressed through increased collaboration at local, state, and federal levels. The priority issues include Water Quality; Habitat Conservation and Restoration; Ecosystem Integration and Assessment; Nutrients & Nutrient Impacts; Coastal Community Resilience; and Environmental Education. Although the Alliance represents a powerful force in addressing coastal issues across the Gulf, it also presents a challenge of maintaining our local individuality while collectively taking actions at a regional scale. Many of the funding sources focused on the Gulf of Mexico align their priorities with the Alliance. As a result, it would behoove the MBNEP, in updating its CCMP to coordinate with the actions of the Alliance (there is much cross over)

The EPA Gulf of Mexico Program has been a very active supporter of the MBNEP. We fully anticipate this support to continue.

### ***Making Data Accessible***

In order to effectively measure environmental progress, data has to be accessible and communicable to resource managers and the general public. One way that the MBNEP is getting more involved in Alliance activities is through its Ecosystem Integration and Assessment Project Implementation Team.



This group is focused on developing data on key coastal issues that can be used to determine status and trends. The biggest challenge of developing a data management system that acts as a gateway for information related to key living resources of the MBNEP area or for the Gulf is in the actual data mining and validation. In the past four years, MBNEP has begun to lay the foundation for an integrated system of viewing geospatially depicted data sets related to our local area to provide viewers with a more comprehensive system-wide view of the different factors impacting coastal Alabama ecosystem sustainability. The foundation is based on the habitats of the Mobile Bay watershed and ecological attributes related to it. MBNEP worked with NOAA and the Nature Conservancy to provide a web-based viewer of several different sets of data through a habitat mapper. In the future, MBNEP will work with NOAA National Coastal Data Development Center to build a more elaborate data cataloging system on meteorological information, scientific studies, remote sensing, modeling, and other information valuable for developing adaptive management strategies.

GIS is a valuable tool that provides local decision makers with visual information to make more informed decisions. EPA could better support our gulf regional data gathering efforts by providing datasets and data layers to NCDDC.

#### ***A second CCMP: Updating and Re-invigorating Environmental Actions***

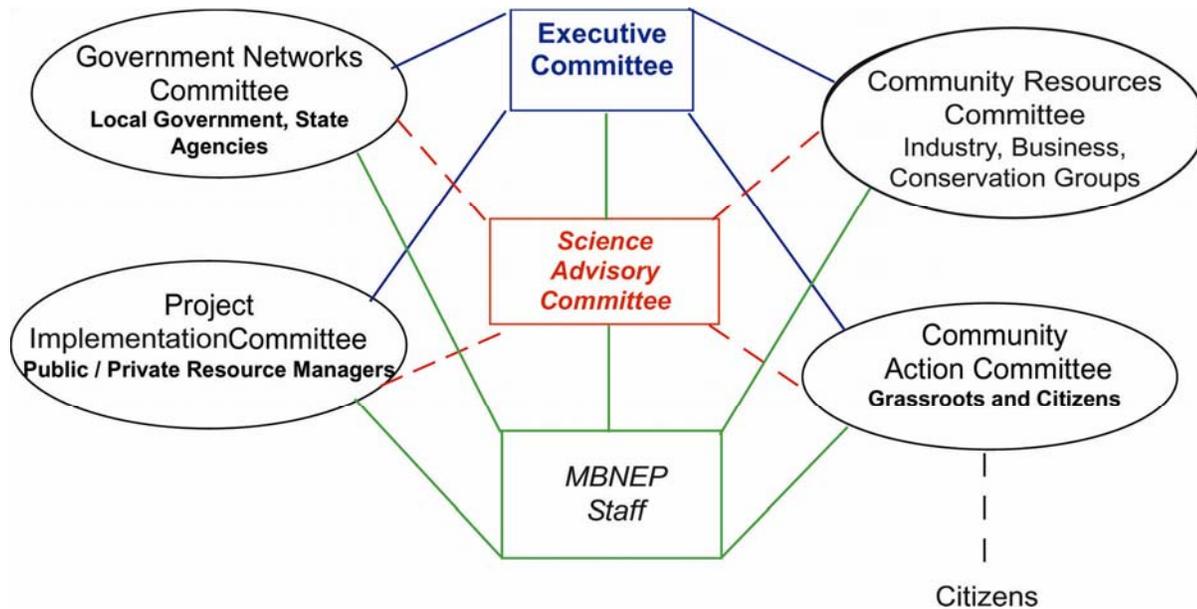
Of the 101 actions outlined in the CCMP, 87 are in varying degrees of progress, 10 have been completed and 4 have yet to be initiated. Although the level of implementation is impressive, the indirect and direct stressors on our coastal estuarine system continue to increase, including climate change and sea level rise, continued lack of land use planning, proliferations of invasive species, etc. The challenge before the MBNEP as we move forward is to re-initiate a planning process that extends the goals of the CCMP through the next 10 year period with focused strategies and benchmarks that coordinate with other regional and national plans and that truly measure our success.

EPA Region 4 through the auspices of Mr. Giattina, Mr. Howard, and others have been active participants in forming and implementing the CCMP. We fully anticipate their and other Region 4 EPA staff to participate in this planning effort.

#### **Addressing Challenges Identified in the Last Implementation Review**

##### ***Management Conference***

When the last program review was conducted, MBNEP was in the process of engaging in a strategic planning process that resulted in the recommendation of a new management structure. The structure was revised to better provide a mix of Policy Makers (both public and private), Implementers (both public and private), and Grassroots (community groups and citizens) to ensure expanding support for CCMP implementation and identification and engagement of emerging issues related to CCMP objectives. The ultimate goal was an increased ability to function as a community capacity builder and provide improved public services in the environmental area to our coastal communities. The Mobile Bay NEP Management Conference now consists of four main committees: Community Action Committee, Community Resources Committee, Government Networks Committee, and Project Implementation Committee.



The Community Action Committee is comprised of representatives of environmental grassroots organizations who work together to network, share information, develop issues, and provides cooperative training. This committee has been successful in receiving technical training on grant writing, managing two mini-grant allocations and in implementing a water quality monitoring program using YSI monitors. The challenge with this committee has been lack of participation among outlying groups primarily due to distance from meetings.

- The Community Resources Committee brought together a balance of interested community leaders from industry, business, environmental services, and the non-profit sector to identify commonalities among sectors to resolve coastal issues that impact their interests and develop resources and funding. Unfortunately, this committee has not functioned as envisioned partly due to a lack of commonality among the different groups represented. However, they did oversee the development of a stormwater presentation and brochure and have aided in developing a “speakers bureau” or list for giving that presentation.
- The Government Networks Committee was made up of state agency heads, regional government administrators, and local officials of the target area to more effectively communicate local needs. Although two meetings were conducted in an effort to bring these officials together, the program was limited in its ability to develop this committee due to the intermittent absences of the director during a health crisis.
- The Project Implementation Committee included representatives of resource management agencies and organizations that undertake projects related to CCMP objectives and goals. This group has met regularly but has not attained its true potential. A focus on the Fish River Watershed was developed during the 2008-2009 program year and much attention has been given to activities in that watershed. However, the length of time needed to complete studies has caused the PIC to flounder a bit in its mission. In addition, a change in leadership has led to less commitment to the Fish River focus.



A Science Advisory Committee includes experts from the various scientific disciplines who provide insights and a sound basis to be used by the other committees in their decision making processes. This Committee was pivotal in the publication of the State of the Bay Report, released December, 2007 and is currently working toward developing a mechanism for assessing the health of the estuary by applying Biological Conditions Gradient Factors or the DIPSR model.

A Finance Committee was established to develop a financing plan for acquiring the non-federal share obligation of the program. This committee developed an overall strategy, a three year plan, and a methodology for engaging municipalities throughout the two county area. However, this committee was limited in its ability to develop this strategy due to health challenges of the program director.

An Executive Committee – made up of representatives from each of the four main committees, an EPA Region IV representative, representatives from the Science Advisory Committee, the Finance Committee and a minimum of three at-large members – develops policies on issues and funding, reviews/approves work plans and budgets, evaluates the performance of the Director, and sets financial goals for non-federal share. This committee has consistently met quarterly to discuss program needs and challenges. Each year it holds a retreat to evaluate progress made with committee structure and programs. At present it is assessing the need to update the CCMP.

#### **Sustainable Funding/Finance Plan**

As noted above, a Finance Committee was established to develop a long term finance plan for obtaining the non-federal share obligation of our EPA grant funding. One aspect of this plan was to ensure continued State support of the program by receiving dedicated support through the State of Alabama budget. By early 2007 we had achieved this. Our first appropriation from the State was for an amount of \$250,000 (\$238,390 net). Our second appropriation in 2009 was \$100,000 (77,290 net including midterm budget cuts). We continue to receive this funding from the state, although not at the level of the first year.

Although our municipal funding has been stable, our county funding has been a bit more tenuous. Unfortunately Mobile County has retreated on its support for the program due to budget constraints. MBNEP continues to pursue opportunities for Mobile County funding and has engaged several executive committee members in supporting the need for county investment in the program.

#### **State of the Bay/Demonstrating Environmental Progress**

On Sunday, December 7, 2008, the Mobile Bay NEP distributed its *State of Mobile Bay – A Status Report on Alabama's Coastline from the Delta to Our Coastal Waters* as a supplement to the Mobile Press-Register with a circulation of 120,000. This comprehensive report, the culmination of four years of work by the MBNEP, its Science Advisory Committee, and partner organizations, assesses the health of the Mobile Bay estuary and surrounding waters in both Baldwin and Mobile Counties. The report is organized into five sections based upon the priority issue areas of the MBNEP's Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan – Water Quality, Habitat Management, Living Resources, Human Uses, and Education and Public Outreach. Within these issue areas, questions were developed to determine whether human development or activities are affecting the health of our estuarine environment. Certain "indicators", measurable attributes that provide information about the condition or health of the environment, were used to answer those questions. In 2005, the MBNEP brought together over 70 scientists, professionals, resource managers, and citizens who identified a set of 51 indicators that would provide the data necessary to assess the health of the Mobile Bay estuary. This *State of Mobile Bay* report provides an analysis of 15 representative indicators specifically chosen to provide insights into environmental changes that have occurred in the past five to ten years.



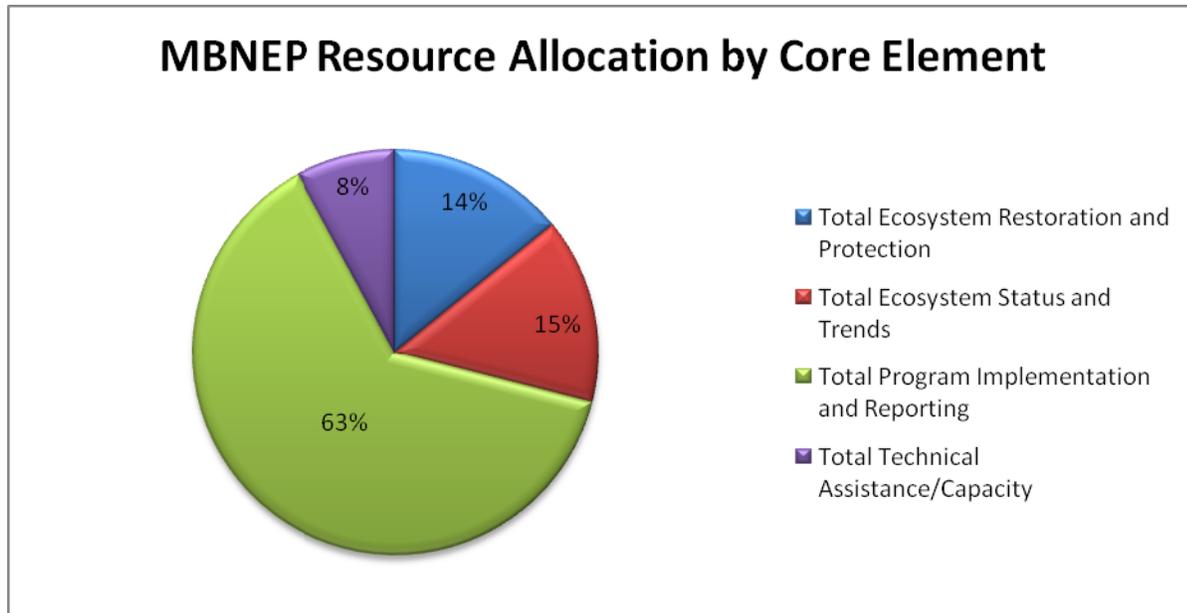
Program Evaluation 2006-2009  
Program Management Core Elements Response  
*Mobile Bay National Estuary Program*  
*February 28, 2010*



### Three: Budget Summary

MBNEP had two open grants with EPA during the program review timeframe. One grant represents Work Plans that encompass FY 2004, 2005, and 2006 and a second grant that encompasses FY 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010. For the purpose of presenting financial information in this document, we have included only information pertaining to FY 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

During the period from October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2009, EPA and match funding available for program activities totaled \$2,988,228. Of this amount, \$2,358,487 was expended and an additional \$1,106,314 of in-kind match value was generated. Together, the total value of EPA and match (including in-kind) equaled \$4,094,542 of which 49% was EPA funding, 21% represented actual cash match toward the program, and 32% was in the form of in-kind services. An additional \$741,258 in federal, state and private implementation funds were secured through competitive grants.



### Competitive Grants, EPA and Match Dollars Budgeted

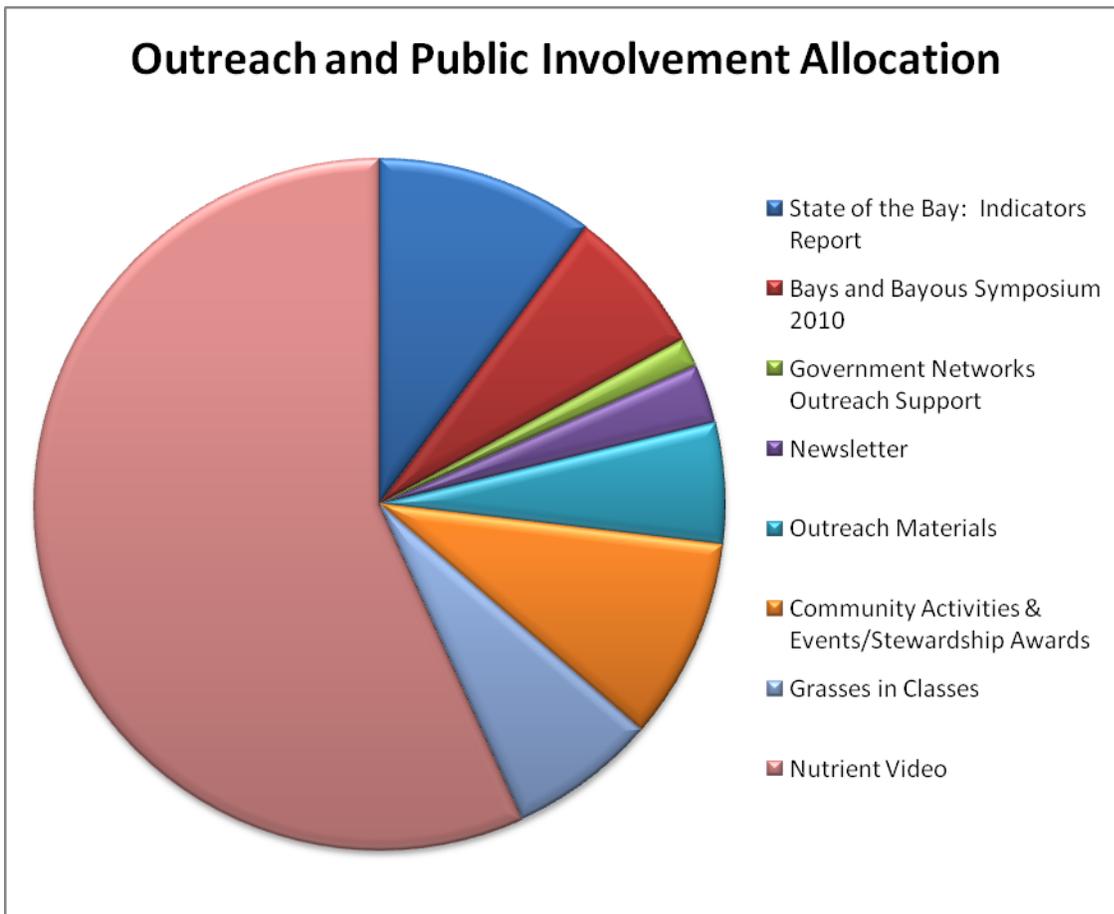
Figure 1 shows the approximate percentages of resource allocation for years 2006-2009 by core element and includes all funds acquired during the reporting period. Of the total amount available, \$337,519 was allocated to 24 projects under Ecosystem Restoration and Protection, four projects under Ecosystem Status and Trends were funded for a total of \$313,586, 14 projects were funded under Technical Assistance totaling \$219,954 and Program Implementation and Reporting, including outreach and education activities totaled \$2,117,168 including 8 projects, numerous community stewardship awards and events and program salaries and administrative costs.

An extensive list of projects that are either in progress or have been completed during the reporting period is shown in Figure 2.



**Program Implementation and Reporting** \$2,117,168 was allocated to Program Implementation and Reporting over the past 4 years. As visible from Figure 2, \$1,253,495 was spent on staff salaries and benefits, \$334,286 went to basic operations, \$403,698 was expended on administrative charges and \$362,654 was allotted to outreach and public involvement projects. Figure 3 details the outreach and public involvement projects.

MBNEP has invested significant time and attention to raising community awareness of the many issues that impact our coastal environment. Through workshops, children's coloring books, community meetings, and other special events, MBNEP has implemented not only "outreach" activities, but has also participated in the offering of many workshops related to CCMP identified issues. Through its Mini Grant program, MBNEP has been able to provide a unique source of funding for projects that enable grassroots groups as well as teachers the ability to undertake studies and experiments that otherwise would be difficult to fund. Finally, MBNEP has funded conferences and symposia as a means of transferring technical information among scientists, resource managers and vendors.



### **Conclusion**

Over the course of the past four years, MBNEP has worked diligently to continue implementation of the CCMP. Although we have achieved many successes, we are acutely aware of the many areas of need of improvement. We look forward to discussing both program successes and areas in need of



attention in the upcoming visit with the Program Evaluation Team. Our goal as a program is to continue to be a leader in promoting the wise stewardship of the water quality and natural resources of the Mobile Bay estuary. We welcome EPA assistance in helping us achieve that goal.



## **MBNEP Implementation Review 2010 Links**

Go to: <http://implementationreview2010.wikispaces.com>

### **Program Implementation and Reporting**

#### **A. Financial Management**

1.  [MBNEP External Grants Received.xlsx](#)
2.  [Grantwriting Workshop.pdf](#)
3.  [LeveragingByCategory2005-2008.xlsx](#)
4.  [Yr10-11-12-13Financials.xlsx](#)
5.  [ADECA Case Statement.pdf](#)
6.  [Finance Strategy.docx](#)
7.  [Finance Planning-3 Years.xlsx](#)

#### **B. Tracking/Reporting**

1.  [Quarterly Report Example.doc](#)
2. [CCMP Tracking Database Link](#)
3. [DISL Annual Report](#)

#### **C. Program Planning and Administration**

1.  [MBNEP Conference Attendance.xls](#)
2.  [MBNEP Workshops Attended.xls](#)
3.  [MBNEP Presentations Given 2006-2009.xls](#)
4.  [Public Input Meeting Mobile.pdf](#)
5.  [Public Input Meeting Baldwin.pdf](#)
6.  [Flood Plain Workshop Agenda.doc](#)
7. [Meetings Coordinated: Sediment Management](#)
8.  [Management Conference Bylaws.docx](#)
9. Management Conference Minutes
  -  [MBNEP SAC Minutes 05.05.09.doc](#)
  -  [PIC Minutes 11-5-09.doc](#)



-  [CAC Minutes 07 09 09.doc](#)
-  [CRC Minutes 7-22-08.doc](#)
-  [ExecutiveCommitteeMinutes 12.01.09.docx](#)

#### **D. Outreach and Public Involvement**

1.  [MBNEP Logo & Mission.pdf](#)
2.  [Performance Measure Worksheet.doc](#)
3.  [CAC Minutes09.11.08.docm](#)
4.  [CAC Roster.xlsm](#)
5.  [MBNEP Participation in Area Events.xls](#)
6.  [MBNEP Presentations Given 2006-2009.xls](#)
7.  [MBNEP Press Releases.xls](#)
8. [Scenic Byway Signage](#)
9.  [Minigrant Package.docm](#)

### **Ecosystem Status and Trends**

#### **A. Research**

1. [Eight Mile Creek Report](#)
2. [Magnolia River Sediment Loading Analysis](#)
3.  [Fish River Land Use Impacts Study Update.doc](#)
4.  [Upper Fish River Source Tracking Project Fed 2010.doc](#)
5. [Restoration Strategies in Weeks Bay for Blue Crab](#)
6.  [Helen Wood Park Shoreline Stabilization Quarterly Report.docx](#)
7. [Analysis of Sediment Loading D'Olive Watershed and Tiawassee Creek Watersheds](#)
8. [State of the Bay Report](#)
9. [Gulf of Mexico Alliance Action Plan 1](#)
10. [Gulf of Mexico Alliance Action Plan 2](#)
11. [Gulf of Mexico Regional Research Plan](#)
12.  [MBNEP SAC Minutes 05.05.09.doc](#)

#### **B. Assessment and Monitoring**

1. [Sub-Estuary Monitoring Report- Bayou la Batre](#)



2. [Sub-Estuary Monitoring Report- Dog River](#)
3. [Comparison of NLCD with NWI Classification of Baldwin and Mobile Counties](#)
4. [Land Use Land Cover Analysis 1974-2008](#)
5. [SAV Mapping of Mobile Bay, Alabama and Adjacent Waters](#)
6. [Mobile Tensaw Delta Hydrological Modifications Study Final Report](#)
7. [Analysis of Sediment Loading D'Olive & Tiawassee Watersheds](#)
8. [Analysis of Sediment Loading Magnolia River Watershed](#)
9. [Real Time Monitoring](#)
10. [Data on Atmospheric Deposition](#)
11. [Mercury Depositon Network](#)
12. [MBNEP Environmental Monitoring](#)
13.  [SACRoster.xls](#)  [MBNEP SAC Minutes 05.05.09.doc](#)
14. [State of the Bay Report](#)
15. [Manatee Monitoring Network](#)

### C. Reporting

1. [State of Bay Report](#)
2. [Work Plan Year 10](#)
3. [Work Plan Year 11](#)
4. [Work Plan Year 12](#) [Work Plan Year 13](#)
5. [Newsletters](#)
6. [MBNEP Website](#)
7. [Media Coverage](#)

## **Ecosystem Restoration and Protection**

### A. Habitats

1. [Giddens Tract Acquisiton](#)
2. [Magnolia Springs Restoration](#)
3.  [Helen Wood Park Quarterly Report.docx](#)
4.  [Helen Wood Park Shoreline Stabilization Quarterly Report.docx](#)
5.  [Dog River Park Quarterly Report.doc](#)

### B. Water Quality

1. [Eight Mile Creek Pathogen Source Identification>](#)
2.  [Clean Water Partnership Quarterly Report 2009.doc](#)
3.  [Upper Fish River Source Tracking Project Fed 2010.doc](#)
4.  [Moore & Montlimar Trash Barriers.pdf](#)
5. [Analysis of Sediment Loading D'Olive & Tiawassee Watersheds](#)
6. [Analysis of Sediment Loading Magnolia River Watershed](#)

### C. Living Resources



1. [Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan](#)
2. [Mobile-Tensaw Delta Hydrological Modifications Impact Study – Final Report \(2006\)](#)
3. [National Audubon Society Coastal Bird Conservation Program Beach-Nesting Bird Breeding Census and Report for Coastal Alabama \(2007\)](#)
4. [National Audubon Society Coastal Bird Conservation Program Beach-Nesting Bird Breeding Census and Report for Coastal Alabama \(2008\)](#)
5. [Oyster Gardening/Reef Restoration](#)
6. [Salt Marsh Restoration Strategies for Blue Crab Habitat](#)

#### **D. Healthy Communities**

1.  [Graphical Ecological Characterization of Eight Mile Creek Watershed - Public Presentation.pdf](#)
2. [Shoreline Assessment of Fish River](#)
3.  [Fish River Land Use Impacts Study Update.doc](#)

#### **Technical Assistance/Capacity Building**

##### **A. Tools**

1. [Mississippi-Alabama Habitats Tool](#)
2. [Dauphin Island Strategic Plan: A Twenty Year Vision, Final Report & First Five Years of Implementation Recommendation](#)
3. [The Future of Bayou La Batre: Creating a Better Community Through Planning and Design](#)
4. [Scenic Byway Interpretive Signage](#)
5.  [Dauphin Island Public Access.pdf](#)

##### **B. Training**

1. [Water Runs Downhill - Innovative Low Impact Design](#)

##### **C. Direct Assistance**

1. [Baldwin County Stormwater Management Authority](#)