

**MOBILE BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM
YEAR Seven-FY 2003 (and Prior Years)- ANNUAL WORKPLAN**

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PREFACE

This is the Seventh Annual Work Plan for the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (Mobile Bay NEP). It describes the work items to be carried out for Fiscal Year 2003 and includes items identified in prior Work Year's Work Plans that are on-going (or for which billing is not yet complete). *This Work Plan provides for tasks that support implementation of 16 of the 29 Action Plans identified in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).* In some cases there are multiple tasks addressing various portions of a particular CCMP Action Plan. In addition the Management and Program Administration sections support all CCMP Action Plans and the continuance of the Management Conference.

The organization of this work plan is designed to allow easy comparison with the NEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). This organization allows a reader to quickly understand how the work items proposed for this year will contribute to the accomplishment of the objectives of the CCMP. *A key to understanding the Work Plan is the Spreadsheet included as Table 1.* Table 1 satisfies most (if not all) of the requirements in the funding guidance to describe leveraged funding and local grants. Table 1 clearly shows contributions of our local partners toward implementation of the CCMP.

This work plan is intended as a stand-alone document. It includes tasks and funding identified in the prior years' plans but not completed. These tasks will be continued and completed in Year 7. The Year Seven plan only adds funds to seven project-oriented items continued from past years' plans. These continuing projects are listed in the **Introduction**. Additional funds are also applied against certain item numbers in the "Management and Program Administration" section such as salaries, benefits, rents, supplies, etc. since these are continuing expenses each year. Accordingly, the grant application for Year Seven (FY 2003) is in the form of an "addition and extension" to the existing grant transferred to Dauphin Island Sea Lab as of March 1, 2002. Completed Items from last year's plan (Year Six) are also listed in the **Introduction**.

The Mobile Bay NEP Program Office is located at 4172 Commanders Drive, Mobile, Alabama on the Brookley Campus of the University of South Alabama. As of March 1, 2002, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab is now serving as the grantee. This change in grantee was made pursuant to the direction of the Management Conference and the particulars are detailed in a three party Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Alabama, Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) and the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program. A reduced indirect cost rate (15%) is being levied on MBNEP funds administered by the DISL vice the customary and allowable negotiated indirect cost rate with the federal government of 43%. The difference between this reduced rate and the usual negotiated rate (28 %) is provided by DISL as an in-kind match for MBNEP funds.

This work Plan was approved by the Management Committee on May 24, 2002 and by the Policy Committee on June 17, 2002. It is available to the Mobile Bay Estuary community through the Program Office. The information in this work plan also serves as an agreement between the Mobile Bay NEP Management Conference and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for continued funding of the Mobile Bay NEP.

This document contains several sections. The **Introduction** provides a discussion of the establishment of the National Estuary Program, and of the Mobile Bay NEP in particular, under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act. It also describes accomplishments and achievements for the last two years (FY01 and 02). The **YEAR SEVEN (FY03) ACTIVITIES** section of the work plan identifies the tasks that will be performed to address the five issue areas of the CCMP; 1)

Water Quality, 2) Living Resources, 3) Habitat Management, 4) Human Uses and 5) Education and Public Involvement. Completion of the tasks described will contribute to the accomplishment of the objectives for each issue area. There are also tasks included that remain from prior years in this section. The **Management and Program Administration** section of this workplan describes the activities of the Program Office necessary to support the overall Management Conference. This section identifies resources for the Program Office to continue program management, financial management, contract management, management, conference support, program planning, and reporting.

INTRODUCTION

The National Estuary Program (NEP) was established by the Water Quality Act of 1987. The Act authorizes the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs) for estuaries of national significance threatened by pollution, development, or overuse. Section 320 of the Act outlines the estuary designation process and the purposes of a Management Conference.

On September 28, 1995, EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner added Mobile Bay to the National Estuary Program. The Management Conference participants were established and consisted of a seventeen member Policy Committee (later increased to eighteen), a Management Committee, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). Subsequently, four TAC/CAC joint issue workgroups were created to further define and refine priority issues and corresponding action plans for the following areas: habitat loss, human uses, living resources, and water quality. The Policy Committee approved the Mobile Bay NEP Management Conference Agreement on July 30, 1996. The Conference Agreement represented the commitments of Management Conference participants to the work to be accomplished over the three-year planning and development phase of the Mobile Bay NEP.

The work outlined in the Conference Agreement includes the tasks necessary to fulfill the seven purposes of a National Estuary Program, stated in Section 320 of the Water Quality Act of 1987.

Section 320(b) PURPOSES OF CONFERENCE. —The purposes of any management conference convened with respect to an estuary under this subsection shall be to—

- 1. Assess trends in water quality, natural resources, and uses of the estuary;*
- 2. Collect, characterize, and assess data on toxics, nutrients, and natural resources within the estuarine zone to identify the causes of environmental problems;*
- 3. Develop the relationship between the in place loads and point and nonpoint loadings of pollutants to the estuarine zone and the potential uses of the zone, water quality, and natural resources;*
- 4. Develop a comprehensive conservation and management plan that recommends priority corrective actions and compliance schedules addressing point and nonpoint sources of pollution to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the estuary, including restoration and maintenance of water quality, a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish and wildlife, and recreational activities in the estuary, and assure that the designated uses of the estuary are protected;*
- 5. Develop plans for the coordinated implementation of the plan by the States as well as Federal and local agencies participating in the conference;*
- 6. Monitor the effectiveness of actions taken pursuant to the plan; and*
- 7. Review all Federal development projects in accordance with the requirements of Executive Order 12372...to determine whether such assistance programs or projects would be consistent with and further the purposes and objectives of the plan prepared under this section.*

On June 20, 1996, the Policy Committee established the following goals for the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program.

- 1. To maintain and promote wise stewardship of the water quality characteristics of the Mobile Bay Estuarine System.*

II. To maintain and promote wise stewardship of the living resources base of the Mobile Bay Estuarine System.

In 2001, the Management conference approved combining the Technical Advisory Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee into a single, Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The Issue Work Groups function as standing committees of the CAC and provide a technical nucleus to assist in evaluating proposals and mini grant applications among other things. This is the only major change to the structure of the Management Conference. With the submission of the CCMP to EPA for final approval in September 2001, the Management Conference agreed to implement the CCMP. This was formalized by the signing of an agreement to that effect by the Policy Committee. This commitment to continue through implementation and the continuance of the existing Management Conference structure is the basis of the current Management Conference Agreement. A key principle of the current Management Conference is coordination and cooperation with other ongoing resource management activities to avoid unnecessary duplication. In addition, efforts to involve all interested and affected parties are a key component in the implementation of the CCMP. Indeed, it is this cooperation and coordination that will be key to successful implementation. *The EPA Administrator approved the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program CCMP on April 22, 2002.*

ANNUAL WORKPLAN REPORTING

Incomplete Tasks from Prior Years (2000-2002)

The period November 1999 through August 2000 found the Mobile Bay NEP without staff due to a change in grant host. Accordingly few of the projects scheduled for FY 2000 were completed at that time. Nevertheless, major efforts have been made to complete all projects listed in past years work plans and these will continue. Some are simply stated, not possible to complete in a single year and require continuing effort. Funding identified for these projects is listed in Table 1. The identified funding is not changed to different purpose unless it is thru the Management Conference approval process and with the concurrence of the EPA Coordinator through established procedures. The text for these tasks in the Work Plan are often updated to show new completion dates. They are critical to the success of the MBNEP and the CCMP Implementation and will be pursued vigorously.

Please note that funding identified for prior years is currently being expended in accordance with plans. This is particularly true with those items in the Management and Program Administration section of Table 1 such as salaries. Even though a project has been listed as completed, payment may not have been processed completely. Accordingly, the funds are in most cases obligated. Other tasks shown in prior years section of Table 1 may also be in various stages of completion. This difference is an artifact of the process by which we develop the work Plan two quarters before the beginning of a new grant period and submit it a full quarter before the beginning of the new grant period. Table 1 shows the distinction between current year projects and those identified for past years.

Fiscal Year 2001 Accomplishments

- **Completed** Final Draft Version of CCMP through contract With Lewis Advertising
- Combined Technical Advisory Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee into a single Community Advisory Committee.
- **Completed** Power Point Presentation to describe CCMP to public and for Speaker's Bureau **EPI-A1.17**
- Hosted Elected Officials Work Shop to introduce Baldwin and Mobile County Elected Officials to CCMP
- **Completed Thirteen Local Community Initiatives** (public meetings) held throughout Mobile and Baldwin Counties to solicit public comment on draft CCMP **EPI-A1.**
- Awarded of Final Action Plan Demonstration Project- Wetlands Treatment of Contaminated Pond Effluent with City of Fairhope
- **Completed** establishment of two atmospheric deposition monitoring sites for mercury and nutrients (Bay Minette and Theodore)-Operations began June 2001 **WQ-A1.2**
- Supported Household Hazardous Waste Amnesty Days in Mobile County and City of Gulf Shores with participation and cost share through Mini-Grants. **WQ-D2.1**
- **Completed** Finance and Implementation Plan (initiated FY 2000)
- **Completed** Monitoring Plan (initiated FY2000) **WQ-A1.3**
- **Completed** Report on Optimum Shell Fish Bed Height for Gulf of Mexico Program (initiated FY 2000) **LR-C2.1**
- Initiated Oyster Gardening Program to assist in shellfish restoration under Gulf of Mexico Program **LR-C2.1**

- **Completed** two radio Public Service Announcements and aired them prior to beginning LCI's
- **Completed** two 30 second Television Public Service Announcements **EPI-A1.20**
- Participated in Coastal Clean-up, Bay Fest, Earth Day, Weeks Bay Kid's Fishing Fun Day, Baldwin County Learn and Serve Program, Local Open Houses **EPI-A1.12**
- Numerous (over 15) additional speaking engagements at local organizations and on a local one-hour radio call-in show.
- Renewed media interest (TV and Newspaper) in MBNEP
- Attended ANEP/EPA Annual Meetings in Maine, Gulf of Mexico Program Work Group Meetings, Financing Workshop, Coastal GIS Tools Workshop, NEP/FEMA Workshop and others.
- Held Monthly Management Committee Meetings and Quarterly Policy Committee Meetings. Three Community Advisory Committee meetings held.

Fiscal Year 2002 Accomplishments

CCMP Actions (as referenced in the Year Six Work Plan) addressed by these accomplishments are in bold- faced type at end of each accomplishment. Management and Program Administration items are not identified here in the same manner since they are cross cutting and facilitate all CCMP and Work Plan items.

- **Governor approved** and submitted Draft Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan to EPA on Sept 25, 2001. **ALL**
- Participated in development and finalization of State Plan to spend Coastal Impact Assistance Funds CIAP (\$21 million) with Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR). Much of this funding targeted at actions that will either directly implement or assist in implementing the CCMP. **ALL**
- Director attended and made Keynote address to Clean Gulf Conference held in Mobile October 23-25. A major industry and government conference on pollution prevention, oil spill response, recovery and mitigation. Over 800 attendees from all over nation. Keynote topic was “Environmental Challenges facing Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico”.
- Received \$170,000 grant from Gulf of Mexico Program to support Wetlands, Habitat and SAV mapping. **HM-B1.1 and HM-C1.1**
- **Awarded contract** in November to USGS for color infrared aerial photography and preparation of digital, ortho quarter quads for Mobile County. Photography obtained by USGS February 17, 2002. **HM-C1.1**
- **Awarded contract** to Vittor and Associates for SAV mapping. **HM-B1.1**
- Director, Program Scientist and Outreach Coordinator attended ANEP Annual Meeting in St. Petersburg, FL.
- **Completed** initial “Oyster Gardening” project and oysters placed on currently degraded reefs. **LR-C2.1**
- **Completed** Sediment Characterization contract (initiated 1999). **WQ-D1.1**
- **Hired** Fulltime Outreach Coordinator February 18, 2002.
- **Completed** successful negotiation of three party MOA with State of Alabama for continuing financial and program support of MBNEP. Provides recognition and financial support for MBNEP. MOA signed by Governor in ceremony on March 1, 2002.
- **Completed** Grant Host Change from University of South Alabama to Dauphin Island Sea Lab: March, 1, 2002.
- **Completed** Water Quality Forum Work Shop targeted at Municipal Officials in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, over 80 attendees (March 27, 2002). **EPI-A1.16**
- **EPA approved CCMP April 22, 2002.**
- **Completed** two Stream Bank Restoration workshops (February 5-6 and April 3-4, 2002) in conjunction with Auburn University Marine Extension Research Center. Both workshops filled to capacity (45 ea.) with local planners, engineers, developers, city and county public works, etc. **HU-B3.1**
- **Completed** Tetra-Tech BASINS Loadings Model and accepted report (initiated 1999). **WQ-A1.1**
- **Completed** two special events: Ceremony marking MOA Signature and Ceremony marking approval of CCMP by EPA Administrator **EPI-A1.26**
- **Completed** and co-sponsored 2-day symposium on “*Assessing Methyl Mercury in the Northern Gulf of Mexico*”. There were 280 attendees from over 17 states. International attendees included authors of two major studies on health impacts of methylmercury on populations (Faeroes Islands and Seychelle Islands Studies) May 21-22, 2002. **EPI-A1.24**

- **Completed** contract for Implementation Review, Review package submitted on May,30 2002. **MPA1.19**
- **Completed** obtaining Blue Wave Certification for Gulf Shores **HU-C1.4**
- **Completed** Poster Production **EPI-A1.25**
- **Completed** printing and distribution of CCMP **CCMP.2**
- **Completed** CCMP Communication Plan **CCMP.3**
- **Awarded** eight Mini- Grants **EPI-A1.13**

Ongoing Project Status Fiscal Year 2000-2002

The projects listed here are those of a continuing nature, expected to continue from year to year or those of a multi year nature. They do not include those projects of finite duration that were expected to be complete in prior years but were not:

- Multi Year Wetlands / SAV mapping projects continuing (HM-B1 and HM-C1)
- Monitoring Program (WQ-A1.3)
- Establishment of DIMS (EPI-A1.14)
- Oyster Reef Restoration (LR-C2.1)
- Stream Bank Restoration Work Shops (HU-B3.1)
- Mini Grants (EPI-A1.14)
- Clean Beaches (HU-B1.4)
- Participation in area events (EPI-A1.12)
- Local Community Initiatives (EPI-A1.15)
- Habitat Restoration Vegetation Planting (HM-C1.14)
- Newsletter (EPI-A1.4)
- Newspaper Ads (EPI-A1.7)

A listing on mini-grants awarded and in progress is included as Appendix A to this report.

Major Goals for Fiscal Year 2002

Our major goals for Year Seven are to: 1) Begin implementation of the Monitoring Plan and establish long term, time series monitoring of the Bay's "vital signs (pH, DO, Salinity, chlorophyll, temperature, etc.); 2) Initiate on-the ground projects aimed at CCMP implementation such as opening Pinto Pass, addressing sediment loads in D'Olive Creek, tributary stream segment restoration, habitat restoration projects such as SAV planting or restoration activities on state or privately held lands; 3) continue to implement action plans identified in the CCMP on an opportunistic basis with our local partners and sponsors; 4) gather additional necessary scientific data to fill in gaps; 5) re-new our focus on public involvement, 6) build new partnerships for CCMP implementation and 7) vigorously pursue completion of tasks from past year work plans. For specific details, please refer to the work plan task descriptions, and Table 1 in this report. Major projects include:

- Establish additional Atmospheric Deposition monitoring stations

- Establish a Bay Monitoring Program (similar to EMPACT)
- Hold Hazardous Waste Amnesty Days
- Obtain aerial imagery and complete SAV mapping
- Continue Habitat mapping
- Produce a State of the Bay Report⁹
- Increase award of Mini-Grants that specifically target CCMP Action Plans
- Open the Pinto Pass area to free exchange with Bay
- Support a Habitat Restoration project
- Support a Stream Bank Restoration project
- Establish the DIMS at DISL
- Work Shop on D'Olive Creek
- Award of mini grants targeted to CCMP implementation.

YEAR SEVEN (FY03) ACTIVITIES

This Year Seven (FY 03) and prior Year's Work Plan will build on the previous six years' efforts and will address the products and activities necessary to continue implementation of the CCMP. The EPA allocation to the Mobile Bay NEP for FY03 is \$510,000. This amount will require a state and local match of \$510,000, for a total of \$1,020,000. The Mobile Bay NEP Year Seven budget is itemized in Table 1. Table 2 is a summary of the Year Six budget by origin of funds. There will remain funds available from prior years, which provide total funding for items in this Work Plan.

It is worth repeating the key concepts stated in the previous plans, which provide the overall ideological framework for managing the Mobile Bay estuarine system by consensus.

Key Concepts:

- Actions to increase public awareness of estuarine problems and active seeking of public participation in consensus building.
- Management options based on the estuary as a holistic ecological unit and promotion of basin-wide planning to manage our living resource.
- Establishment of working partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and organizations to cut across traditional jurisdictions.
- Projects to transfer scientific and management information, experience, and expertise to program participants.
- Utilization of a phased approach: first, identify and define priority problems; second, establish probable causes of the problems; third, devise alternative strategies to solve the problems; fourth, choose and implement the most effective of the strategies.
- Identification of approaches that balance conflicting human uses of the estuary.
- Utilization of collaborative problem solving, to assemble maximum expertise, to broaden the management perspective, and to secure a wide commitment.
- Reliance on existing, previously underutilized data and information combined with critical applied research to fill the knowledge gaps.

⁹ Accomplished through EPA supplemental funding of \$20,000
Created May 23, 2002

The allocation of Year Seven (FY 03) funds will be in two basic program areas:

1. CCMP Issue Area Work Items. Work plan items focus on identified high priority activities that are necessary for effective implementation of the CCMP. Continuation of previous years' work plan items and items that are integral to fulfillment of the CCMP objectives are included. This section is organized consistent with the CCMP major issues and objectives; i.e., Habitat, Water Quality, Living Resources, Human Uses, Education and Public Involvement. New Projects Include:

• Best Management Practices Development and Implementation	WQ-A2.1
• Alligator Visual Impairment Survey	LR-A1.2
• Rapid Assessment Survey-Non Indigenous Species	LR-B1.2
• Artificial Reef Construction	LR-C2.2
• Crab Trap Removal Project	LR-C3.1
• Establishment of Coastal Habitat Coord. Team	HM-A1.1
• Habitat Restoration Project RFP	HM-A1.2
• SAV Gardening	HM-B1.3
• Smart Growth Initiatives	HU-A1.1
• Causeway Restoration	HU-B1.2
• Causeway Corridor Management Plan	HU-B1.3
• Causeway Hydrologic Modifications	HU-B2.1
• Pinto Pass Opening	HU-B2.2
• Stream Bank Restoration RFP	HU-B3.2
• Clean Marinas Program	EPI-A1.27
• Environmental Indicator Development	EPI-A1.28

2. Management and Program Administration. The Program Office staff will continue to guide the Mobile Bay NEP toward the goals of the Management Conference and the implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. Roles of the Program Office include staff support of committees, program planning, identification of additional funding sources for the development of the CCMP, project contract procurement and coordination, interagency coordination and communication, and administrative coordination with EPA Region 4 and Headquarters.

CCMP Issue Area Work Items:

The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program draft Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) identifies priority actions to be taken in five main issue areas. For each issue area specific objectives and sub-objectives have been identified. This section of the FY 2003 Year Seven work plan identifies the tasks that will be performed to address these five issue areas and to accomplish the identified objectives. Displaying tasks consistent with the CCMP organization provides a clear nexus between the efforts proposed for the year with the CCMP issues, goals and objectives.

This section is divided into five main subsections, 1) Water Quality, 2) Living Resources, 3) Habitat Management, 4) Human Uses and 5) Education and Public Involvement. Each subsection is introduced by stating the objective for that issue area. Individual actions are then listed under the appropriate sub-objectives. Some tasks may contain elements that contribute to other issue area objectives. The task is listed under the issue area for which it is most relevant.

I. Water Quality

Water quality has been identified by the Mobile Bay NEP Management Conference as a major issue area. The following objective was established for Water Quality:

Attain and/or maintain water quality sufficient to support healthy aquatic communities and designated human uses by 2010.

Several sub-objectives have been established to allow attainment of the overall water quality objective. Tasks in this workplan are presented under the sub-objectives for which they most closely apply.

Sub-objective A. Develop allowable water quality-based loadings sufficient to maintain water quality standards (or total maximum daily loads, where required) for pathogens, nutrients, toxic chemicals, and other conventional pollutants, for Mobile Bay and sub-basins, by the year 2003, and incorporate them into appropriate resource management strategies by the year 2008 (beginning in 2004).

Action Item WQ-A1: Assess data to identify problems, if any, related to pathogen introduction, toxic chemicals, and nutrient or organic enrichment from various sources (both within and outside the Mobile Bay NEP area).

Task WQ-A1.1 COMPLETE**Task WQ-A1.2: Atmospheric Deposition Monitoring Support**

Performing Organization:	TBD
Former Task Number	2.4
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 NEP Funding:	0
Outside Funding:	\$175,000 (CIAP)¹⁰
Related Priority Issue(s):	Living Resources
MBNEP Coordinator:	Scientific Coordinator

The Mobile Bay NEP has initiated a National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) National Trends Network (NTN) monitoring site and a Mercury Deposition Network (MDN) monitoring site. Although sites were established with EPA funding, additional sites will be included and monitoring will continue. The Mobile Bay community has requested more monitoring of atmospheric deposition due to concerns about increased macrophytic algal blooms along the Mobile Bay I-10 “BayWay” and an increase in mercury fish advisories on several rivers and Gulf Coastal waters. Existing information gathered for these areas indicates non-point sources and data from these monitoring sites could assess the amount of loadings from the atmosphere. These data will be used in the Mobile Bay NEP’s EFDC water quality modeling effort (currently under contract with Tetra Tech, Inc.) and EPA’s REMSAD modeling effort. The water quality model will be used in TMDL assessments and subsequent permitting processes and non-point source control plans by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and EPA. Several action plans in our draft CCMP require these data for implementation. In addition, the Greater Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce has expressed interest in using these data in future planning and management activities.

In a previous year, EPA awarded the Mobile Bay NEP funding for atmospheric deposition monitoring. In addition, the Air Division of ADEM has committed time and effort in sampling, analysis and maintenance of the sites funded by EPA. For additional sites, a memorandum of agreement will be developed for each committed agency / organization to ensure maintenance of the site. This project is a priority effort of the water quality and living resources workgroups. It is required that each of these objectives be accomplished within the framework of the Mobile Bay NEP Data and Information Management System (DIMS). Efforts will be made to coordinate the project with other similar, ongoing programs and projects to build upon and ensure that efforts are not duplicated.

Project Objectives:

1. Maintain the monitoring sites to include sample collection and analysis according to standard protocols.
2. Report analyses results on a prescribed basis to EPA, ADEM, the general public, and any other appropriate agency.

¹⁰ CIAP – Coastal Impact Assistance Program

3. As appropriate, deliver this information into the DIMS of the Mobile Bay NEP.
4. Establish up to 2 new sites and provide analysis with CIAP funds.

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

Continuing project for monitoring

Task WQ-A1.3: Water Monitoring Program

Performing Organization:	TBD
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	\$ 50,000
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$ 75,000
Outside Funding:	\$ 225,000³
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator

The Water Monitoring Program will consist of developing and implementing a comprehensive Bay-wide, water quality monitoring program. The program will contain three components, the first a monitoring program implemented by State, Local and other governmental and institutional groups, and the second, a volunteer monitoring program. All will incorporate the gathered data into a database and make portions available to the public via the internet.

The first program is funded through the CIAP. It will provide an opportunity to collect water quality data over a long term in Mobile Bay and along the Alabama coastline. It will include: 1) new and innovative technologies for real-time monitoring/measurement: data from single, multi-sensor probes used to measure dissolved oxygen, salinity, water temperature, pH, turbidity, and fluorescence will be transmitted to an internet web site every 15 minutes; 2) appropriate information management, processing, and delivery: transmitted data via cellular modem will enter the Dauphin Island Sea Lab data management center EMPACT server and be made available on the internet web site; 3) real-time communication of information to the public: water monitoring stations will be equipped with cellular modems for direct transmittal to an internet web site and to local television stations, lab analyzed water samples will be reported in the local newspaper. The data collected would greatly assist in determining the designated water use criteria for the State of Alabama and providing baseline readings for 303(d) improvements.

The benefits of this effort include increased public knowledge of the Bay and area tributary water quality, and the general public's increased confidence in environmental knowledge and programs. This increased environmental knowledge could translate into alteration of behavior patterns such as a reduction of dumping contaminants into the Bay or an increased confidence in seafood consumption.

³ \$215,000 CIAP, \$40,000 WBNERRS
Created May 23, 2002

The second program will provide increased funding to ADEM to conduct water monitoring in tributary streams for Mobile Bay as outlined and identified in the accepted MBNEP Monitoring Plan. This is a task that has long gone “wanting” for lack of funding.

The third program, volunteer monitoring, would consist of the program office coordinating with several existing volunteer monitoring programs, enlisting volunteers and providing equipment and instruction on volunteer water monitoring. Incorporation of volunteer program data into the MBNEP DIMS is a long-term objective.

Project Objectives:

1. Implement a multi faceted approach for comprehensive water quality monitoring for the Bay and area tributaries which includes all existing monitoring efforts and establishes additional monitoring sites to enable attainment of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan goals.
2. Obtain cooperation of citizen groups to include their data in the MBNEP DIMS
3. Establish agreed upon sample collection, handling, storage and analysis protocols for implementing the monitoring plan.
4. Collect water quality samples at designated sampling sites consistent with agreed upon protocols.
5. Aid ADEM in funding to accomplish above actions
6. Maintain analyses results in a database and report them on a prescribed basis to MBNEP DIMS, ADEM, the general public, any other appropriate agency, and place in EPA’s Storet water quality data management system.
7. Produce a yearly water quality report based on data collected identifying water quality trends, problems, high quality waters, data needs, and other appropriate information regarding the data collected.

Project Deliverables and Schedules:

Water Quality Reports and data for scientific and public use beginning 2003.

Task WQ-A1.3- TASK COMPLETE

Task WQ-A1.4: Watershed Group Formation and Facilitation

Performing Organization:	TBD
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	Jody Scanlon
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$5,000
Outside Funding:	\$66,667⁴
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator/Public Outreach

Twenty-eight streams or stream segments listed on Alabama's year 2000 303(d) list as impaired, exist in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. The Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center (AUMERC) working with the Mobile and Baldwin Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), ADEM and the Mobile Bay NEP and other partners are leading a Coastal Alabama Clean Water Partnership (CACWP) under the aegis of the Alabama Clean Water Action Plan. This partnership seeks to identify priority streams in the Mobile, Escatawpa and Perdido river basins and develop watershed restoration strategies in cooperation with local communities and the watershed interest groups. A facilitator has been hired to work in the local watersheds by the SWCD, Jody Scanlon of AUMERC, and a steering committee for the CACWP has been formed. The Director of MBNEP serves as a co-chair for the steering committee. Future tasks will include meetings in sub-watersheds to solicit local input and project support for specific stream restoration activities. Additional emphasis will be placed on supporting existing grass-roots watershed groups such as the "Dog River Clear Water Revival", assisting new groups to form where appropriate, and providing water monitoring kits. The goal is restoration of existing impaired streams and thus overall improvement of water quality in the Mobile Bay and Delta.

Projects Objectives: TBD

Project Deliverables and Schedules: TBD

⁴ \$40,000 ADEM, \$26,667 in-kind match SWCD, facilitator and watershed support contract between ADEM/SWCD/AUMERC.

Action Item WQ-A2: Incorporate water quality-based loadings information into the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting process and the nonpoint source control planning process to allow attainment of applicable water quality standards.

Task WQ-A2.1 Development and Implementation of Storm Water (and other) BMP's

Performing Organization:	TBD
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	\$15,000
NEP Prior Year Funds:	0
Outside Funding:	0
Related Priority Issue(s):	Water Quality
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator

The intent of this task is to assist local governments and municipalities in developing and implementation of best management practices to deal with storm water run-off and management. These funds may be targeted at design of structures, researching and writing land disturbance ordinances, constructing control structures and /or contractor support for researching and presenting BMP's to municipal or county employees. Specific pollutants carried by run-off such as herbicides from local agricultural areas may be targeted and management practices developed for specific pollutants.

Work with the Mobile- Baldwin Storm water Consortium and the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission will identify appropriate tasks for support.

Objectives:

1. Identify BMPS for storm water management applicable to local conditions and needs
2. Support implementation of BMP's by local governments.

Schedule and Deliverables:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Work with MBSWC to identify needs | Oct.-Dec. 2002 |
| 2. Select and initiate projects | Dec.-Apr 2002 |

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Action Item: WQ-A3: Develop a resources management strategy for maintaining groundwater quality.

Task WQ-A3.1: Conductivity Sensors – Gulf Shores

Performing Organization:	Geological Survey of Alabama
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	Blakeney Gillette
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$1,800
Outside Funding:	0
Related Priority Issue(s):	Water Quality
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator

The Mobile Bay NEP is coordinating the efforts of the Geological Survey of Alabama to identify the extent of Salt Water intrusion in wells in lower Baldwin County as part of a well head protection strategy. The GSA has several groundwater wells in South Baldwin County. Saltwater intrusion has become an increasing problem and concern with the rapid development in Gulf Shores, Alabama as well as along the Bon Secour Peninsula. Conductivity sensors will be placed in targeted wells to monitor the problem

Project Objectives:

1. Monitor saltwater intrusion in groundwater wells
2. Coordinate with the Geological Survey of Alabama on groundwater issues of local importance

Project Deliverables and Schedules:

Purchase planned for June 2002
 Installation should be complete by August 2002
 Immediate data reporting should begin in August with regular updates

Task WQ-A3.2: Groundwater Workshop

Performing Organization:	MBNEP, ADEM, GSA, DISL
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	Edith Probst/Blakeney Gillette
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$2000
Outside Funding:	0
Related Priority Issue(s):	Water Quality
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator/Public Outreach

The Mobile Bay NEP will coordinate with the ADEM Ground Water Division, Geological Survey of Alabama and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab to host a groundwater quality workshop. This workshop is intended to benefit coastal municipalities through education on groundwater and potential future threats to area freshwater supplies. The MBNEP also intends to work with local municipalities toward their participation in the Groundwater Guardian Program. Alternatives for water conservation while promoting tourism will be presented. The overall goal will be a proactive measure to begin to address the increasing concern and provide measures to handle groundwater saltwater intrusion.

Projects Objectives:

- Coordinate with ADEM, GSA and Dauphin Island Sea Lab
- Educate local municipalities and tourism interests on the groundwater issues
- Provide alternatives for water conservation in coastal communities
- Hold workshop
- Encourage municipalities to participate in the Groundwater Guardian Program
- Limit saltwater intrusion to coastal water wells

Project Deliverables and Schedules:

- Spring 2002 – coordinate with area partners
- August 2002 – host workshop
- Fall 2002 – apply for Groundwater Guardian Program

Action Item WQ-A4: Develop a resource management strategy to ensure added protection and maintenance of High Quality Waters in the Mobile Bay estuary.

No task currently identified.

Sub-objective B: Reduce nutrient loads in identified, problem sub-basins by 2006, with increased management of both nonpoint and point source nutrient loads in other Mobile Bay NEP sub-basins or from the Mobile River drainage basin as a whole (by supporting efforts of others with jurisdictional authority), until levels are established based on allowable loadings or total maximum daily loads.

Action Item WQ-B1: Reduce or eliminate problems from excessive loadings within the Mobile Bay NEP and individual sub-basins.

No task currently identified.

Action Item WQ-B2: Support efforts to reduce nutrient input to the Mobile Bay estuary from the upstream river basin.

No task currently identified.

Sub-objective C: Minimize introduction of pathogens sufficient to protect public health from in port ship ballast exchange, marine waste from commercial and recreational vessels, sewage system failures, point source discharges, stormwater/nonpoint source discharges (including urban, agricultural, and other sources), and septic systems by 2010.

Action Item WQ-C1: Reduce opportunities for pathogen introduction in the Mobile Bay estuary.

Task WQ-C1.1: Coastal Onsite Sewage Disposal System (OSDS) Education Project

Performing Organization:	TBD
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 02 Funding:	\$1,000
NEP Prior Year Funds:	N/A
Outside Funding:	TBD
Related Priority Issue(s):	Water Quality Education and Public Involvement
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator/Public Outreach Coordinator

The Coastal OSDS Education Project will develop public outreach materials to educate people with onsite wastewater systems on maintaining their systems to reduce pathogen introduction into the groundwater system.

Project Objectives:

1. To increase public awareness of the contribution of pathogens from onsite wastewater systems to the water supply entering Mobile Bay.
2. To provide the public with information on maintaining their onsite wastewater systems.
3. To provide the public with information on alternative advancements in onsite wastewater systems.

Project Deliverables and Schedules: TBD

Sub-objective D: Evaluate the sources and loads of toxic chemicals to Mobile Bay NEP area waters by 2006, and reduce, if necessary, such discharges to meet applicable water quality standards by 2010.

Action Item WQ-D1: Assess problems related to sediment quality, in terms of contamination, in the Mobile Bay NEP area and reduce and/or eliminate, if possible, toxic chemicals in identified problem areas

Task WQ-D1.1: COMPLETE

Action Item WQ-D2: Offer opportunities for citizens to properly dispose of household and agricultural hazardous waste.

Task WQ-D2.1: Household Hazardous Waste Amnesty Day

Performing Organization:	TBD
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$10,000
Outside Funding:	\$673,994⁵
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator

This project will support and promote state and local efforts to establish hazardous waste amnesty and collection days for potentially toxic materials.

General Project Objectives:

1. To inform the public about the toxic materials present in their own homes and how to dispose of these toxics safely.
2. To inform the public of the potential dangers of improper disposal of toxic materials into waterways, storm sewers, or directly into the bay.
3. To support local amnesty day collections

Project Deliverables and Schedules: TBD

⁵ \$200,000 Mobile County, \$473,994 Baldwin County in CIAP.

II. Living Resources

The Management Conference of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program identified the following objective to guide development of the Living Resources section of the CCMP:

Maintain native populations within historical ranges and natural habitat and restore populations that have declined.

Several sub-objectives have been established to allow attainment of the overall living resources objective. Tasks in this workplan are presented under the sub-objectives for which they most closely apply.

Sub-objective A. Gather the information necessary for the conservation of economically and/or ecologically important species, including threatened and endangered species (within the Mobile Bay NEP area) by analyzing 75% of relevant, available data sets by 2003 and by continued monitoring and assessment.

Action Item LR-A1: Increase the level of monitoring of living resources in the Mobile Bay NEP area.

Task LR-A1.1: Living Resources Data Synthesis

Performing Organization:	TBD
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funding:	\$40,000
Outside Funding:	\$40,000 CIAP
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator

This work element will be based upon the recommendations from the Living Resources characterization study performed in Year Two of the Program. The probable recommendation is to perform fish population status and trends analyses on existing data sets. This is important since agencies have current population data but lack the manpower and institutional resources to analyze it. The results from this work element may be useful in the refinement of the monitoring plan and will provide the groundwork for any future priority action of the CCMP for maintenance and wise stewardship of the living resource base of the Mobile Bay estuarine system. This study will be closely coordinated with the MBNEP Data Information and Management System (DIMS). Efforts will be made to coordinate the project with other similar, ongoing programs and projects to build upon and ensure that efforts are not duplicated.

Project Objectives:

1. Synthesize and collate existing fish population data sets.
2. Extend data synthesis to other populations.
3. Support trophic assessment of forage fish populations.
4. Use results to refine monitoring plan and identify priority actions for CCMP.
5. Provide data to ADCNR and MBNEP DIMS.

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

1. RFP to be issued: Summer 2002
- Report completion: Summer 2003

Task LR-A1.2 Implement a Pathological Study on Visual Impairment of the American Alligator.

Performing Organization:	Expert Wildlife Solutions
Principal Investigator:	Gary Casper
FY 03 Funding:	\$1000
NEP Prior Funds:	\$0
Outside Funding:	TBD
Related Priority Issue(s):	
MBNEP Coordinator:	Program Science Coordinator

Project Description:

This task is to utilize alligator nuisance control agents to gather data, eyes, and tissue samples from nuisance alligators that have already been harvested. Through individual efforts of Expert Wildlife Solutions and others, tissues are currently being examined by the University of South Carolina, the Alabama School of Math and Science and Emory University. The funds utilized for this task will be for purchase of materials to store and ship and for shipping expenses related to the transfer of Alligator tissues and eyes to research facilities for evaluation.

Project Objectives:

- 1) Determine possible Causes for apparent blindness in local alligators
- 2) Obtain eyes and tissue from American Alligators.
- 3) Place materials in containers suitable for shipping
- 4) Ship materials to research scientists

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| 1) Begin study | 2002 |
| 2) Obtain specimens as available | 2002-2003 |
| 3) Obtain Preliminary Results | early 2004 |

Sub-objective B. Prevent, where possible, the introduction of non-native species into native environments; manage, as necessary, the introduction of non-native species used in conservation management programs under controlled circumstances; control/reduce known nuisance and/or introduced species; and gather information on unknowns by the year 2006.

Action Item LR-B1: Identify species and develop management plans for each nuisance species to dampen or control negative effects on habitats and/or water quality within the Mobile Bay NEP area, thus restoring ecological relationships.

Task LR-B1.1: Invasive Species

Performing Organization:	MBNEP, DISL, IRLNEP
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	Monte Graham
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funding:	\$20,000 (EPA HQ/IRLNEP)
Outside Funding:	2,000 in-kind match DISL
Related Priority Issue(s):	Living Resources
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director

The Mobile Bay NEP is partnering with the Indian River Lagoon NEP to expand work on invasive species. Utilizing additional funding resources provided by EPA, the partners will enhance the existing Dock Watch program in place at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab under the direction of Dr. Monte Graham. This program is monitoring the existence of the Australian Jelly Fish and other jellies in Gulf coastal waters. The program also intends to add an educational component for the general public towards the understanding of what invasive species are and how we can prevent or control their spread.

Project Objectives:

- Coordinate with Indian River Lagoon and Dauphin Island Sea Lab
- Expand the Dock Watch Program
- Contribute toward EPA's invasive species program
- Educate the public about invasive species

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

- Coordinate program with Indian River Lagoon NEP and DISL November 2002
- Expand program June 2002
- Educational kiosks, posters, and rapid assessment survey July 2002

Task LR-B1.2: Rapid Assessment Survey for Non-Indigenous Aquatic Species in Mobile Bay

Performing Organization: MBNEP, DISL, USA, AUMERC
MS-AL Sea Grant
Former Task Number: N/A
Principal Investigator: TBD
FY 03 Funding: \$15,000
Outside Funding: TBD
Related Priority Issue(s): Living Resources
MBNEP Coordinator: Director

The Mobile Bay NEP is partnering with the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, University of South Alabama, Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center will conduct a rapid assessment survey of the Mobile Bay to identify the presence of non-indigenous species. The survey would be modeled after similar successful efforts in Narragansett Bay, San Francisco Bay and Puget Sound. The project will involve scientists (taxonomists) from a variety of institutions for an intensive 4-5 day effort. The survey will be focused on diverse habitats in Mobile Bay including the port facilities and local marinas. Sites to be surveyed will include piers, docks, wharves and pilings and other locations of shallow water benthic habitat and dock fouling areas. The intent is to develop a snapshot of data on the species currently found in Mobile Bay in order to form a base line from which to track and evaluate new invaders and to assess threats from introduced species. The program also intends to add an educational component for the general public towards the understanding of what invasive species are and how we can prevent or control their spread.

Project Objectives:

- Establish a baseline survey of non- indigenous species in Mobile Bay
- Use base line to support follow on actions regarding Invasive species in our CCMP
- Contribute toward EPA’s invasive species program
- Educate the public about invasive species

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

Coordinate program with appropriate institutions/scientists	October 2002-January 2003
Identify Team of Scientists	February 2003
Conduct Survey	June-July 2003
Publish final report	September 2003
Educational Material	On-going

Sub-objective C. Maintain and/or increase, if feasible, within natural variability, present catch levels of commercial and recreational fisheries resources.

Action Item LR-C1: Examine how to efficiently measure fishing effort.

No task currently identified.

Action Item LR-C2.1: Examine the possibility of increasing fisheries resources.

Task LR-C2.1: Oyster Reef Restoration

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	Dr. Diana Sturm
FY 03 Funding:	\$2,500
NEP Prior Year Funds:	Prior year funding from GOMP exhausted.
Outside Funding:	\$95,996 GOMP (FY01) Project Completed
Related Priority Issue(s):	Habitat Management, Water Quality
MBNEP Coordinator:	Public Outreach Coordinator

Oyster reefs provide protective habitat for a variety of species in the Bay. Oysters are filter feeders and by their feeding process they clean gallons of water daily. Oysters are also an important commercial resource in Mobile Bay. This project is a continuation of the oyster gardening project funded in FY01 by the Gulf of Mexico Program. In the FY01 research, a research project developed by Auburn University was conducted in coordination with the volunteer oyster gardening. The volunteers were provided spat to keep in protective cages on the volunteers' waterfront property. Measurements of oyster growth, predators, and water quality were taken on a bi-weekly basis by the AUMERC graduate student. For the FY 02, MBNEP will provide the oyster spat and protective cages. The volunteers will raise the oysters until they reach a juvenile stage at which point, the oysters will be collected and placed on degraded reefs. FY 03 will continue the volunteer gardening project by providing spat and cages to volunteers.

Project Objectives:

1. To provide citizens with information on the importance of oysters and oyster reefs to the Mobile Bay ecosystem.
2. To provide a hands-on activity for volunteers to participate in a restoration project.
3. Improvement of oyster resource populations.

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

1. Continue Oyster Gardening through December 2003
2. Expand number of Volunteer Gardeners this Year by 20 families
3. Provide basis for continuing Program in 2004
4. Return approximately 30,000-50,000 Oysters to degraded reefs

Task LR-C2.2 Increase Fisheries Resources - Artificial Reef Construction

Performing Organization: Coastal Conservation Association (CCA)
Principal Investigator: David Dexter
FY 03 Funding: \$ 15,000
NEP Prior Year Funds: 0
Outside Funding: \$ 30,000 (CCA)
 \$1,000,000 ACES for Oyster Reef
Related Priority Issue(s):
MBNEP Coordinator: Director

Project Description:

This Task involves the locating and construction of an artificial reef(s) to increase habitat values in the Mobile Bay area. This organization performing the work for this task will be the Coastal Conservation Association. A reef will be constructed in appropriate water depth inside the Mobile Bay by contractors working for CCA/ASA and/or MBNEP.

Project Objectives:

- 1) Identify location for establishment of artificial reefs that result in enhanced fisheries production for the Bay area.
- 2) Construct the reef systems.
- 3) Monitor the reef systems to report the value of the artificial reef for increased fisheries production.

Project Deliverables and Schedules:

Site Selection and location discussions	Summer 02
Construction	Spring 03
Monitoring	Continuous

Action Item LR-C3: Examine the possibility of decreasing or controlling effort as needed (e.g., limited entry for stressed fisheries in concert with commercial fishers, encourage catch-and-release as a means to control recreational fishing effort).

Task LR-C3.1: Winter Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program

Performing Organization: ADCNR MRD, MBNEP, CCA, Alabama Seafood Association
Former Task Number: N/A
Principal Investigator: Leslie Hartman
FY 03 Funding: \$5,000
Outside Funding: TBD
Related Priority Issue(s): Living Resources LR-C2, LR-C3
MBNEP Coordinator: Outreach Coordinator

Since the widespread use of crab traps began in the 1950's, traps lost due to storms, broken lines and neglect have accumulated in Alabama's waters. These derelict traps pose a serious hazard to boaters, and the resources as the traps continue to fish after they are lost. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division, in association with the Alabama Seafood Association, Coastal Conservation Association and the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, is currently planning a volunteer effort to address this problem.

Based on a summer pilot program, a shallow water winter effort will be developed. Volunteer groups are asked to adopt a section of shoreline and be responsible for the removal and disposal of derelict traps from shallow waters out to 100 yards and along marsh edges. Each group may decide to use vessels, shore patrols or both in their area as their work force allows. Traps can be disposed of in AMRD dumpsters provided at numerous locations along the Alabama coast. Removal of these traps will prevent the personal injury, incidental by-catch mortality, and the unsightly vista that these traps create. MBNEP funding will be used to support waste removal efforts, purchase supplies for volunteer action in a manner similar to the Coastal Clean Up.

Project Objectives:

- Review summer pilot project to develop full-scale program
- Organize volunteers
- Secure sponsorship for dumpsters and necessary materials
- Educate the public
- Enhance habitat
- Reduce crab and by-catch mortality due to "ghost" trap catches

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

- Hold coordination meeting Fall 2002
- Hold week long event January / February 2003

III. Habitat Management

The Management Conference of the Mobile Bay NEP recognized the need to assess the status and trends of estuarine habitats and established the following objective to guide those efforts:

Provide optimum fish and wildlife habitat in the Mobile Bay system by effectively preserving, restoring, and managing resources to maintain adequate extent, diversity, distribution, connectivity, and natural functions of all habitat types.

Several sub-objectives have been established to allow attainment of the Habitat Management objective. Tasks in this workplan are presented under the sub-objectives for which they most closely apply.

The State of Alabama's highest priority CIAP activity is land acquisition for conservation and protection. Task identification anticipated at later dates as plans become firm.

Sub-objective A. Protect, enhance, restore and manage valuable public lands and work with private property owners to accomplish habitat protection goals on important, privately held lands, including the acquisition of 15 additional high priority sites by 2009 through purchase or through other instruments, such as easements.

Action Item HM-A1: Identify and prioritize sites of particular sensitivity, rarity, or value in the Mobile Bay NEP area for potential acquisition and/or restoration, maximizing the contributions of existing preservation and management sites and the capabilities of all agencies and organizations involved in these programs. Develop a non-regulatory, incentive-based program for habitat restoration, management, and protection, utilizing a multi-species approach.

Task HM-A1.1 Develop a Coastal Habitats Coordinating Team

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Principal Investigator:	Director
FY 03 Funding:	\$ 0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$ 0
Outside Funding:	\$ 25,000 (GOMP), other ?
Related Priority Issue(s):	All Habitat Management
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director

Project Description:

This Task involves the creation and support for a Coastal Habitat Coordinating Team. **MBNEP**, **ADCNR COASTAL PROGRAMS** and **GMP** will organize and facilitate a *Coastal Habitats Coordinating Team* comprised of entities involved in habitat acquisition, restoration, preservation and management to be charged with developing a strategy of collaborative and prioritized acquisition and/or restoration for high priority sites, utilizing a multi-species approach. High priority sites will be determined by the Coastal Habitats Coordinating Team.

Project Objectives:

1. Create and organize a Coastal Habitat Coordinating Team consisting of governmental and private entities having authority or special expertise related to critical or important Coastal Alabama habitat;
2. identify and survey existing habitat acquisition, restoration, preservation and management programs; develop matrix of capabilities, limitations, and requirements; identify programs used elsewhere, with potential for habitat protection and restoration in Coastal Alabama
3. determine the legislative or other requirements to implement new programs for habitat acquisition and restoration in the Coastal Alabama;
4. draft, submit and facilitate the adoption of local ordinances, regulations, and other legal instruments to implement these programs;
5. integrate coastal habitat acquisition, restoration, and preservation strategies with the administration of non-regulatory, incentive-based programs such as conservation easements, Forever Wild and USDA's WRP and CRP;
6. develop an acquisition plan listing area/habitats in order of priority. This plan will have criteria for evaluation and ranking of areas/habitats;
7. incorporate acquisition and/or restoration into mitigation planning strategies as an alternative, when appropriate;
8. develop guidance on long term site management and protection (planning, financing, and implementation) for high priority sites acquired;
9. encourage maintenance of natural functions on state lands of high or critical habitat value;
10. prepare a strategy to increase funding for acquisition, preservation, and restoration of sites with high or critical habitat value; and
11. provide technical assistance to facilitate these actions (see EPI-A1 and B1).

Project Deliverables and Schedules:

Initiate team through invitation	Summer 2002
Establish GIS component; obtain workstation/plotter	Winter 2003
Develop Preliminary Prioritized Site List	Summer 2003

Task HM-A1.2 Habitat Restoration Project RFP

Performing Organization:	TBD
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	\$20,000
NEP Prior Funds:	0
Outside Funding:	\$ TBD
Related Priority Issue(s):	HM-B1, HM-D1 and HM-E1
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator/Outreach Coordinator

The Mobile Bay NEP will issue a request for proposals for conducting a habitat restoration project within the Mobile Bay NEP study area. The goal is completion of an on the ground or in the water restoration. Acceptable restoration projects may include acreage enhancement, acquisition, or restoration. All habitat types will be reviewed (i.e. beach and dune, delta, wetlands, etc.) An effort to use native plants will be made for this project. The Community Advisory Committee Habitat Management Issue Workgroup will review proposals and recommend project(s) for Management Committee approval. Their selection will be guided by the habitat benefit to be derived compared to cost effectiveness of the proposal. Individuals, groups, businesses, state and local government agencies, environmental organizations or advocacy groups may submit proposals. However the proposer(s) must demonstrate ownership or control of the property or site of the restoration or acceptable evidence that the owner is a party to the restoration. The intent of this restoration project is habitat improvement with some degree of permanence (15 years or greater). Accordingly, guidelines for the USDA WRP or CRP programs may also be considered in project selection. The “permanency” requirement ensures that available funds go to projects that will produce lasting wildlife benefit. Each proposal will be considered on its merit but strong consideration will be given to those demonstrating matching or leveraged funds, in-kind match and a strong outreach demonstration.

Project Objectives:

Increased wildlife habitat
 Support of Gulf-wide habitat goals
 Increased public involvement and leverage
 Call for proposals by contractor through CAC and Program Office
 Track and monitor restoration success and progress

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

Issue RFP for habitat restoration	Fall 2002
Review proposals	Jan-Feb 2003
Restoration project commences	Spring 2003

Sub-objective B. Maintain existing native Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAVs) at 2001 levels and increase acreage by 3% of known areas where native SAVs occur by the year 2006.

Action Item HM-B1: Protect or Restore SAV Habitat within the Mobile Bay estuary.

Task HM-B1.1: SAV Mapping Project

Performing Organization:	Barry Vittor & Associates
Former Task Number:	2.1
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Funds:	\$139,000⁶
Outside Funding:	\$ 3,000⁷(in-kind)
Related Priority Issue(s):	Living Resources
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator

The focus of this project is to gather digital benthic habitat data to determine a baseline for the Mobile Bay and the State of Alabama waters. The geographic focus of the MBNEP benthic habitat project is on near-shore estuarine and marine aquatic ecosystems. This project will encompass both freshwater and saltwater submerged aquatic vegetation. The study area will be from state line to state line, the northern coast of the barrier islands north to the L&N railroad at the north end of Mobile Bay including McReynolds Lake (formerly known as Negro Lake and The Basin). The contractor chosen will follow the protocols set forth by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Project Objectives:

1. Determine the current distribution and areal coverage of SAV habitats in the Mobile Bay NEP area where data is lacking or needed (Year Two Item).
2. Deliver this information in GIS and database format into the Mobile Bay NEP DIMS.

Project Deliverables and Schedule: Imagery to be obtained July 2002, Map production follows.

⁶ Source includes \$81,000 from Year Five Wetlands/SAV Mapping (Task 2.1) and \$58,000 from Year Five Assessment/Modeling WQ Parameters (Task 2.2).

⁷ Outside funding/total funding necessary will be determined after a contractor is chosen.

Task HM-B1.2: SAV Workshop and Boaters Guide

Performing Organization:	TBD
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	\$10,000
NEP Prior Year Funds:	0
Outside Funding:	\$2,000 Bay Area Fly Fishers Club-Cash match
Related Priority Issue(s):	Education and Public Outreach
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator

The results from the SAV mapping survey will be used to create a coastal, bay, and delta map of SAV areas. The map will include SAV identification, guidelines for preserving SAVs, and warnings about sensitive areas. In addition, the Boaters Guide will provide additional useful environmental information and advise of boating “BMP’s”. This information will include information on at-risk species such as marine mammals, advice on catch and release practices for fish, the Clean Vessel Act and Pump out Locations, advice on identification of SAV types, practices to avoid in proximity to SAV beds, fish species that use SAV for habitat and other useful and educational information for boaters.

Project Objectives:

1. To create a map to be distributed to the public which identifies submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) along the Alabama coast, in Mobile Bay and in the Delta.
2. To educate the public about the importance of SAVs and other resources of the Mobile Bay and Delta and how to protect them.

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

SAV Mapping to take place Summer 2002

Guide to be available for distribution Summer 2003

Task HM-B1.3: SAV Gardening Project

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Principal Investigator:	Dr. Diana Sturm
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	0
Outside Funding:	\$38,000 GOMP
Related Priority Issue(s):	Education and Public Outreach
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator

This project will be an expansion of a pilot volunteer SAV gardening project scheduled to begin in 2002. The project will enlist volunteers within Mobile Bay and along the Alabama coast who own waterfront property and are interested in participating. This is the first project of its kind to enlist volunteers to plant SAV gardens along their waterfront property. The volunteers will create a submerged garden into which SAVs will be planted. The gardener will keep a log of when the planting took place, the number and type of SAVs planted, bi-weekly measurements of growth, survival rates, grazers, associated organisms co-habitating the SAV bed, basic water quality, and any problems encountered in the gardening. The plots will be monitored during the entire project period. Signage will be placed directly in front of the plots in the water to discourage boaters from entering the plots. Each volunteer will garden a plot of approximately 100 square feet. The initial year of the full project, 50 volunteers will be recruited, the second year an additional 50-100 volunteers will be recruited. A total of 100 to 150 volunteers will be recruited over the two-year period. This will result in a minimum of 10,000 to 15,000 square feet of restored SAV habitat. Volunteers may include private property owners, schools, and cities. A project manual will be developed and made available on the MBNEP website. This project could be applied Gulf-wide.

The SAV gardening will be expanded during the same time period that Mobile Bay NEP will be releasing its first SAV map for the entire Mobile Bay and Alabama Gulf Coast region. The map will be distributed to boaters, fishermen, schools, and others. It will detail where the current SAV beds are located and the measures needed to protect the SAV beds from destruction.

OBJECTIVES:

Increase SAV in Mobile Bay
 Increase Citizen Participation in habitat restoration
 Support GOMP SAV Objectives

Deliverables:

Identify and train volunteers
 Initiate Gardening project Spring 2003
 Continuation expected

Sub-objective C. Maintain and protect all types of coastal wetlands within the MBNEP study area (including quantity, function, and value) and increase acreage by 5% of those types that have declined, by 2006.

Action Item HM-C1: Maintain and/or Improve Beneficial Wetland Functions within individual watersheds of the Mobile Bay NEP area by a) reducing the loss in quality and quantity of existing wetlands, b) preparing a strategic mitigation plan for coastal Alabama and c) restoring degraded marsh habitats

Task HM-C1.1: Habitat Mapping Project (formerly Wetlands, Emergent and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Assessment)

Performing Organization:	TBD
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$147,000⁸
Outside Funding:	\$170,000 GOMP \$18,000 ADEM⁹
Related Priority Issue(s):	Living Resources
MBNEP Project Coordinator:	Science Coordinator

The focus of this project is to gather digital color-infrared geo-referenced photography of Mobile County to determine a 2002 baseline for Mobile County. The Baldwin County Commission is collecting the same data on Baldwin County. All habitats larger than 1 meter will be identified. This data will be compared to previously collected data to determine status and trends for Mobile County.

Project Objectives:

1. Determine status and trends: Quantify the extent of wetlands and other habitats loss or conversion within Mobile County by habitat type, watershed, and cause.
2. Produce a GIS map layer and attribute file portraying the above information.
3. Produce a hardcopy map of Mobile County habitats.

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

1. Photography obtained February 2002
2. DOQQ's to be produced Fall 2002
3. Habitat Delineation complete by 2004

⁸ \$109,000 from Year Five Wetlands/SAV Mapping (Task 2.1)

⁹ Includes \$170,000 Gulf of Mexico Program Grant plus \$18,000 ADEM match.

Task HM-C1.2: Habitat Workshop Public Outreach

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$2,000
Outside Funding:	TBD
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Public Outreach Coordinator

A workshop will be held to educate the public on the results of the mapping project. Information on plant identification, exotic plant species, and creating micro habitats on private property will be covered.

Project Objectives:

1. To show the results of the mapping project to the public.
2. To provide information on native and exotic plant identification.
3. To promote the use of native plants in the micro habitats in private property owners' yards.

Project Deliverables and Schedule: TBD

Task HM-C1.3: Coastal Counties Wetlands Conservation Plan Implementation

Performing Organization:	TBD
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	0
Outside Funding:	TBD
Related Priority Issue(s):	Living Resources
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator

The Alabama Coastal Counties Wetland Conservation Plan was developed by the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Coastal Policy Initiative for Coastal Programs of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. It is also a plan developed with broad participation by area resource managers. Steps taken to support implementation of the recommendations contained in this plan directly support the Habitat Management Objectives and action plans in the CCMP. In fact, the recommended strategies and approaches will be key to achieving CCMP wetland goals. Accordingly, support for this plan is identified in the Year Seven Work Plan. As specific actions are taken by the Mobile Bay National Estuary Partners along the path to implementation, these steps will be documented and this work plan revised.

Project Objectives: TBD

Project Deliverables and Schedule: TBD

Task HM-C1.4: Habitat Restoration Vegetation Planting

Performing Organization: MBNEP
Former Task Number: N/A
Principal Investigator: TBD
FY 03 Funding: \$1,000
NEP Prior Funds: \$ 500
Outside Funding: TBD
Related Priority Issue(s): Living Resources
MBNEP Coordinator: Public Outreach Coordinator

This project will provide trees and/or native plants for restoration on State of Alabama lands in the delta or along coastal areas. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) would assist in identifying land needing to be restored. The project will recruit volunteers and/or ADCNR to plant the trees, coastal vegetation, or submerged aquatic vegetation.

General Project Objectives:

1. To restore native plant species to degraded wetland, beaches or submerged areas.
2. To provide a hands-on activity for the public to get involved.

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

Identify organizations to conduct work	December 2002
Select sites	January 2003
Obtain /train volunteers	February 2003
Perform plantings	March 2003

Sub-objective D. Protect existing natural shoreline, beach and dune habitat and restore previously altered habitats, where feasible, including the rehabilitation of altered shoreline by 1000 feet per year.

Action Item HM-D1: Reduce the loss of beach and dune habitat through development of coastal regulations that examine projects for impacts on beach and dune habitat.

No task currently identified.

Action Item HM-D2: Determine the impacts of dredging activities and disposal practices on natural beach erosion processes and develop alternative dredge material disposal techniques to improve shoreline areas.

No task currently identified.

Action Item HM-D3: Research the extent of shoreline erosion due to boat wakes and other factors and reduce the loss of bay/sound/bayou intertidal habitat due to bulkheading the impacts of bulkheads.

No task currently identified.

Sub-objective E. Maintain and protect nesting habitat for colonial and migratory birds and reduce declines in nesting habitat due to human disturbance and alteration.

Action Item HM-E1: Prevent the decline in nesting habitat for colonial and migratory birds due to human disturbance and alterations.

No task currently identified.

IV. Human Uses

Consensus emerged that comprehensive, sustainable land use planning was essential to resolving the key identified human use conflicts. The Management Conference of the Mobile Bay NEP adopted the following objective to guide the development of human uses management strategies:

Provide consistent, enforceable, regional land and water use management that ensures smart growth for sustainable development and decreases the negative impacts of growth related activities on human health and safety, public access, and quality of life by developing and implementing plans consistent with the CCMP by 2006.

Several sub-objectives have been established to allow attainment of Human Uses objective. Tasks in this workplan are presented under the sub-objectives for which they most closely apply.

Sub-objective A. Enhance quality of life by improved planned and managed development.

Action Item HU-A1: Develop and implement land use planning that ensures smart growth for sustainable development designed to abate sprawl and loss of aesthetically pleasing environment.

Task HU-A1.1: Smart Growth Initiatives

Performing Organization:	City of Mobile, Envision Mobile-Baldwin
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	David Yeager
FY 03 Funding:	\$15,000
NEP Prior Year Funds:	0
Outside Funding:	TBD
Related Priority Issues:	Public Education and Outreach, Habitat Management
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director

Smart growth is defined as “a set of principles intended to enhance the sense of place and community, encourage economic efficiency, protect environmental amenities, promote fiscal health of the community and maximize the return on public investment.” Smart growth initiatives are initiatives designed to address planning, policies, and practices, which manage growth and minimize damage to the environment. This task will provide funding for such initiatives developed by local governments. Such items may include land use planning, re-development and re-use of buildings and historic structures, development of local ordinances designed to limit sprawl, support of mass transit greenway development or purchase, development and promotion of zoning and land use policies, and

others. These activities will involve supporting the activities of partners such as the City of Mobile, Envision Mobile-Baldwin and other groups. The Mobile Bay NEP will play a role from planning to implementation of these various projects.

Project Objectives:

- Create Smart Growth in Mobile Committee
- Develop study to build on for City Planning implementation
- Educate stakeholders on smart growth issues
- Engage participation of various stakeholders in smart growth projects

Project Deliverables and Schedule: TBD

Sub-objective B. Reduce the negative hydrologic effects of inadequately planned and/or managed development on human health and safety, specifically:

- (1) Maintain or adjust stream flows to minimize the negative effects of flooding, erosion, and adverse changes in estuarine salinity, as necessary and where feasible.
- (2) Protect, manage, and/or restore 1,000 acres of floodplains by 2006 to minimize upstream and downstream flooding and erosion.
- (3) Protect, manage, and/or restore 5 miles of natural stream banks and bottoms to minimize erosion and loss of natural habitat by 2006.
- (4) Reduce locally-generated sediment loads by 10% in Mobile and Baldwin County waterways by 2006 to reduce loss of navigation and to reduce adverse impacts on water quality, recreational activities, and aquatic communities.

Action Item HU-B1: Assess and remediate negative hydrologic effects of past land management decisions.

Task HU-B1.1: Bulkhead Survey

Performing Organization:	TBD
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	0
Outside Funding:	TBD
Related Priority Issues:	Hydrologic Modifications
MBNEP Coordinator:	Scientific Coordinator

An accurate baseline of all hard stabilization or stream bank protectors is not available in the Mobile Bay NEP study area. This work task could build upon work by Sherry Allison, Geography graduate from the University of South Alabama (<http://www.usouthal.edu/geography/fearn/480page/dogriver.html>). This project was built using 7.5' USGS topographic quadrangles rectified with Revenue Commission property section line maps. The work was incorporated in AutoCAD. 1996 aerial photography was not used as it was too old and did not reveal the actual type of material utilized. Investigation along Rabbit Creek included material type (wood, aluminum, plastic, concrete, rip-rap, vegetation, etc.), noted areas of erosion, and discussions with property owners. A GPS unit confirmed locations for mapping. The Mobile Bay NEP can expand upon this project by using the photography acquired by the habitat and SAV mapping.

The Mobile Bay NEP will investigate a variety of options for performing this task. It may involve completing the Dog River Watershed, mapping the western or eastern shore of Mobile Bay, or mapping other subwatersheds within the system. To accomplish the work the Mobile Bay NEP will investigate utilizing one or more student interns, a university mapping course, other agencies, or graduate student opportunities.

Project Objectives:

1. Identify project party to do work
2. Acquire satellite photography and maps
3. Set parameters for research
4. Develop GIS / AutoCAD maps of existing bulkhead structures

Project Deliverables and Schedule: TBD

Sample costs: physical labor	\$8.00/hr
GIS technician	\$10.00/hr
GIS analyst	\$13.00/hr

Task HU-B1.2: Causeway Management Plan and Restoration Support

Performing Organization:	TBD/Scenic Causeway Coalition
Principal Investigator:	Casi Calloway
FY 03 Funding:	\$10,000
NEP Prior Year Funds:	0
Outside Funding:	\$150,000¹¹; 60,000¹²
Related Priority Issue(s):	Habitat Management
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach Coordinator

For several years a groundswell of support from area stakeholders have worked to form the Scenic Causeway Coalition. This diverse groups seeks enhance Battleship Parkway, aka “The Causeway”, through a Scenic Byways corridor management plan. The Mobile Bay NEP will support implementation of objectives within the CMP. These efforts include restoration actions, environmental assessments, and potential waste treatment survey. Restoration of wildlife habitat along the causeway, development of park and green spaces or trails, develop riparian buffers , reduction of storm water runoff etc.

The MBNEP will work with the SCC and other groups to identify cost effective projects along the causeway and will provide “seed” funds to initiate these projects.

Project Objectives:

1. Implementation of the Cooridor Management Plan developed on the Causeway
2. Wildlife habitat restoration
3. Water Quality Improvement
4. Improved Land and Water use Planning

Project Deliverables and Schedule: TBD

¹¹ \$150,000 Federal DOT funding

¹² \$60,000 private contributions

Task HU-B1.3: Corridor Management Plan Development- Causeway

Performing Organization:	SCC
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	0
Outside Funding:	\$160,000 plus
Related Priority Issues:	Hydrologic Modifications
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach Coordinator

The Scenic Causeway Coalition has been working for some Months to develop a Corridor Management Plan for the Causeway. The MBNEP is actively involved in this planning process and coordinating activities related to hydrologic modifications. Work is on-going to develop landscaping plans, land use plans, greenways and water supply and waste disposal issues.

The Corridor Management Plan is being developed to obtain Scenic By-Ways Status for the Causeway and is being funded by the DOT and State of Alabama among others.

Objectives:

1. Establish Causeway as an Alabama Scenic By Way
2. Complete Causeway Management Plan
3. Re-Develop Causeway consistent with appropriate land use plans

Schedule and Deliverables:

1. Plan Completion 2003

Task HU-B2.1: Causeway Hydrologic Modification

Performing Organization:	US Army Corps of Engineers
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	Susan I. Rees, PhD
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	0
Outside Funding:	\$5.9 million
Related Priority Issues:	Hydrologic Modifications, Habitat Management
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach Coordinator

The US Army Corps of Engineers has undertaken a study at the request of the State of Alabama to review the potential of opening portions of the Battleship Parkway (aka 'Causeway') in the theory of restoring more natural flow conditions. The Corps has made four recommendations under their Special Assistance to States authority. The State of Alabama has agreed to sponsor opening Sardine Pass and Shell Bank Pass as Demonstration Projects and has requested the USACE to proceed with studies and the approx. \$5.9 million Project. The State of Alabama and Department of Transportation have entered an agreement with the USACE to commence the studies in Fall 2002. The Governor announced these two openings during the signing ceremony for the CCMP on April 27, 2002 as a tangible commitment to implementation.

Project Objectives:

1. Restore portions of the Upper Mobile Bay to more natural hydrologic conditions through opening the Causeway at Sardine Pass and Shell Bank.
2. Promote increased mixing of fresh and salt water in the area of these two sites
3. Monitor effects of openings before larger scale projects undertaken

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

1. Studies currently underway
2. Initial construction as early as fall 2002

Task HU-B2.2 Address Hydrologic Impacts of a Man Made Dike in Pinto Pass

Performing Organization:	USACE, Alabama State Port Authority
Principal Investigator:	John Carey/Dr. Susan Rees
FY 03 Funding:	\$0
NEP Prior Funds:	\$0
Outside Funding:	\$200,000 (USACE-\$150,000, ASPA-\$50,000) Estimated
Related Priority Issue(s):	Habitat Management
MBNEP Coordinator:	David Yeager

Project Description:

After positive discussions with USACE and ASPA, a letter was sent to the USACE from the MBNEP on May 23, 2002 requesting that the Pinto Pass Dike be removed as part of a section 206 or 1135 environmental or ecosystem restoration project under section 206 or 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. The United States Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District will coordinate with the Alabama State Port Authority in designing a plan to remove the dike in Pinto Pass. Once the plan and costs are identified and determined feasible to support, the USACE and ASPA will agree to proceed with the restoration. The effort will include preparing project designs, obtaining necessary permits and approvals, performing construction, restoring and enhancing habitat values of construction areas, potential enhancements of public access and educational opportunities. Other partners to assist with the local sponsor share of the project (25-35%), if necessary, have also been identified.

Project Objectives:

- 1) Design project for opening Pinto Pass including enhancing habitat values of disturbed areas following construction
- 2) Complete construction and enhancement project
- 3) Investigate and implement public access and educational enhancements for the Pinto Pass area.

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

- 1) Request for study and Planning initiated May, 2002.
- 2) Preliminary plan available July 30, 2002
- 3) Construction activity could begin as early as October 1, 2002

Action Item HU-B3: Reduce the impacts of erosion and sedimentation on stream banks and bottoms from construction, road building and unimproved roads, agriculture, silviculture, waterfront property development, dirt/soil mining and utilities work site runoff.

Task HU-B3.1: Stream bank Restoration Workshops

Performing Organization:	AUMERC, MBNEP
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	Eve Brantley, Lee Yokel
FY 03 Funding:	\$2,000
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$1,500
Outside Funding:	0
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach Coordinator

Continuation of last year's effort that resulted in two well attended workshops. The two-day workshop will introduce principles of fluvial geomorphology -- the physical, chemical, and biological processes that define stream corridors -- for application in restoring impaired stream channels. Participants will learn about stream processes related to channel formation, field assessment techniques identifying stream bank stage, the Rosgen classification system for natural streams, channel evolution, and restoration options for degraded streams. Instructors will emphasize stream conditions specific to the southeastern United States. Case studies of recently completed stream restoration projects will be presented to demonstrate effective natural stream channel design techniques. Workshop instructors have experience working on more than 40 stream assessments and restoration projects throughout the Southeast. Each participant will receive a reference manual.

Project Objectives:

- Coordinate with area partners
- Develop target audience
- Introduce and educate target audience on alternative stream bank restoration techniques
- Conduct Workshop
- Plan for future, more in-depth projects
- Plan for future restoration projects

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

- Fall 2001 coordinate with area partners
- February 2002 conduct first workshop
- April 2002 conduct second workshop
- Conduct Fall 2002 and Spring 2003 Workshop

Task HU-B3.2: Stream Bank Restoration Project

Performing Organization:	TBD
Principal Investigator:	Lee Yokel/ Jody Scanlon
FY 03 Funding:	\$10,000
NEP Prior Year Funds:	0
Outside Funding:	TBD
Related Priority Issues:	Hydrologic Modifications, Habitat Management
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach Coordinator

The objective of this task is to provide “seed” funds for the initiation of a stream bank restoration project in Mobile or Baldwin County, Alabama. Priority attention will be given to a project that proposes to restore a stream listed as impaired by sediment currently on Alabama’s 303 (d) list. Restoration may take any of several forms that will reduce sediment input into Mobile Bay such as creation of riparian buffers, creation of side slopes that limit further erosion, re-planting side slopes with native vegetation or other methodologies deemed acceptable to the purpose. A specific project will be solicited by the issuance and advertisement of an RFP in the two county area. Eligible proposers will include landowners, municipal and county governments, the state of Alabama, environmental organizations owning or controlling property and/or businesses or others.

Project Objectives:

- 1) On-the-ground restoration of a stream contributing to increased sediment loads
- 2) Involvement of local landowners in restoration projects.

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

- 1) RFP to be issued in October 2002
- 2) CAC (Hydrologic Modifications/Human Uses Issue Workgroup) evaluates proposals December 2002
- 3) Project selected, Proposer notified January 2003
- 4) Project Completed by September 2003

Sub-objective C. Increase public access to water resources.

Action Item HU-C1: Encourage eco-tourism, increase public access sites and awareness of sites, and expand camping and recreational facilities in the Mobile Bay NEP area.

Task HU-C1.1: Public Access

Performing Organization:	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Coastal Programs (DCNR-CP)
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 02 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$5,000
Outside Funding:	\$10,965¹⁰In-kind match City of Gulf Shores FY01
Related Priority Issue(s):	N/A
MBNEP Coordinator:	Public Outreach Coordinator

This task is a combination of several public access projects around Mobile Bay. Work to improve public access will take place at Blakeley State Historic Park, and in the cities of Daphne, Gulf Shores, Orange Beach and Mobile. The projects include creating more handicapped access, pier, beach, and park improvements.

Project Objectives: TBD

Project Deliverables and Schedule: TBD

¹⁰ \$10,965 is match available to the MBNEP from ADCNR from 2001. The total ADCNR project value is \$223,200 of which there are both federal and local monies.

Task HU-C1.2: Montlimar Canal Greenway Park

Performing Organization:	Company to be Named
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	Director, MBNEP
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	0
Outside Funding:	\$250,000 In-kind match
Related Priority Issue(s):	Water Quality
MBNEP Coordinator:	Public Outreach Coordinator

The City of Mobile has a major impact on Mobile Bay due to its proximity and the associated storm water run-off. Dog River and its tributaries, Montlimar Canal (drainage canal from Wragg Creek Swamp) being one, deliver urban run off directly into the Bay containing a cumulative load of non-point source pollution including pesticides, fertilizers, tire dust, sediments, and bacteria. Dog River Clear Water Revival is a grass roots organization devoted to improving water quality in the Dog River. A major obstacle to this task is public apathy. The attitude is partially due to ignorance of the connection between watershed activities and water quality but is also due to the public's lack of ownership of the river and bay as an amenity. Waterfront property owners are concerned but the "average" citizen may live in the upper reaches of watershed and sees only an unsightly drainage ditch. They rarely make the connection between the ditch and Dog River/ Mobile Bay. One way to combat this apathy and increase public involvement is to increase public access. The creation of greenway parks paralleling stream channels such as the Montlimar Drainage Canal will give any walking/biking/jogging Mobilian access and thus ownership in the waterways. A citizen walking along such a trail, seeing the first hand effects of poor stewardship, will more likely become involved in correction of the problem. It will also restore a riparian buffer zone along the canal to further reduce the effect of polluted run-off.

The Mobile Bay NEP approached a local chemical corporation with a proposal from Dog River Clear Water Revival for such a Greenway Park along a one-mile section of Montlimar Canal between Airport Blvd and Michael Blvd. The company has agreed to construct this park in partnership with the City of Mobile, Dog River Clear Water Revival, and the MBNEP as a supplemental environmental project under an agreement with the EPA. This park will serve as the initial link in the City of Mobile's plans to develop an extensive network of greenway trails in connection with its tri-centennial celebration.

Permeable surfacing will be used for the trail. Extensive native shrubbery and tree plantings, including along the canal bank itself, will help shade the water and improve fish and other wildlife habitat. Increased streamside plantings will also contribute to water quality improvements. Signage highlighting the environmental benefits of environmental stewardship and maintaining water quality will also be placed along the trail. The project is expected to cost in excess of \$171,500 and will be entirely funded by the chemical corporation.

Project Objectives: Creation of a Greenway Park along Montlimar Canal

Project Deliverables and Schedule: Expected Fall 2002

Task HU-C1.3: EcoTourism/Sustainability Workshop

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Funds:	\$1,500
Outside Funding:	\$500 In-kind match ACF
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Public Outreach Coordinator

Increased tourism and particularly eco-tourism may impact the very environmental conditions or sites that draw visitors to a region. In some cases this impact is negative, the so-called “self-destruct principal of tourism”. Accordingly one or two workshops on the subject of sustainable use and tourism in the Mobile Bay Estuary Study area are proposed. Forward thinking and investigation of recommendations and incentives developed in the Caribbean and from European experiences such ideas as the “blue flag resorts” may be applicable to local needs and concerns. Participation of widely recognized authorities such as Dr. Littman from the Louisiana SeaGrant program and others would be sought. Partnership opportunities with groups such as the Alabama Coastal Foundation, local Chambers of Commerce and others would also be sought out. The goal is to develop strategies and mitigations to improve opportunities for tourism/eco-tourism in our area without significant adverse impact on resources.

Project Objectives:

1. To develop a workshop for city and county officials, developers, chambers of commerce and any others interested in sustainable development.
2. To discuss and implement plans for sustainable ecological development in Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

Project Deliverables and Schedule: TBD

Task HU-C1.4: Clean Beaches

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	\$2,000
NEP Prior Funds:	0
Outside Funding:	0
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Scientific Coordinator

The Clean Beaches Council works with coastal communities, governments, and organizations to develop and implement effective environmental management practices and services. The primary tool for accomplishing this is the Blue Wave Campaign. Through Blue Wave certification, the Council aims to help the public identify the nation's cleanest, safest and most environmentally well-managed beaches. This is a continuing project from 2002 and will focus on getting certification for Dauphin Island.

For the public, Blue Wave is viewed as a "good housekeeping" stamp of approval for beaches, indicating a quality environment. For beach communities, Blue Wave is used as a form of "eco-label"- signifying a clean and safe destination managed with consideration for the environment.

This workplan item will coordinate the application process for local coastal cities. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management will be a partner in the program.

Project Objectives:

1. To increase public awareness of beach stewardship, of agencies partnering to keep the Alabama beaches in good condition.
2. To increase tourism by obtaining Blue Wave certification.

Project Deliverables and Schedule: Designation by May 2003

V. Education and Public Involvement

The overall objective to address the Education and Public Involvement issue identified in the CCMP is:

Increase awareness of natural resource issues and promote understanding and participation in conservation and stewardship activities.

The Education and Public Involvement Workgroup of the Mobile Bay NEP developed two sub-objectives and two Action Plans in order to reach the Management Conference objective. Sub-objectives focused on areas of Public Awareness and Public Participation and Monitoring. Tasks in this workplan are presented under the appropriate sub-objectives and action item for which they most closely apply.

Sub-objective EPI-A: Increase public awareness of environmental issues among all stakeholders, including local, state and federal political leaders, agencies and citizens, by developing and implementing Coastal Environmental Education Campaigns.

Action Item EPI-A1: Continue existing public outreach efforts included in the MBNEP Workplan while developing and/or enhancing Coastal Environmental Education Campaigns focusing on identified areas of concern and targeted to specific user groups and audiences.

Task EPI-A1.1: State of the Bay Report

Performing Organization:	TBD
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	20,000¹³ Supplemental EPA Funds (FY 02)
Outside Funding:	\$
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Public Outreach Coordinator

As new information and data become available, area citizens are updated on the status of our shared resource, the Mobile Bay and Delta. Currently, we envision a newspaper supplement similar to previous efforts such as “ A Hard Rain.” This document will serve to share new information the Mobile Bay NEP and its conference members have obtained during the development of the CCMP and its acceptance and highlight continuing issues and concerns with the water quality and living resources of the bay and delta.

This will be an environmental progress report on the Mobile Bay estuary. It will provide environmental results achieved during the CCMP approval process and first year of implementation.

Project Objectives:

1. Obtain contractor for development

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

Complete public update and publish by September 2002

¹³ This task is funded by \$20,000 supplemental EPA funding (FY 02).
 Created May 23, 2002

Task EPI-A1.2: Webpage

Performing Organization:	Mobile Bay NEP
Former Task Number:	2.5
Principal Investigator:	N/A
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$ 10,000 (FY00)
Outside Funding:	0
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Administrative Assistant

Readily accessible information is important to spreading the message of the MBNEP. Website maintenance and continued information upgrade is necessary to keep the message current and available. The purpose of this work item is to continue maintenance and development of the Mobile Bay NEP's web site. This project is a priority effort for all issue areas. Efforts will be made to coordinate the project with other ongoing programs and projects to build upon and link environmental topics. A contractor may be obtained for complex tasks.

Project Objectives:

1. Maintain and update the Mobile Bay NEP web site on at least a monthly basis.
2. Contract Support will be utilized for tasks unable to be performed in-house

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

Monthly website updates as necessary.

Task EPI-A1.3: Newsletter

Performing Organization:	DCNR Coastal Programs
Former Task Number:	3.4
Principal Investigator:	Coastal Programs Outreach Coordinator
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$13,500
Outside Funding:	\$ 6,000¹⁴ ACF & DCNR in-kind match
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Public Outreach Coordinator

The Mobile Bay NEP will continue joint efforts¹⁵ with the DCNR Coastal Programs Office and the Alabama Coastal Foundation to publish four issues of the *Coastal Connection* newsletter during the program year. Each issue will contain highlights of Mobile Bay NEP activities, especially regarding implementation of the CCMP.

Project Objectives:

1. Continue to expand and maintain joint mailing list.
2. Identify existing newsletters and work to include MBNEP articles.
3. Solicit topics from Management Conference and other sources.
4. Print and distribute four quarterly newsletters.
5. Use post-consumer recycled paper and bio-degradable inks

Project Deliverables:

Help produce and distribute *Coastal Connections* newsletter.....Quarterly
Mobile Bay estimated cost share @ \$500/qtr = \$2,000 +/-

Special editions of *Coastal Connections*As Warranted
Mobile Bay estimated cost share = \$1,000 +/-

¹⁴ ACF and ADCNR Coastal Programs are partners in production of this newsletter.

¹⁵ A Memorandum of Agreement between the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, DCNR Coastal Programs and the Alabama Coastal Foundation includes commitments from ACF and DCNR to pay specific costs related to the production of the *Coastal Connections* newsletter.

Task EPI-A1.4: Fact Sheets

Performing Organization:	Mobile Bay NEP
Former Task Number:	3.5.1
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$ 2,500 (FY00)
Outside Funding:	0
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Public Outreach Coordinator

Fact sheets and brochures will be developed to provide a more detailed explanation of issues concerning the environment and the goals of the Mobile Bay NEP. The fact sheets will enhance understanding and awareness of priority issues and what is being done about them. The fact sheets will include a map of the study area, emphasizing the area featured, as well as a synopsis of the Mobile Bay NEP activities for readers who may not have seen other Mobile Bay NEP materials. The efforts of both the CAC will help ensure an effective message. This task includes graphic development.

Project Objectives:

1. Design and print 2-color, 8 ½ x 11, 2-sided fact sheets.
2. Use post-consumer recycled paper and bio-degradable inks

Project Deliverables:

Design and print Fact Sheets.....As Warranted
 2,000 @ \$250 / run x 10 Fact Sheets = \$2,500 +/-

Task EPI-A1.5: Signage

Performing Organization:	Mobile Bay NEP
Former Task Number:	3.5.2
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$ 20,000
Outside Funding:	0
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Public Outreach Coordinator

Signage is a permanent way to educate all audiences of the public. It can include information concerning the value of a particular resources as well as what the public can do to maintain it. Signage will be a major focus in FY2002. Projects of consideration will include but are not limited to public access locations, visitor center locations, and state highways. An effort to develop a consistent theme for metal signs, kiosks, and billboards will enhance recognition of environmental messages from the MBNEP. Signage may also be provided for two, distinct and important Audubon sites at Dauphin Island and Fort Morgan and to support Dauphin Island Beach efforts to be designated a Blue Wave Beach (required signage for safety).

The use of billboards on a limited basis will also be reviewed. EPA guidelines are specific about billboard usage with regard to visual pollution. Billboards are NOT prohibited by EPA guidelines.

Project Objectives:

1. Design a consistent theme for all signage.
2. Select projects for signage
3. Identify partners for education opportunities
4. Place signage in appropriate locations

Project Deliverables:

Design and print reusable billboard covers.....	last Quarter FY 02
<i>Approximate cost = \$2,500 +/-</i>	
Design and print permanent road signs.....	First Quarter FY 03
<i>Approximate cost is \$250 each x 10 = \$2,500</i>	

Task EPI-A1.6: Video

Performing Organization:	TBD
Former Task Number:	3.5.4
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$10,000 (FY00)
Outside Funding:	0
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Public Outreach Coordinator

Attention to well-produced video materials is proven. The Mobile Bay NEP will benefit from having a professional video presentation available for public viewing. A 10 or 12 minute long video highlighting the Mobile Bay NEP will contribute to the success of CCMP implementation. The video can be available for showing at all public speaking engagements, for use by Management Conference members, and the Mobile Bay NEP staff. The video will also be available for public presentation as a public service announcement or as a paid placement, either by the Mobile Bay NEP or a sponsoring business or agency.

The lowest estimates of production cost are about \$1,000 per minute of video. Some production concerns may offer matching services to help hold down Mobile Bay NEP costs.

Project Objectives:

1. Create one 10 - 12 minute informational video
2. Distribute the video

Project Deliverables:

Create video2nd Quarter FY 02
Approximate cost = \$10,000 +/-

Task EPI-A1.7: Newspaper Ads

Performing Organization:	Mobile Bay NEP
Former Task Number:	3.5.5
Principal Investigator:	N/A
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$ 3,500
Outside Funding:	0
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Public Outreach Coordinator / Administrative Assistant

Newspaper advertisement is often the best way to extend a message to the public. Press releases and public service announcements are free placements but some control of location, content and timeliness is lost when no fees are exchanged. Furthermore, special editions and inserts are often bargain advertisement purchases. 120,000 view the *Mobile Register* daily and the Gulf Coast Newspaper Network editions are viewed by about 30,000 twice weekly. Continues from FY 02

Project Objectives:

1. Be prepared to purchase small, specialty newspaper advertisement
2. Produce camera-ready ads

Project Deliverables:

AdvertisementsAs needed
Approximate cost = \$150 each

Task EPI-A1.8: Radio / TV PSA Time

Performing Organization:	TBD
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$5,000
Outside Funding:	\$TBD
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Public Outreach Coordinator

Year Five efforts accomplished the development of a professional 30-second short video for use in public service announcements as well as two 30-second radio advertisements. The value of a general, informative short video is apparent in the broad range of attention that can be gained by television distribution. Target audiences can also be selected via station format. The purpose of this task is to buy, cost-share, or develop in-kind match placement of the existing TV and Radio promotionals.

Project Objectives:

1. Target selected TV and Radio stations for airtime
2. Arrange airtime over six to twelve month period if possible.

Project Deliverables:

Purchase of air time2nd and 3rd Quarters FY02

Task EPI-A1.9: Trade and Display Materials

Performing Organization:	Mobile Bay NEP
Former Task Number:	3.5.8
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$5,500
Outside Funding:	0
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Public Outreach Coordinator

Participation in trade shows and festivals provides regular exposure for Mobile Bay NEP and can serve as additional outlet for distribution of CCMP-related materials. The continued development and updating of timely materials such as brochures, summary documents, maps etc. is necessary for an effective message at public events.

Project Objectives:

1. Prepare, organize, and update trade display and hand-out materials
2. Attend 10 trade or informational displays during FY02

Project Deliverables:

Trade displays at specific events.....As needed
Approximate cost = \$350x 10 = \$3500+/-

Task EPI-A1.10: Promotional Materials

Performing Organization:	TBD
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$3,300
Outside Funding:	\$TBD
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	MBNEP Staff

In addition to developing informational trade material, promotional give-a-ways are a good way of maintaining a constant presence in the public. Promotional ‘fun stuff’ may include but are not exclusive / limited to polo shirts, ball caps, fishing lures, kids games, key rings, pens, etc.

Project Objectives:

1. Identify and purchase MBNEP appropriate give-a-ways.
2. Insure products are environmentally friendly.

Project Deliverables:

Purchase items and distribute as needed
Cost as appropriate not to exceed \$4000

Task EPI-A1.11: Rental Facilities

Performing Organization:	Mobile Bay NEP
Former Task Number:	4.9
Principal Investigator:	N/A
FY 03 Funding:	0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$5,500
Outside Funding:	\$4,000
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	MBNEP Staff

As a primary function of the Mobile Bay NEP, meetings are held monthly, quarterly, and as requested for a variety of activities. It is often necessary to purchase meeting equipment and rental space. Several conference members also supply this service as an in-kind cost share to the program. This includes the City of Mobile, Lake Forest Yacht Club, and Alabama State Docks.

Project Objectives:

1. Continue to hold program meetings.
2. Continue to work with and identify additional in-kind sponsors.

Project Deliverables:

Program Meetings as needed

Task EPI-A1.12: Participation in Area Events

Performing Organization:	Mobile Bay NEP
Principal Investigator:	N/A
FY 03 Funding:	\$4,000
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$4,500
Outside Funding:	\$6,360
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Mobile Bay NEP Staff

Participation in trade shows and festivals provides regular exposure for the Mobile Bay NEP and can serve as additional outlet for distribution of CCMP-related materials. It is also necessary to support other agencies and organizations that perform CCMP related events. Prior support and participation has included Hazardous Waste Amnesty Days, children’s fishing events, and Bay Area Earth Day.

Project Objectives:

1. Participate in and / or support area environmental events

Project Deliverables:

Area Events as requested
Individual event cost cannot exceed task amount of \$2,500

Task EPI-A1.13: Mini-Grants

Performing Organization:	TBD
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	\$50,000
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$73,800
Outside Funding:	TBD
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator

Mini-grant project proposals will be solicited on a quarterly basis. These projects must directly relate to addressing the major issues and objectives of the MBNEP CCMP. Each project will address at least one of the priority issue areas and facilitate public education about this issue and the environment of the MBNEP. The projects will address a specific technical question, a new management technique, or manage a known problem within the watershed. These projects will be selected through the Management Conference. Projects must be ready to begin at the time of the proposal and can be completed within six month's time. No matching funds are required but projects identifying matching contributions will receive positive consideration.

Project Objectives:

The description of the objectives and the benefits of each project will be included in each of the proposals.

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

Applications as received and approved bi-annually FY03
Mini Grant cannot exceed \$3,000

EPI-A1.14: GIS / DIMS

Performing Organization:	DISL
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 03 Funding:	\$50,000
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$40,500 (FY01 and 02)
Outside Funding:	TBD
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator / Public Outreach
Coord.	

Information that is easily understood and user-friendly is vital to the Mobile Bay NEP Data Information and Management System (DIMS). Geographic information systems (GIS) are visual and meet these criteria. Not only does this informational tool prove useful to scientists but also to the general public for conceptual understanding. The purpose of this work item is to continue maintenance and development of the Mobile Bay NEP's DIMS. This project is a priority effort of all workgroups (i.e., habitat loss, water quality, hydrological modifications, living resources, human uses and education). The project will be coordinated with similar, ongoing programs and projects to build upon and ensure that efforts are not duplicated. Principally, the DIMS will be put in place at Dauphin Island Sea Lab, already established as a Coastal Data Center under a grant from NSF and designated as a Coastal EcoSystem Learning Center by Coastal America. The DIMS will be established on existing platforms at DISL and supported by DISL staff resources.

The development of a monitoring plan is a required component of the CCMP. One element of the Public Participation and Education Strategy is to support the monitoring program by communicating the monitoring and monitoring results to the public. The monitoring program and the communication program will create awareness about the Mobile Bay NEP and the implementation of CCMP action plans.

Project Objectives:

1. Maintain and continue development of the Mobile Bay NEP DIMS as information becomes available. Establish web and other electronic linkages to make it accessible.
2. Identify Data Management needs and assess methods/organizations and/or tools needed.
3. Initiate planning for Data Management associated with Environmental Monitoring.

Project Deliverables and Schedule: Initiate project in Summer 2002

EPI-A1.15: Local Community Initiatives

Performing Organization:	MBNEP Program Office
Principal Investigator:	N/A
FY 03 Funding:	0
Total Funding:	\$13,500
Priority Issues:	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	MBNEP Staff

To promote the Mobile Bay NEP and the action items included in the draft and final CCMP, the Program Office will develop a Local Community Initiatives program. These initiatives will build local support for the CCMP by featuring action items addressing local concerns. The first round of Local Community Initiatives will be practiced with the publication of the first draft of the CCMP. Like the draft CCMP, revisions to the Local Community Initiative efforts are expected. This work plan addresses the final round of revised Local Community Initiatives. The Local Community Initiatives are designed to comply with EPA mandates requiring public notice, to inform and educate the public about the CCMP and to solicit and encourage public support for the CCMP.

Specific local communities have been identified based on sub watershed data. The Public Outreach Coordinator, with key members of the local community, other local agencies and ADEM will conduct two rounds of at least one meeting in each of the ten sub watersheds. The first round will be conducted with the draft CCMP. The critical final round of LCI presentations will occur after publication of the final CCMP.

The Mobile Bay NEP staff will identify and invite potential responsible parties and community thought leaders to the LCI meetings. The general public will be included in the LCI meetings by public notice, advertising and other methods of communication.

Future actions in 2003 will target meetings in local communities to educate local leaders and promote support of implementation actions..

Project Objectives:

1. To inform local leaders and general public about CCMP.
2. Identify CCMP issues of concern and related action plans relevant to each watershed area.
3. Identify CCMP action items beyond the scope of sub watershed control, thereby highlighting the need for cooperation and collaboration.
4. Generate support for CCMP from local communities with goal to obtain commitments for funding and implementation of specific action items.
5. Identify mechanisms for continuing involvement of the local community.
6. Implement mechanisms to promote continued active involvement of the community.

Project Deliverables:

Revise local community identity and data base
 Revise white paper on each local community
 Conduct community meetings

EPI-A1.16: CCMP Implementation Workshops

Performing Organization:	MBNEP Program Office
Principal Investigator:	N/A
FY03 Funding:	0
Total Funding:	\$4,000
Priority Issues:	As identified
MBNEP Coordinator:	MBNEP Staff

Workshops and educational seminars will be used to educate Mobile Bay stakeholders and others in this area. The Program Office will seek to coordinate with other organizations or agencies to host or co-sponsor these workshops. The workshops will be designed to seek input from the community and report the results to the Management Conference.

Project Objectives:

1. Prepare, organize and promote workshops
2. Conduct four workshops

Project Deliverables:

Workshop on specific CCMP support topicQuarterly

EPI-A1.17 Speakers Bureau CD-ROM: Task Complete

EPI-A1.18: Community Outreach Activities

Performing Organization:	Mobile Bay NEP
Former Task Number:	3.1.1 yr 4
Principal Investigator:	N/A
FY 03 Funding	0
Prior Year Funding:	\$7,235
Priority Issues:	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	MBNEP Staff

The Mobile Bay NEP participates in a variety of educational settings throughout the year. Workshops or events will be conducted to educate target audiences on the priority issues of the CCMP and other related environmental issues. Speakers will be brought in for events. The Mobile Bay NEP will coordinate and / or partner with other entities toward developing ideas, producing education materials, and conducting the actual workshop.

Project Objectives:

1. Conduct educational workshops that target contractors, developers, realtors, wastewater officials, and the general public.
2. Partner with and identify co-hosts and sponsors for the workshops.

Project Deliverables:

Conduct workshops, of various lengths, throughout the year.

EPI-A1.19: Short PSA Video- Task Complete

EPI-A1.20: Radio PSA- task Complete

EPI-A1.21: APDP- Task Complete

EPI-A1.22: Storm Drain Stenciling- Task Complete

EPI-A1.23: Reprinting “Our Water, Our Future”

Performing Organization:	Mobile Bay NEP
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	Lee Yokel
FY 03 Funding	0
Prior Year Funding:	\$25,000
Total Funding:	0
Priority Issues:	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach Coordinator

The Mobile Bay NEP has received numerous requests locally, state-wide, and regionally for copies of the award winning “Our Water, Our Future”. The MBNEP will make minor changes to update the document and correct pertinent information. The MBNEP will reprint 5000 copies for distribution to the public.

Project Objectives:

1. Update document
2. Solicit area printing partners
3. Print
4. Distribute copies

Project Deliverables:

- Make appropriate changes June 2002
- Print 5000 copies July 2002

EPI-A1.24: Mercury Forum

Performing Organization:	Mobile Bay NEP, MASGC
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	David Yeager, LaDon Swann
Prior Year Funding:	\$6,000
Outside Funding	TBD
Priority Issues:	Water Quality, Human Uses
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director/Outreach
Coordinator	

The concern about the methylmercury found in the Northern Gulf waters, as well as the seafood caught there and the area residents eating this seafood, has prompted strong interest in learning more about the problem. The attention raised by this issue has prompted several Gulf state and federal agencies, legislators, industries, and residents to seek out scientific facts regarding mercury's implications on public health, fisheries and industry.

In response, several organizations including Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, the Mobile Bay Watch, the Mobile Bay NEP, and The Forum are sponsoring the upcoming “**Mercury Forum: An Assessment of Methylmercury in the Northern Gulf Environment**”. It is scheduled to be held May 20-21, 2002 at the Mobile Convention Center in Mobile, AL. Full details including registration information are available on the Mercury Forum's Web site at www.masgc.org/mercury.

The **Mercury Forum** will cover such topics as Mercury in Humans, Mercury in the Environment, Current and Proposed Mercury Science and Education Projects, and Economic Realities of Mercury in the Environment. The meeting will finish with a needs analysis discussion to decide what should be done on this issue in the near future.

Project Objectives:

1. Coordinate with area partners
2. Educate multi-faceted target audience
3. Conduct Forum
4. Provide Recommendations on the Methylmercury issue

Project Deliverables:

Coordinate forum Spring 2002
 Host Forum May 2002
 Provide Recommendations and Follow-up June 2002

EPI-A1.25: Poster Production

Performing Organization:	Mobile Bay NEP
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	Outreach Coordinator
FY 03 Funding	0
Prior Year Funding:	\$6,100
Outside funding	\$3,500
Total Funding:	\$9,600¹⁶
Priority Issues:	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach Coordinator

Posters based on popular “Our Water, Our Future” graphics will be developed. These will include one for the Mobile Bay NEP watershed and a second poster for a historical timeline of environmental developments in the area.

Project Objectives:

- Solicit poster partners
- Expand graphics and provide educational copywrite
- Produce two posters
- Distribute as appropriately to various target audiences and in public forums

Project Deliverables:

- Develop graphic one in February 2002
- Produce 7500 copies of graphic one in March 2002
- Develop graphic two in June 2002
- Produce 7500 copies of graphic two in July 2002

¹⁶ \$3,500 match provided by ADCNR Coastal Section, AUMERC, MASGC and USACE
Created May 23, 2002

EPI-A1.26: Special Events

Performing Organization:	Mobile Bay NEP
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	Lee Yokel
Prior Year Funding:	
Total Funding:	\$4250¹⁷
Priority Issues:	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach Coordinator

The Mobile Bay NEP will host at least two separate public events toward the success of the CCMP. These events will include receptions and/or meals for participants. One event will reflect the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Mobile Bay NEP, and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The second special event will be the actual approval ceremony for the CCMP. Funding is non federal but not considered match and are not counted toward match requirement. These funds are donated funds from various businesses or groups.

Project Objectives:

- Host event for MOA signing
- Host event for CCMP approval
- Host other special events as appropriate

Project Deliverables:

- MOA signing March 2002
- CCMP Approval April 2002
- Others as appropriate TBD

¹⁷ Reflects overmatch funds contributed by private entities
 Created May 23, 2002

Task EPI-A1.27 Clean Marina Program

Performing Organization:	Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant
Principal Investigator:	LaDon Swan?
FY 03Funds:	\$ 10,000
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$ 0
Outside Funding:	\$ TBD
Related Priority Issue(s):	
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator

Project Description:

This project will establish and maintain a Clean Marina Program in the Alabama Coastal Area. This program will provide incentives to area Marina owners and operators to participate in a program that improves waste management and operational procedures at participating Marinas. The program will include development of educational and outreach materials, production of plaques and posters (as appropriate) for participating Marinas, initial and followup inspections of participating Marinas and production and circulation of an annual report on the level of participation and effectiveness of the program. Consideration will be given to establishing a variety of incentive programs to encourage area Marinas to participate.

Project Objectives:

- 4) Develop the guidelines and procedures for a Coastal Marina Program in Coastal Alabama.
- 5) Develop educational and outreach materials for the program
- 6) Conduct surveys of participating Marinas for Clean Marina certification.
- 7) Conduct followup surveys to document continuing eligibility for certification.
- 8) Prepare an annual report on the participation in and effectiveness of the Clean Marina Program.

Project Deliverables and Schedules:

Initiate Project in 2003

Task EPI-A1.28 Development of Environmental Indicators

Performing Organization:	Contractor TBD
Principal Investigator:	Issue Work Group Co-Chairs
FY 03Funding:	\$ 10,000
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$ 0
Outside Funding:	\$TBD
Related Priority Issue(s):	
MBNEP Coordinator:	Science Coordinator

Project Description:

The Community Advisory Committee Issue Workgroups will work to develop environmental indicators for each of the priority action areas within the Mobile Bay study area: Water Quality, Living Resources, Habitat Management, Human Uses, and Education and Public Involvement. Indicators might include the sub-objectives listed for each priority item plus the following:

1. Water Quality - measure the improvement of water quality in impaired water-bodies listed on the 303(d) list, measure the improvement of specific parameters such as dissolved oxygen and nitrates
2. Living Resources - measure the return of a threatened or endangered species
3. Habitat Management - measure the increase in acreage of threatened habitats
4. Human Uses - measure the number of public access points, measure the number of environmentally friendly new developments
5. Education and Public Involvement - conduct a telephone survey of residents in Mobile and Baldwin Counties to determine their basic environmental knowledge. Repeat the survey every 3-5 years.

These indicators will be used to measure the success of the implementation of the CCMP in the Mobile Bay study area. Many of the possible indicators are long term and the success of meeting the goals would show the commitment of the Mobile Bay community to environmental progress. Funding identified in this task description will be used to support the Issue Work Groups by contractor (s) familiar with the indicator development processes and with survey methodology.

Project Objectives:

1. Develop indicators of environmental quality in coastal Alabama linked to CCMP Action Plans.

Project Deliverables and Schedules:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|------|
| 1. Issue Work Groups to begin | Fall | 2002 |
| 2. Draft Indicator Review | Summer | 2003 |

Sub-objective EPI-B: Increase public participation by developing and implementing a comprehensive citizen-based-monitoring program.

Action Item EPI-B1: Increase public participation by developing and implementing a comprehensive citizen-based-monitoring program.

No tasks at this time. See item WQ-A1.3

Management and Program Administration:

The MBNEP Program Office works closely with all of the MBNEP Management Conference committees and answers directly to the Policy Committee (Figure 1). Task 4.1 will provide resources for the Program Office to continue program planning, development, implementation, evaluation, and reporting. Staff will provide organizational and logistical support for all of the Management Conference committee meetings and coordinate / communicate as necessary with appropriate groups, including user groups, state, local and Federal agencies, and professional groups relevant to CCMP development and implementation.

Staff will:

- Provide overall coordination for implementation of the CCMP
- Prepare following year workplans and budgets;
- Prepare annual EPA Cooperative Agreement grant applications;
- Administer grants/contracts;
- Amend the Cooperative Agreement workplan as necessary;
- Monitor projects including coordination of workplans, progress reports, and draft/final reports with principal investigators;
- Coordinate project workplans and activities with other local, state and Federal agencies; and,
- Provide for overall Program coordination.

Program staff will participate in regional, state, and national conferences and meetings relevant to estuarine management. EPA has earmarked \$10,000 of program funds for travel related to outreach and technology and information transfer. Attendance at Association of National Estuary Programs workshops and EPA workshops / meetings will be stressed. The remaining portion of the funds will be utilized as earmarked.

In addition to the above, each of the four Program staff will be assigned particular duties and responsibilities, including (but not limited to) the duties as described in work item 4.1

Specific and individual task responsibilities of staff are listed on the heading for each task in the “Year Seven Activities” section of this Plan (i.e staff members are identified with each task listed).

Task MPA.1: Management and Administrative Support for the Management Conference

Performing Organization:	Mobile Bay NEP
Former Task Number:	N/A
Principal Investigator:	N/A
FY 03 Funding:	\$375,000
NEP Prior Year Funds:	\$439,033
Total Funding:	\$814,033¹⁸
Related Priority Issue(s):	N/A
MBNEP Coordinator:	Program Director

This task includes all necessary items for Program Administration including, Salaries, benefits, rent, supplies equipment, phone and internet services etc. and institutional host indirect costs. These are listed explicitly on Table 1.

Program Director: Responsible for ensuring completion of the commitments set forth in the MBNEP Management Conference Agreement. Provides staff support for each committee and subcommittee of the Management Conference and coordinates activities to ensure successful and timely completion of scheduled deliverables identified in the annual workplan. Is responsible for the financial planning of the Program. Serves as point of contact for media and other external inquiries, and provides liaison between the MBNEP Management Conference and other National Estuary Programs for exchange of information relevant to the development of an effective CCMP.

Scientific Program Coordinator: Coordinates and supervises the development of MBNEP scientific and technical programs. Performs key tasks related to the development of action items required for CCMP development and building consensus among the Mobile Bay community. Works closely with the Program Director to coordinate and support Management Conference committee meetings and any other business. Initiates contact with area professionals and organizations involved in estuarine management. Performs technical reviews of project products and other efforts and reports related to the Mobile Bay estuary.

Public Outreach Coordinator (one half time): Works closely with the Program Director, the Science Coordinator, and with contractors to implement the public outreach and education of the NEP. Is responsible for coordinating outreach activities and public education opportunities consistent with the public outreach and education program strategy. Begins full time on Feb 12, 2002.

Administrative Assistant: Works closely with the Program Director and Staff. Conducts general secretarial and receptionist duties. Is responsible for general office management. Provides staff and logistical support to Management Conference committees and subcommittees and is responsible for the accurate preparation of meeting minutes and other reporting

¹⁸ Includes total Indirect Costs of \$290,197 for yrs 4,5 and 6
Created May 23, 2002

requirements as a result of such meetings. Will assist in the development and quality control of work standards.

Funding:

All funding (from whatever source) is included in Table 1. This table shows partner contributions, and in-kind match separately. Accordingly, this comparison shows the amount of funds leveraged by the MBNEP program. The local matching funds are included in totals for year 7 and prior years. Table 2 describes the amount of federal and matching funds and their distribution. Appendix B is a list of Cash Matching Contributions for 2002 and prior. The balance of matching contributions are shown in table 1 as “in-kind”. Total in kind contributions for Year Seven can’t be fully identified at this time since some total project costs are as yet unknown. However the total matching contributions are assured to be over the 50% aggregate required.

Travel:

A listing of all travel as required in the funding guidance is included as Appendix C.

Administrative Cost, Supplies Equipment and Services

These Items are explicitly tabulated in Table 1 for ease of inspection.

Other Tasks

Task MPA.19: Biennial Review- Task Complete

Payment Pending

Project Deliverables and Schedule:

Program Quarterly Reports.....	Quarterly
Year-end Report.....	Sept. 30, 2002
Management Conference Meeting Minutes.....	Monthly
Updates to Management Conference Directory.....	As Needed

CCMP Production

This section contains items necessary to comply with the requirements of a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan as defined by Section 320 of the Clean Water Act.

Task CCMP.1: Writing CCMP-Task Complete

Task CCMP.2: Printing CCMP-Task Complete

Payment Pending

Task CCMP.3: CCMP Communication Plan

Performing Organization:	Lewis Communications
Former Task Number:	3.1 yr 4
Principal Investigator:	Mary Mullins
Prior Year Funding:	\$ 6,000
Total Funding:	\$ 6,000
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director, Public Outreach Coordinator

Distribution of the final copy of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan will be modeled on efforts to distribute the first draft, which will occur in Y3. Distribution and public communication efforts of the final CCMP will include but not be limited to:

- Press conference
- Press releases
- Placement of paper copy in libraries
- Placement of paper copy in Universities and Colleges
- Placement of paper copy in area agencies
- Broad distribution by mail to targeted recipients
- Inclusion on Mobile Bay NEP website
- Links to other selected websites
- Information campaign to selected business and industry

Project Objectives:

1. To effectively and completely distribute the final CCMP to all targeted audience.
2. To effectively publicize the final CCMP in the local media.
3. To effectively place paper copies of the final CCMP at targeted locations.

Project Deliverables And Schedules:

Publicize final CCMP.....	3rd Quarter FY02
Distribute final CCMP.....	4th Quarter FY02

Task CCMP.4: CCMP Finance and Implementation Plan- Task Complete

Task CCMP.5: Federal Consistency Review-Task Complete

TABLE 2
FUNDING TABLE FOR YEAR SEVEN (FY03) and Prior Years
TOTAL PLAN

Source of Funds	Amount	
EPA Federal Grant		
Special Earmark		500,000
Travel		10,000
Base Funding	\$	814,875
Supplemental		10,000
EPA Invasive Species Grant (IRLNEP/MBNEP-10% match req'd)		20,000
	Subtotal	\$ 1,354,875
State / Local Match (required \$ 973,219)*:		
Cash Match**		\$ 634,793
(provided by State of Al, City of Mobile, Mobile County, Baldwin Co. and several Mobile and Baldwin Co. Municipalities and certain industrial contributors. County and municipal shares based on population)		
In-Kind Match		
(Industrial Partners, State Agencies, Municipalities, Institutions)		
		\$1,026,065
	Subtotal	\$1,660,858
Total Funds for Year Six (FY02) and Priors		\$3,015,733
Match Information¹⁹	Total	Percent
EPA Grant		
Total Federal Funds	\$ 1,354,875	45
Total Non-Federal Match	\$ 1,660,858	55
TOTAL	\$ 3,015,733	100

This table and the totals above only include the MBNEP EPA Grant and matching funds. It does not include funds identified on Table One as originating from partners contributing to accomplishment of work plan items. Such funds may be from other Federal sources and thus cannot be counted as matching funds. Nevertheless they represent major contributions to the MBNEP program, are a part of the work plan, and ultimately are a part of the total program cost. Our partners will devote \$1,740,657 toward accomplishing CCMP action plans. Table One provides a specific breakdown of all anticipated funds and sources.

*Required Match based on 50 % requirement for FY03 and FY02 (\$510,000 plus \$340,000) 25% for prior years EPA Funding (\$484,875) and 10% for Invasive Species Grant.

** Cash Match for FY03 identified as \$160,000 from sources above and as listed in Appendix B.

¹⁹ Reflects new match requirement to begin fiscal year 2002. Non-Federal match requirement was increased from 25 to 50 percent for program implementation.

Match Requirement for Federal Funds Changed from 25% in Years 4 and 5 to 50% in Year 6. Total Match is above required Match amount as is shown in the "required" statement above.

TABLE 3
EXPENDITURES BY OBJECT CLASS CATEGORY
Year 7 FY 03 and Prior Years
TOTAL WORK PLAN

Component	Contract	Salaries	Fringe	Travel	Supplies & Equipment	Other	Indirect
WQ – Water Quality	\$222,000				\$1800	\$33,000	
LR – Living Resources	\$ 60,000				\$1000	\$ 37,500	
HM – Habitat Management	\$286,000					\$35,500	
HU – Human Uses						\$51,000	
EPI – Education & Public Involvement	\$171,600				\$8,800	\$219,435	
Program Management & Administration	\$12,500	\$295,641	\$73,910	\$25,500	\$29,467	\$90,872	
CCMP Production	\$48,000						
Program Totals	\$800,100	\$295,641	\$73,910	\$25,500	\$41,067	\$467,307	\$286,143

This table includes only federal grant funds and cash match. It does not include in-kind match funds.

