MOBILE BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

CCMP WORKPLAN
for
YEARS EIGHT, NINE AND TEN
(Fiscal Years 2004, 2005, And 2006)

Funding from FY 2005 EPA Appropriations

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Appendix

PREFACE

This document provides annual financial and task-based information to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Estuary Program Work Plan requirements. The focus of this Work Plan continues to be the implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), approved by USEAP on April 22, 2002.

On June 3, 2005, Suzanne Schwartz, Director of the Oceans and Coastal Protection Division of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued guidance for the development of the FY 05-06 Work Plans and related reporting requirements. New assistance agreement policies include:

EPA Order N. 5700.7-- Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements
This order ensures that EPA assistance agreements are results-oriented and aligned with EPA's strategic goals, such that, all annual Work Plans
- be aligned with the goals and objectives of EPA's Strategic Plan and the Governments Performance and Results Act;
- included well-defined outputs an, to the maximum extent practicable, well defined outcomes.

EPA Order No. 5700.5A1- Policy for Competition and Assistance Agreements
In the event that Mobile Bay National Estuary Program competes a portion of its CWA Section 320 funds, it must comply with all Competition Order requirements.

EPA Order No. 5700.8- EPA Policy on Assessing Capabilities of Non-Profit Applicants for Managing Assistance Awards
This pre-award order establishes controls for determining the administrative and programmatic capability of non-profit organizations applying for EPA assistance agreements and enhances post-award oversight of those agreements. The pre-award order applies to all awards to non-profit organizations made on or after March 31, 2005. There is a $200,000 threshold above which a pre-award review for administrative capability is required.

This is the Tenth Annual Work Plan for the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP). It describes the work items to be carried out for Fiscal Year 2006. It also includes continuing tasks that are part of the prior year's (2005) work plan. These are items where additional FY 2006 funds will be used to complete or further these previously funded, longer term tasks.

The FY2006 Plan is an addition and extension of the Year 2005 Plan. This Work Plan provides for tasks that support implementation of x actions of _total actions 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. The Management and Program Administration sections support all CCMP Action Plans and the continuance of support for the Management Conference.

The organization of this work plan is designed to allow easy comparison with the MBNEP 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 review of the tables included is key to understanding this Work Plan. These tables taken as a whole satisfy the requirements of the funding guidance. Table 1: All Projects describes all new, ongoing or completed projects, with funding, match, and leverage for total project costs. Table 2: Ongoing Projects, provides further detail about those projects that are in progress. Table 3: New Projects provides information on projects to be initiated this coming year. Table 4: Local Entity Support provides information on funds awarded locally to further activities of the CCMP. Table 5: Match Sources provides detail information about which activities have generated match and what type of match is expected. Table 6: Leveraged Funds for 2004, 2005, 2006 provides detail on funds leveraged by this grant since its origination.

The Year Ten Work Plan provides additional funding toward the EPA Grant that was awarded in FY 2004. Accordingly, the grant application for Year Ten (FY 2006) is in the form of an addition and extension to the Year 9 (FY2005) Plan. This will be the final extension (constituting a three year funding cycle) for this grant.

The MBNEP 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 / Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium (DISL) became 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, DISL and the MBNEP. This work plan was approved by the Management Conference on May 19, 2005 and is available to the public upon request.

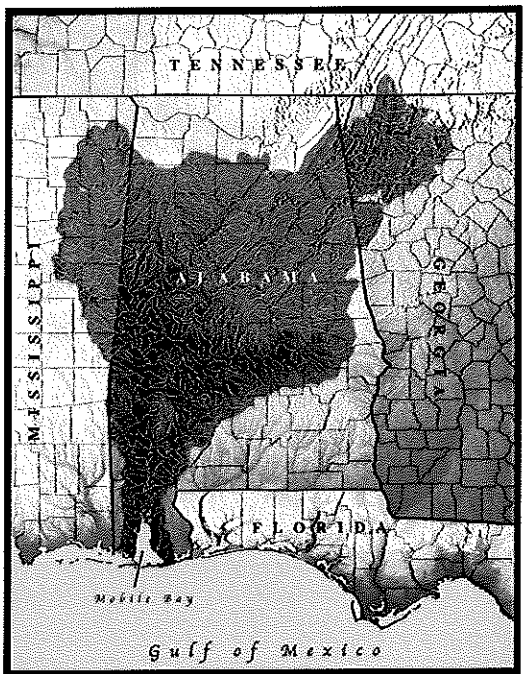
Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Overview

Purpose, Goals, Objectives

The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program's (MBNEP) mission is to promote wise stewardship of water quality and living resources of the Mobile Bay and Tensaw Delta. Established as part of the Clean Water Act and funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency, MBNEP serves as a catalyst for activities of estuary stakeholders, helping to build community based organizational capacity for sound resource management and leveraging commitment and investment to ensure the estuary's sustainability.

MBNEP's purpose is to encourage a community-based approach to watershed management by empowering citizens, grassroots organizations, government agencies, and educational establishments to work together to address local environmental challenges. MBNEP's objectives are to engage these groups in the development of a comprehensive conservation and management plan, act as a catalyst to leverage greater funding for sustainable estuary activities, and to educate the communities surrounding the estuary about the how to best treat the Mobile Bay and its surrounding watersheds to ensure their protection and conservation for our lifetime and beyond.

MBNEP works within a set of guiding principles to maximize its effectiveness in promoting estuary health.
Those that live it know it- Those citizens, fishermen, boaters, scientists, hunters and others have a unique insight into the environmental challenges we face, what works, and what doesn't. This plan capitalizes on their insight.



The Mobile Bay Watershed

Economic opportunities must be available- Our coast is an economic engine, creating well over three billion dollars in wealth for our state each year through such activities as trade through the Port of Mobile, commercial fishing, tourism, hunting and coastal homebuilding. This plan incorporates economic impacts and promotes smart growth practices where ever and when ever possible.

Environmental Stewardship efforts depend on each other- The Mobile Estuary benefits from the efforts of many diverse partnerships, collaborations, consortiums and associations. These groups of disparate interests come together, in part through the MBNEP's watershed based management process, to develop comprehensive solutions to challenge that threaten the estuary's sustainability. This plan promotes this "watershed based management" cooperation, acknowledging the need for multiple purpose programming.

It happens in the river, in the sea, and on the street- Involvement of citizens in carrying out environmental activities aimed at improving the Bay and its watersheds is paramount to ensuring the long-term health and vitality of the Mobile estuary. This plan encourages citizen input, involvement, and education, recognizing that ultimately, citizens must be actively engaged in balancing the many uses of the Bay so that we can preserve its unique natural resources for all of our needs.

Both in the analysis of data and the development of this Work Plan, MBNEP has remained acutely aware of the budget constraints under which the State, Counties, and municipalities must operate. To this extent, the priorities and activities have been formed to give maximum weight to feasible projects.

Federal Resources

EPA Allocation and Non Federal Matching Share

Each year the MBNEP receives an allocation from EPA to support activities geared toward achieving the objectives of the CCMP. This allocation for the Year 10 Work Plan (2005-2006) is $511,966. EPA requires that this allocation be matched with non-federal dollars in a 1:1 ratio, or an additional $511,966 in cash or in-kind valuation. This match may be in the form of cash investments, donated property valuation, or in-kind equipment, professional, or volunteer services (see Match section). The combined total amount of resources that will be available to further program activities will be valued at $1,023,932 for Year 10.

Gulf of Mexico Program (GOMP)

The Gulf of Mexico Program facilitates collaborative actions to protect, maintain, and restore the health and productivity of the Gulf of Mexico in ways consistent with the economic well-being of the Region. To date, MBNEP has received over $540,324 in Gulf of Mexico Program (GOMP) grants to support a water management strategy for Eight Mile Creek, wetlands resource measurement baseline development, SAV gardening, and Oyster gardening programs. *MBNEP anticipates applying for GOMP funding in the next year to further coastal habitats restoration project planning.*

Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP)

In fiscal year 2001, the US congress authorized the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) to assist states and local communities in mitigating the impacts of Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas development and production. Alabama received a one time grant of approximately $21,000,000, of which MBNEP received $390,000 to fund an analysis of fish data, air deposition sample analysis, a study of Living Resources in the Delta, and Mobile Bay water monitoring. *No further funding is anticipated from this source.*

Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant Consortium (MASGC)

The Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant Consortium is dedicated to activities that foster the conservation and sustainable development of coastal and marine resources in Mississippi and Alabama. Sea Grant is NOAA's primary university-based program in support of coastal resource use and conservation. The MASGC is an important partner to MBNEP in implementing many CCMP actions. MASGC provides technical expertise, program development assistance and is a leader of many initiatives related to CCMP objectives.

NOAA Restoration Grants/ Gulf of Mexico Foundation (GOMF)

Through NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program, administered by the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, funds citizen-driven habitat restoration projects which benefit living marine resources and foster local stewardship throughout the Gulf of Mexico region. In 2003, MBNEP received funding for derelict crab trap removal and creation of shellfish habitat ($42,981), in part used to support oyster gardening. In 2004, MBNEP received a Five Star Grant ($9,100) to further support our oyster gardening program. Although there are no plans to apply for this funding in the 2006-07 program year, MBNEP will seek funding through this program in its 2007 year to institute a restoration project for Isle aux Herbes.

Army Corps of Engineers Participation (USACE)

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) actively participates in the implementation of many of the actions of the CCMP. USACE has developed, or is in the process of developing Preliminary Restoration Plans (PRP), valued at approximately $10,000 each, for two separate habitat restoration projects. Once both of these PRPs are complete, USACE will request Section 204 funding. These projects are both estimated to cost over $1 million. A combined planning and design report, valued at over $80,000 is already in progress for the DI Causeway Restoration. In addition, USACE has partnered with MBNEP to restore the shoreline along Helen Wood Park along the Dauphin Island Parkway. USACE will work to break wave energy, thus reducing erosion,

while MBNEP works with the State to create greater public access at that site. USACE participation in CCMP activities represents a crucial resource for moving projects forward.

State Resources

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources State Lands Division (ADCNR)

Because the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has a long term interest in Alabama's Coastal Resources and the statutory responsibility for the conservation, management, and protection of these resources through its State Lands Division, Marine Resources Division, Wildlife and Fresh Water Fisheries Division, State Parks Division and particularly through the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program, it has entered into a memorandum of agreement to provide annual funding to MBNEP as part of it's non-federal match requirement, as an investment toward implementation of the actions of the CCMP. MBNEP has received $180,000 ($60,000 per year) for the past three years and anticipates a continuation and potentially and increase of this funding stream. In addition, through its various divisions, ADCNR has provided funding for Habitat Mapping, workshops, newsletters, Isle aux Herbes Restoration Planning, DI Public Access Feasibility study and others on the order of $315,000 to date. MBNEP anticipates continued project based support from ADCNR.

Local Resources

The following local governmental entities provide continuing financial assistance to the MBNEP on an annual basis to support the implementation of the CCMP. Although these communities only allocated funding annually, MBNEP anticipates expanded support from these and other coastal communities in the future. At present MBNEP is cultivating Spanish Fort, Dauphin Island, Gulf Shores and Foley.

City of Mobile-	$ 32,000	City of Daphne-	$ 3,000
City of Fairhope	$ 3,000	Mobile County	$26,500
Baldwin County	$10,000		

Private Funding

During this program year, MBNEP anticipates receiving $20,000 from Alabama Power/The Forum to support the independent data analysis of atmospheric deposition monitoring. In addition, the Nature Conservancy has given $5,000 for delta hydrology/Causeway study and is active with habitat conservation planning and project efforts. On a limited basis, MBNEP receives funding from other sources on a project by project basis.

In-kind Contributions

MBNEP depends on volunteer support and local contributions of other in-kind services to achieve program success. On a yearly basis, in-kind contributions account for over half of the non-federal share of match that MBNEP is required to raise as investment in implementing the CCMP. This in-kind support is generated from volunteer labor hours related to activities including but not limited to oyster gardening, crab trap monitoring, and participation in area environmental events. Other in-kind services include, use of city owned machinery, the value of land donated for conservation purposes, and private donations to cover expenses incurred for events and activities carried out by local grassroots organizations and sponsored by MBNEP.

Geographic Distribution

Although the actual watershed for Mobile Bay encompasses more than three quarters of the State of Alabama and portions of Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee, MBNEP's primary target area is limited to southern Alabama, including all of Mobile and Baldwin Counties, from the eastern edge of coastal Alabama its western coastal border. In addition it extends seaward to the three-mile state jurisdictional limit. MBNEP's target area also includes Mississippi Sound, up to the Mississippi/Alabama boarder. Major waterways include the Tombigbee, Tensaw, Mobile, Alabama, Dog and Fowl rivers; and the Chickasaw, Norton, Threemile, and Eightmile creeks.

Community Partnerships

The Management Conference of the MBNEP is composed of leading representatives of local, state and federal governmental agencies, representatives of all resource management organizations, and a wide variety of interested citizens and community stakeholders interested in protecting and conserving the living resource and habitat base of the Mobile Estuary. These community leaders set direction for the MBNEP as well as advise on the routine operation of the Program office. A key principle of the Management Conference is to coordinate and cooperate with other ongoing resource management activities to avoid unnecessary duplication. *In this regard, the program office plays a major role in coordinating estuary projects and outreach activities, thus providing a more far–reaching benefit than that of simply CCMP project management.* This cooperation and coordination is key to successful CCMP implementation.

MBNEP Goals and Accomplishments

Program Accomplishments and Transferable Success Stories 2004-2005

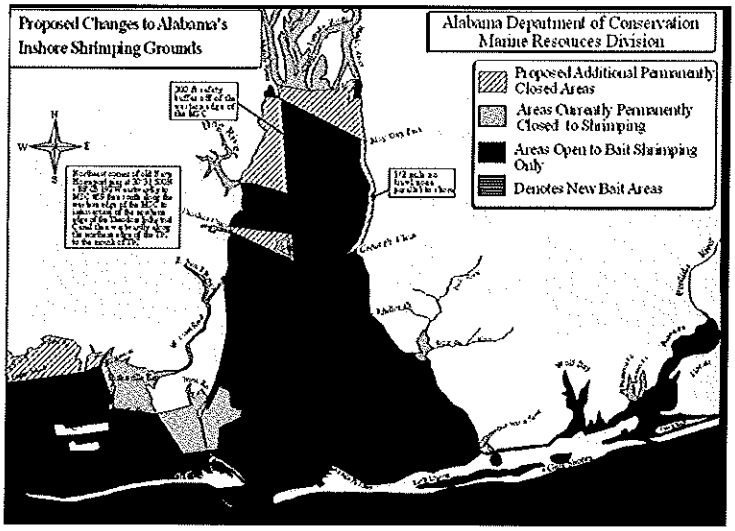
The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program is currently managing two separate NEP/EPA Grants. The first grant represents activities funded from FY2003 and prior years EPA allocations (Grant #400). The second grant combines Year 8 (FY2004), Year 9 (2005) and will be added to this year with Year 10 (2006) (Grant #417). The first grant is nearing completion and will be closed out in March of 2006.

Steady and substantial progress is on going for the second grant and expenditures are maintaining pace with progress. A final addition and extension will be requested to this grant for Year 10. Due to the fact that the MBNEP staff is currently working on projects identified in both work plans, the following section, *Programmatic Goals Achieved during 2004-2005* will address both grants.

Environmental and Programmatic Goals Achieved during 2004-2005
The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program had some notable general successes this year. These include:

Data and Information Management System (DIMS) Although this project had experienced many false starts in the past, the initiation of a contract this year with a clearly defined scope and the addition of necessary DISL staff have made this a reality. A habitat restoration data base, water quality data base, investigation of metadata standards for researchers, creation of a GIS capability and development of a CCMP data base and reporting system are all in progress. This will prove valuable to researcher and citizen alike.

Community Forums: Shrimp Trawls MBNEP facilitated community discussion and conducted several public forums on the issue of closing portions of Mobile Bay to shrimping or other trawling activities. This platform allowed conservation and fishing industry interests an opportunity to engage in a cooperative dialogue which resulted in a 3-year closure to all trawling in portions of the upper Mobile Bay by the Alabama Department of Conservation. See New ADCNR Shrimping Regulation MR-2004-14 issued 9 June 2004. This closure will protect SAV resources, reduce juvenile finfish by-catch in these sensitive estuarine nursery areas and ultimately allow harvest of larger shrimp in areas remaining open. This action helped establish the MBNEP as a consensus seeking "honest broker" among competing interests. It also resulted in stronger relations with members of the organized seafood industry in coastal Alabama, a goal long desired but not previously accomplished.



51 CCMP Indicators MBNEP worked with over 65 community leader to develop an initial set of 51 indicators for tracking the environmental condition of Mobile Bay and coastal Alabama. An intensive one day workshop bringing together scientists, resource managers and citizens resulted in this preliminary list. The list will be pared to ensure indicators that: 1) can easily be used to communicate with the public, 2) are currently monitored or considered sufficiently important to warrant additional monitoring and 3) sufficiently represent an accurate assessment of environmental conditions. An indicator task force has been established and is working on this task with an expected completion date in early 2006. A status report to the public will be scheduled for later that year.

Bumper Stickers and Public Awareness The Community Advisory Committee continued activities during this year, holding periodic "environmental Happy Hours" to discuss local environmental issues. Although attendance has been less than desired, those that remain active have been productive in several different ways: n a number of positive articles in the Baldwin County newspapers have been published about the MBNEP and its progress toward environmental challenges; a bumper sticker was developed through a contest among area ninth graders to raise public awareness about local environmental concerns. In addition, several local newspaper articles have highlighted marine science (for example Harmful Algal Blooms present).

Status and Trends Major progress has also been made in developing status and trends data on the five issue areas identified in the CCMP. This progress includes: initiation of a new sub-estuary water quality monitoring project, instituting a continuous bay wide time series monitoring project, rapid assessments to monitor invasive species, the analysis of over 20 years of collected fish population data to evaluate trends, the first comprehensive modern survey of submerged aquatic vegetation and a comparison with historical data, a completely updated NWI wetland survey and upland habitat survey for Mobile and Baldwin counties, a land use-land cover map for Baldwin county and other baseline data collection to provide a solid science basis for evaluating status and trends.

AMRAT 2 The completion of the second year's effort of the Alabama Mississippi Rapid Assessment Program was also an unqualified success. One hundred and twenty participants from twenty-two agencies and organizations collected over 730 samples from coastal Mississippi. Many native and non-native animals and plants were classified and accessioned into the GCRL museum to serve as type specimens to aid in future study and identification. A complete list of all the species identified during this survey was compiled and is accessible through the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission website. The surveys validated the presence of previously identified or suspected non-native plants and animals and added some new information. New arrivals include: a population of Nile Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus)* and the Wild Taro plant (*Colocasia antiquorum*) noted in Mississippi, the Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea)* noted in both Alabama and Mississippi. Two new state records for mollusks in Alabama were established: a marine snail (*Turbonila puncta*) and a bi-color purse oyster (*Isognomon bicolor*). In addition, changes in distribution of certain native plants like *Spartina alterniflora* and their replacement by a native invasive, *Phragmites* were noted. This was also the first time seaweeds and benthic algae in Alabama coastal waters were catalogued. The surveys received major media attention in the two states.

Water Quality Completed second full year of the first long-term network of real-time, continuous time-series water monitoring stations in Mobile Bay in partnership with the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, the University of South Alabama's Center for Estuarine Studies and the Weeks bay National Estuarine Research Reserve which provides basic data from three new sites in Mobile Bay and links an established site at Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; (The most recent addition to the network, the site at Middle Bay is unique in that it utilizes a YSI Vertical Water Profiling System and provides information throughout the water column. Meteorological and hydrographic parameters measured include: wind speed and direction, air temperature, barometric pressure, solar radiation, quantum radiation, precipitation, water temperature, water height, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity. (Grant #417)); a preliminary report (phase1) has been completed concerning the probable impacts of the Mobile Bay Causeway on fresh and salt water hydrology in the Mobile Delta and its attendant impact on aquatic living resources. The project will continue with additional monitoring. (Grant #400); completed one-year enterococcus monitoring project with ACF. (Grant #400)

Habitat Management Completed Strategic Assessment and Identification of coastal Alabama habitat priorities and further cooperative work; MBNEP and TNC held Coastal Alabama Habitat Conservation Strategy Workshops; identified subset of attendees as Coastal Habitats Coordinating Team; identified 16 priority sites for conservation protection and others for targeted restoration efforts(GOMP Grant); completed Cogon Grass elimination on portion of Bayou Sara Tract purchased by Alabama State Lands Division (Delta Wetlands Restoration). (Grant #400); completed EMERGY Analysis for Weeks Bay Watershed (Grant#417); completed contract with Vittor and Associates for Comparing historical SAV coverage with current coverage and analysis of best potential restoration sites (SAV Management Plan). (Grant #417); completed LAND Use/Land Cover Mapping for Baldwin County using Florida Land Use/Land Cover Classification Categories. (Grant #417).

Living Resources The analysis of 20+ years of previously unanalyzed fisheries population data by Dr. Valentine under contract to MBNEP is complete. (CIAP/Grant #400); Alabama Mississippi Rapid Assessment Team completed second successful 4-day assessment on the Mississippi Coast. A new effort in NW Florida/Alabama is in planning stage. (Grant #400/USM/IRLNEP); Completed fourth year of oyster gardening project and approximately 30,000 oysters placed on historic Denton Reef (Hurricane damage and loss of additional oysters before replacement on the reef). (Grant #417/Five Star Restoration Grant)

Human Uses Completed first four day Coastal Alabama Birdfest October 18, 2004 (Grant #400); Completed Montlimar Canal Greenway Park: Opened to Public March 16, 2005. (Grant #400); State Lands Division removed derelict structures and completed a Causeway Restoration Project. (Grant #400);

Education and Public Involvement Completed 2004-2005 participation area events: Coastal Clean-up, Bay Area Earth Day, Environmental Studies Center Open House, Baldwin County Environmental Commission, Discovery Day, Coastal Kids Quiz, Cypress Tree Planting, Derelict Crab Trap Removal, Women in Science,Crab Traps (Grant #417); Completed 2004 Estuary Live Broadcast (Grant #417); Completed Mini-Grants (grant #400).

Major Goals and Focuses for 2005-2006

Overall

Our major goals for Year Ten are to develop a strategic plan that sets out priorities for MBNEP, to expand data management information, to further an indicator program with the production of a Community Indicators Report by summer, 2006, and to prepare for the Tier V Implementation Review (February 2006). In addition MBNEP will begin data analysis on atmospheric deposition data, coordinate project teams related to habitat restoration activities, begin planning on a Housing Demonstration Project that incorporates smart growth concepts, conduct workshops on storm and waste water issues, and increase our local capacity, including an investigation of recruiting businesses to develop environmental management systems. Finally, the MBNEP will continue to serve as a catalyst and advocate for the CCMP action plans in Coastal Alabama. For specific details, please refer to the work plan task descriptions, and Tables 1 and 2 in this document.

Strategic Planning

Implementation of the CCMP began with approval of the CCMP. Many of the actions identified in the CCMP are now either initiated, underway and on-going, or in some cases completed. The transition from planning and development to implementation has compelled MBNEP to reassess its role within the environmental community so that it can more clearly position itself to generate increased support, investment and ownership among local governments, the state, private industry, members of the management conference and the community at large.

The purpose of engaging in strategic planning is to focus limited resources on areas of the CCMP that are most critical to sustaining the estuary. The goal of this effort is to revitalize efforts already underway to implement the CCMP. The objectives are to revisit the objectives and action plans of the CCMP to evaluate what gaps in implementation exist and to develop a strategy that includes priorities for implementation, updating of objectives, modifications to the plan as needed, identification of outcomes and attaching indicators to the priorities as identified at the Indicator workshop. The purpose of engaging in organizational planning is to correctly position MBNEP to address the long-term environmental issues affecting the estuary. The goal of this planning effort is to clarify MBNEP's role in implementing the CCMP and building long term support for activities that strengthen the health and vitality of the estuary. The objectives of this effort are to identify MBNEP's role among the many organizations working to address environmental issues related to the estuary; develop an effective organizational structure for carrying out this role; create an investment strategy for long-term financial (matching) support from community leaders; and to publish an education and cultivation tool that outlines the investment strategy and can be used to generate further investment in estuary conservation.

Indicator Development and Reporting

MBNEP has engaged in an Estuary Indicators Program to gauge activity progress in implementing the Mobile Bay CCMP impacts on sustaining the Mobile Bay Estuary. During a one day workshop held February, 2005, scientists, resources managers and citizens came together to develop a list of 51 indicators spanning water quality, living resources, human uses, habitat management and education/public involvement that are supported by existing data sets. These indicators describe key components of ecological, demographic and economic conditions of our community; its environmental awareness and action.

To oversee this program, MBNEP has established an Indicator *Task Force* which includes a mix of scientists, resource managers, and interested citizens. This task force has been charged with recommending a process for coordinating with other agencies and collecting data; recommending a reporting mechanism for communicating to the public; and evaluating the effectiveness of indicators identified, making recommendations for any changes. The projected timeline of activities spans from May, 2005 through the publication of an indicators report to the public projected to be complete by June, 2006.

Data and Information Management (DIMS)

In an effort to increase the level of monitoring of living resources, MBNEP continues to develop a Data Information Management System including a GIS component that will provide base, locus, and other graphic maps related to the CCMP. A web-based DIMS will be based on the recommendations in the *Final Report and Recommendations on Data and Information Management Systems (Southeast Digital Mapping, LLC).* The purpose of this system is to provide a gateway for information related to key living resources of the NEP area. The objectives are to provide graphical depictions through mapping of biodiversity activities throughout the NEP area, to provide a central point for data entry of environmental agencies activities in a way that is useful to the entity while making the data available for aggregation, and to provide a mechanism for educating the public about the diverse living resources within our fragile ecosystem.

Phase one of the project consists of environmental monitoring real-time data display, currently available on line. All MBNEP publications and reports are also being added to the site along with special project results. A searchable Water quality Characterization database is also presently on-line. A habitat restoration database component is being developed in coordination with the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Program to catalogue all restoration projects in coastal Alabama and Mississippi that in progress. SAV maps and photos are also

currently available, Habitat maps and the NWI Wetlands Inventory will also be a part of this project. In addition, work has begun on a "CCMP Report Card" that will provide a user with information on the status of implementing the activities contained within the CCMP. Finally, we plan on providing the capability through DIMS, to access metadata on all research funded through the Alabama Center for Estuarine Studies (ACES). These interactive data management systems will be available to the public by 2007.

Implementation Review

The MBNEP successfully completed its first Implementation Review in 2002. The second review will culminate in a site visit in June 2006. However documentation will be submitted in February 2006. Preparation for this review will be a major focus during the Fall 2005 period. Items highlighted in the last review will be examined and a thorough review of CCMP action completion /initiation will be completed. This review is actually underway at present as we build a CCMP database. This database will serve as a basis for an Estuary Report Card.

Issue Areas

Habitat Management: The guidance developed in the Strategic Assessment for Coastal Alabama will be used to direct our habitat restoration/acquisition activities. Restoration Activities and development of incentives for habitat restorations that conform to the strategic assessment will be promoted.

Human Uses: Work has been initiated with a local realtor and non-profit specializing in low impact design to develop an affordable housing scenario utilizing low impact and environmentally sound principles in south Mobile County. A potential developer has been interested in participating in this much needed project. Affordable housing is an environmental issue and certainly a cultural contributor to a community landscape free of point and non-point source pollution.

Storm and Waste Water Issues: The issues of regional waste water management and control of storm water runoff have assumed a priority in our area especially since we have the highest average annual rainfall in the nation. Work is planned to work with certain local communities and organizations to develop effective methods of dealing with this double-edged problem. Tools from workshops to model ordinance development will be incorporated.

Citizen Involvement: One effective method of involving citizens in successfully meeting environmental challenges is to build additional capacity in local environmental/civic organizations and state and local governments. The MBNEP will actively seek to be the catalyst that provides an increased capacity in these type organizations. The move away from a project focus to this form of local support is one of the MBNEP priorities to be able to effectively utilize scarce fiscal resources.

Environmental Management Systems: Investigation into county-wide EMS systems is being undertaken. This is in agreement with EPA Region 4 activities. The MBNEP is in a unique position to help make such system possible in Mobile County. Discussion and appropriate follow –on actions will be initiated with local business leaders and county officials.

MBNEP New and Ongoing Projects

Major efforts have been made to complete all projects listed work plans from past years. The work plan task descriptions are often updated to show new completion dates. In some cases, Work Plan tasks may also have been combined or eliminated (and funds added to other tasks) as agreed to by the Management Conference. The following **Table 2: Ongoing Projects**, identifies the tasks that are ongoing as of June 2005.

Table One: All Projects Years 8, 9, and 10- Funding: New, Continuing, Complete Projects

Table Two: Ongoing Projects (through June, 2005)-Status of Continuing Projects

Table Three: New Projects (2005-2006)

MBNEP CCMP Implementation: Project Detail for Years 8, 9, 10

The MBNEP 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 2006 Year Ten Work Plan identifies the tasks that will be performed to address these five issue areas and to accomplish the identified objectives. (This information can also be viewed in **Table 1: All Projects** with a breakout of funding for each year.)

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

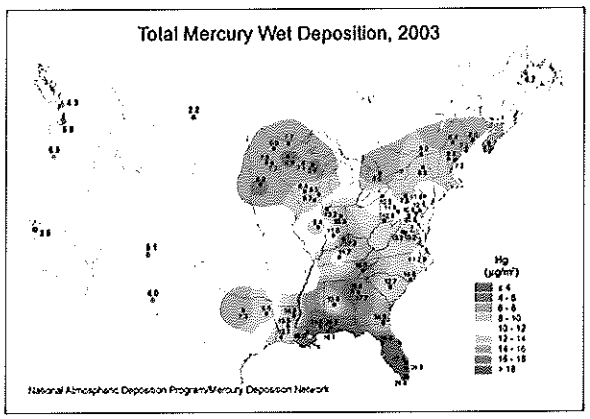
Attain and/or maintain water quality sufficient to support healthy aquatic communities and designated human uses by 2010.

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 MBNEP area.

Task WQ-A1.2 (WQ-A1 step 2): *Atmospheric Deposition Monitoring Support- Continuing*

Performing Organization:	National Atmospheric Deposition Program
Principal Investigator:	Alabama Dept. of Environ. Management
FY 04 NEP Funding	$37,000
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$37,000
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$35,000
TOTAL	$109,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	un-recovered but allowable indirect costs (DISL), cash
Outside Funding:	ADEM Personnel (Federal) $33,000 ($11,000/3yrs)
Related Priority Issue(s):	Living Resources
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director/Project Manager



The MBNEP has two National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) National Trends Network (NTN) monitoring sites where nutrient Mercury Deposition are monitored. The data gathered will assist in the calibration of the water quality loadings model previously developed by Tetra Tech (WQ-A1 step 1). The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and EPA will use the water quality model in Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) assessments and subsequent permitting processes and non-point source control plans. Several action plans in our draft CCMP require these data for implementation. The Air Division of ADEM has committed time and effort in sampling, analysis and maintenance of the atmospheric deposition sites. Samples will be analyzed, quality controlled and results reported through the NADP.

Project Objectives: Maintain the monitoring sites to include sample collection and analysis according to standard protocols. Sampling includes: Ca,Mg,Na,K, NH4, NO3, Cl, SO4, pH, inorganic nitrogen and total Mercury. Report analyses results on a prescribed basis to EPA, ADEM, the general public, and any other appropriate agency through NADP website. As appropriate, deliver this information into the DIMS of the MBNEP.

Task WQ-A1.2 (WQ-A1 step 2): Atmospheric Deposition: Mercury Sources - CANCELLED

Task WQ-A1.2 (WQ-A1 step 2): Atmospheric Deposition Data Analysis- NEW

Performing Organization:	National Atmospheric Deposition Program
Principal Investigator:	Alabama Dept. of Environ. Management
FY 04 NEP Funding	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$20,000
TOTAL	$20,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	cash
Outside Funding:	Alabama Power/The Forum Cash
Related Priority Issue(s):	Living Resources
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director/Project Manager

To date, four years of atmospheric deposition data have been collected through this monitoring effort. The next phase is to look carefully at this data and examine trends, anomalies and potential impacts of atmospheric deposition of Mercury and nutrients in the Bay "airshed". Both the Forum and Alabama Power have agreed (tentatively) to equally share the cost of data analysis for this study. The process for selecting a researcher/contractor will include technical assistance from the scientific community to develop analysis tasks and selection criteria.

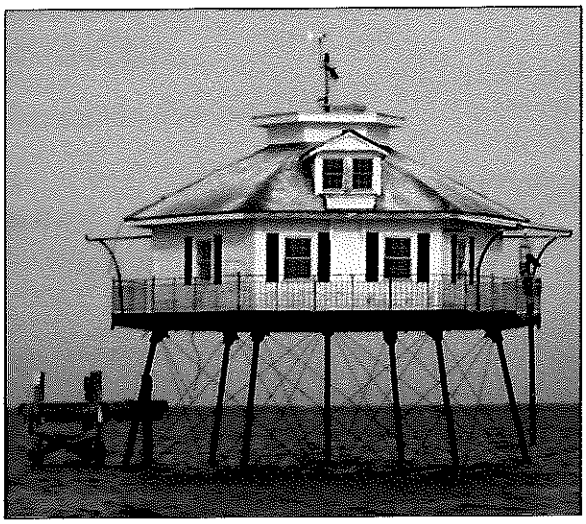
Project Objectives: Identify scientific committee; develop scope of analysis; conduct data analysis; as appropriate, deliver this information into the DIMS of the MBNEP.

Task WQ-A1.2 (WQ-A1 step 2): Real-Time Water Monitoring in Mobile Bay-Continuing

Performing Organization:	DISL
Principal Investigator:	Mike Dardeau
FY 04 NEP Funding	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$30,000
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$30,000
Total Current Plan Funds:	$60,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	donated labor hours
Outside Funding:	$25,000 MBNEP CIAP, $40,000 WBNERR, $30,000 USA/ACES
Oyster Restoration	funding in FY04
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director

This is a continuation of the Water Monitoring Program begun in the Year Seven (FY 2003) Work Plan and funded by CIAP. The Water Monitoring Program will consist of developing and implementing a comprehensive, Bay-wide, water quality monitoring program. 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

standard meteorological measurements plus 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 data management center server and be made available on the internet web site; 3) real-time communication of information to the public, lab analyzed water samples will be reported in the local newspaper. The data collected will greatly assist in determining the designated water use criteria for the State of Alabama and providing baseline readings for 303(d) improvements.



Project Objectives: Implement a multi-faceted approach for comprehensive water quality monitoring for the Bay and establish additional monitoring sites; establish agreed upon sample collection, handling, storage and analysis protocols for implementing the monitoring plan; collect water quality samples at designated sampling sites consistent with agreed upon protocols; 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.

Task WQ-A1.4 (WQ-A1 step 2): *Delta Research and Monitoring Survey- Continuing*

Performing Organization:	DISL
Principal Investigator:	Dr. John Valentine/ Susan Sklenar
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$ 0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$ 0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$ 0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$0
NEP Prior Funds:	$15,000 FY03
EPA Match:	
Outside Funding:	$52,500 ($40,000 BayWatch, $7500 Al. Power, $5000 TNC$88,000
CIAP	
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director/MBNEP Project Manager

The Mobile-Tensaw Delta (Delta) is a freshwater dominated estuarine system at the base of the Mobile River Basin drainage basin. Since 1930, approximately 20 large dams and other major water control structures have been built on the Delta's two primary feeder streams – the Alabama/Coosa/ Tallapoosa and the Tombigbee/Black Warrior river systems. Within the Delta proper, a large dike-like causeway has sealed off a number of once open bays from immediate contact with the Gulf. These hydrological modifications have potentially altered the hydrography of one of North America's largest, most productive and diverse estuaries on a local and system-wide basis.

It is hypothesized that these modifications have dramatically altered the productivity of ecological communities within the lower Delta via reduced water exchange and altered circulation patterns, changes in nutrient cycling and increased incidences of exotic and invasive plant species. There is some evidence that the herbaceous marsh community, so critical as a nursery area to many Gulf species, is being replaced by drier scrub forest at an accelerated rate, and that a number of commercially and recreationally important species such as white shrimp, tarpon and speckled trout have declined in response to reductions in available estuarine habitat.

A committed partnership of scientists and hydrologists from the DISL, the MBNEP, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Alabama Power Co., the Scenic Causeway Coalition and Mobile Bay Watch, Inc./Mobile BayKeeper

proposes to more accurately gauge the impact of the structures on the productivity of the Delta. This would include its freshwater and brackish water estuarine components, the relative impacts of each of the structural modifications by using an extensive battery of monitors and sampling techniques.

Project Objectives: Establish and maintain a network of monitoring sites across the lower delta to monitor DO, salinity, temperature and other parameters; analyze data to develop an understanding of the influence of water management practices and hydrological alterations on biota in the area; determine, to the extent possible, the degree to which the causeway has reduced habitat function and ecosystem productivity in our coastal waters; provide local and regional environmental managers and planners with insights into the importance of restoring unimpeded circulation in the northern reaches of Mobile Bay.

Task WQ-A1.2 (WQ-A1 step 2): *Water Monitoring in Mobile Bay tributaries- Continuing*

Performing Organization:	ADEM
Principal Investigator:	Mark Ornelas, ADEM
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$0
NEP Prior Funds:	$150,000
EPA Match:	
Outside Funding:	$
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Project Manager

This 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. Sub-estuaries for the first round of monitoring include: Fish River/Weeks Bay, Bon Secour and Bayou La Batre. This implements a task outlined in the MBNEP Monitoring Plan. This Task is identified in prior years Work Plans as "Monitoring Program Implementation".

Project Objectives: Provide support to implement the monitoring plan in area tributaries; establish agreed upon sample collection, handling, storage and analysis protocols; use a "probabilistic" sampling scheme to be able to make statements regarding water quality; collect water quality samples at designated sampling sites; maintain analyses results in a database and report them on a prescribed basis to MBNEP DIMS.

Task WQ-A1.2 (WQ-A1 step 2): *Eight Mile Creek/Gum Tree Branch- 303(d) List Removal*

Performing Organization:	ADEM, Mobile Engineering
Principal Investigator:	Mark Ornelas, ADEM
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$0
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	
Outside Funding:	$192,089 GOMP funding
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director/Project Manager

This project examines the hydrology and drainage basin characteristics, pathogen load and source identification for pathogens in Eight Mile Creek and Gum Tree Branch in the Cities of Mobile and Prichard, AL. Both of these streams are listed as impaired due to pathogens in the Alabama 303d list submitted to the EPA and they

drain to Mobile Bay and ultimately to the Gulf of Mexico. The completion of this project will result in a determination of pathogen sources and thus remediation actions necessary to be taken by state, municipal and utility authorities to remove these streams from the 303d list of impaired water bodies in AL.

Project Objectives: Establish the existing water quality of each water body and ascertain the degree of impairment; collect, assimilate and compile information about various potential sources into GIS.

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.

No task currently identified.

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

No task currently identified.

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 MBNEP 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 MBNEP 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 (WQ-C1 step 1): *Clean Marina Program-NEW*

Performing Organization:	MASGC
Principal Investigator:	Shonda Borden, AUMERC
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$10,000
Total Current Plan Funds:	$10,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$11,985
EPA Match:	
Outside Funding:	MASGC funding not known at this time
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach Coordinator

Alabama and Mississippi joined other states concerned with water quality by establishing the Alabama-Mississippi Clean Marina Program. This unique bi-state effort is a voluntary, non-regulatory program that promotes responsible marina operating practices in the interest of protecting the environmental resources that support their business. It is led by Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium in partnership with many other groups, including ADCNR, Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center (AUMERC), Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, and the MBNEP. The program will help marinas protect the very resource that provides livelihood and enjoyment for the Gulf Coast: clean water. Over time, the Clean Marina program will help to encourage marina operators to use more responsible practices, inform boaters of environmentally sensitive practices, and create better communication of existing laws by offering recognition for creative and proactive marina operators implementing these practices.

In the program's first year, Alabama designated two marinas as Clean Marinas: Zeke's Landing Marina in Orange Beach (which has since shut down due to hurricane Ivan) and Dog River Marina in Mobile. There are several more marinas in Alabama pledged to work towards becoming a Clean Marina within the second year. Likewise, Mississippi has also designated two marinas, the Beau Rivage Marina and The Palace Casino Marina in Biloxi, with additional pledges slated for designation within the next year. It is estimated that eight marinas will be designated in the second year of this bi-state program.

Project Objectives: Recruit 4 new marinas over the course of next year; provide workshops and boater education at least 3 times a year

Task WQ-C1.1 (WQ-C1 step 4): *Septic Tank Inventory - CANCELLED*

Sub-objective D: Evaluate the sources and loads of toxic chemicals to MBNEP 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 MBNEP area and reduce and/or eliminate, if possible, toxic chemicals in identified problem areas.

No task currently identified.

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

No task currently identified.

II. Living Resources

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

Sub-objective A. Gather the information necessary for the conservation of economically and/or ecologically important species, including threatened and endangered species (within the MBNEP 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 MBNEP area.

Task LR-A1.5 (LR-A1 step 5): *Data Information Management System (DIMS)- Continuing*

Performing Organization:	DISL
Principal Investigator:	Lei Hu
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$40,839
FY 05 NEP Funding	$40,839
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$81,678
NEP Prior Funds:	$90,500
EPA Match:	$67,561 DISL waives administration charge on GIS/DIMS and provides 43% in-kind match, Equipment and hardware provided by DISL; Mobile Bay Watch Water Monitoring Database
Outside Funding:	Community Agency funded data set development
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	DIMS Manager

Information that is easily understood and user-friendly is vital to the MBNEP 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 development of the MBNEP's DIMS. 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 DISL, 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 as an online system and be available to other resource managers. It will be supported by DISL staff resources.

Project Objectives: Continue development of the MBNEP DIMS as information becomes available. Establish web and other electronic linkages to make it accessible; identify Data Management needs and assess methods/organizations and/or tehcnology needed; initiate planning for Data Management associated with Environmental Monitoring; continue development of protocols, participate in regional data monitoring activities/organizations.

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 MBNEP area, thus restoring ecological relationships.

Task LR-B1.1 (LR B1-Step 1): *Management Plan for Aquatic Nuisance Species-Continuing*

Performing Organization:	TBD
Principal Investigator:	LSU/Tulane
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$15,000
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$15,000
Total Current Plan Funds:	$30,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	
Outside Funding:	$ 15,000 other sources TBD
Related Priority Issue(s):	All Living Resources
MBNEP Coordinator:	MBNEP Director

In 1995, the National Research Council identified aquatic invasive species as one of the five greatest threats to the marine environment. Each state Governor has been requested by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) and to develop a local plan to manage the threat posed by aquatic nuisance species. The Gulf Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, administered by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC), has issued this call to our gulf state governors. Alabama is the last gulf state to initiate any action on development of a Management Plan for aquatic nuisance species. However, recently the ADCNR Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries was designated the lead agency for aquatic nuisance species planning and interest has been kindled in initiating plan development.

The ADCNR approached the MBNEP as a potential partner. The funding contained in this work plan is approximately one-half that required (estimated) to complete a plan using a contractor. The ADCNR will use GSFMC or other funding to provide the balance. The MBNEP will be a member of the task group and help manage the development of the plan. The development of such a plan builds upon the Rapid Assessment Survey of last year and planned follow-on efforts thereby making very efficient and wise use of available funding.

Project Objectives: Meet with LSU/Tulane University to develop scope of plan; develop request for proposals/engage contractor; conduct series of workshops/interviews to gather data; prepare plan for comment; complete by 2006

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 (LR-C2 step 1): *Oyster Reef Mapping- DELAYED*

Task LR-C2.1 (LR-C2 step 1): *Oyster Reef Restoration (Gardening)- Continuing*

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Principal Investigator:	Kara Lankford
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$5,000
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$8,000
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$12,000
Total Current Plan Funds:	$25,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	Volunteer Labor
Outside Funding:	$9,132 NOAA 5 Star Grant, $42,981 GOMF
Related Priority Issue(s):	Habitat Management, Water Quality
MBNEP Coordinator:	Project 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 originally funded in FY01 by the Gulf of Mexico Program and continued in 02, and 03 with MBNEP and NOAA funds. For FY 06, MBNEP will support all phases of the project; volunteer recruitment and management, supplies, and oyster acquisition as well as distributing the oysters for restoration. 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.

Project Objectives: Provide citizens with information on the importance of oysters and oyster reefs to the Mobile Bay ecosystem; provide a hands-on activity for volunteers to participate in a restoration project; improve oyster resource populations.

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 (LR-C3 step 1): *Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program- Delayed*

Performing Organization:	ADCNR MRD, MBNEP
Principle Investigator:	Leslie Hartman, AL Marine Resource Division
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$5,000
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$5,000
Total Current Plan Funds:	$10,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	Cash, volunteer Labor
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 Marine Resource Division, in association with the Coastal Conservation Association and the MBNEP is tentatively 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 300 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: Conduct a full-day trap recovery program in late winter; organize volunteers; secure sponsorship for dumpsters and necessary materials; educate the public; reduce crab and by-catch mortality due to "ghost" trap catches.

III. Habitat Management

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.

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.

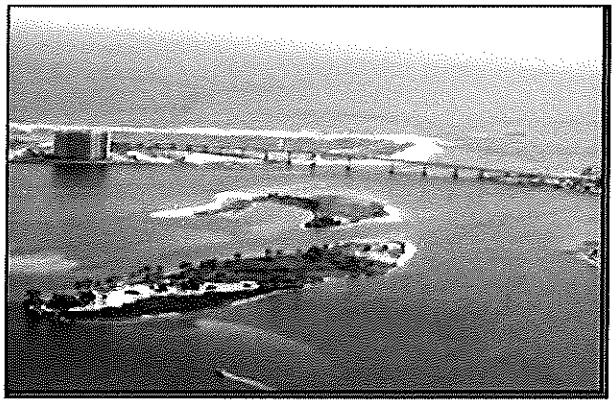
Action Item HM-A1 Identify and prioritize sites of particular sensitivity, rarity, or value in the MBNEP area for potential acquisition and/or restoration, maximizing the contributions of existing preservation and management sites and the capabilities of all agencies and organizations involved in these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

Task HM-A1.2 (HM-A1 steps 2a): Coastal Habitats Strategic Assessment-Continuing

Performing Organization:	MBNEP, TNC
Principal Investigator:	N/A
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$0
NEP Prior Funds:	$2,000 (ref. workshops budget)
EPA Match:	$14,638 (prior grant match)
Outside Funding:	City of Mobile, USACE-$10,000
initial study, TNC, $26,099 GOMP	
Related Priority Issue(s):	Water Quality, Human Uses
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director/Project Manager

The Coastal Habitat Coordinating Team (CHCT) is part of the MBNEP's on-going effort to create public/private partnerships to conserve critical habitats throughout the MBNEP area. At the first annual meeting of the CHCT, a diverse group of conservation organizations and government partners met to create a list of 17 priority acquisition and 31 priority restoration projects for coastal Alabama. Beyond identifying common priorities, the group also began to identify partnerships for achieving protection of these sites.

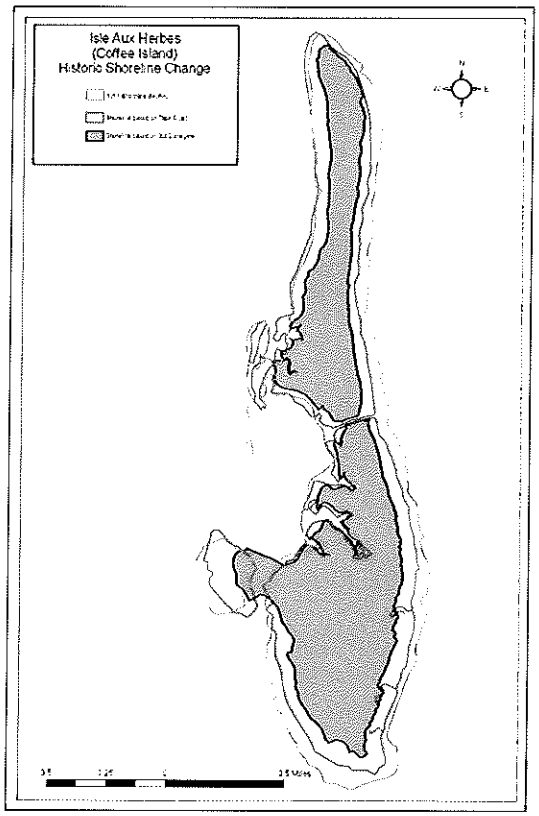
In May 2005, the MBNEP in partnership with TNC and GOMP held the second meeting of the CHCT. The objective of the second annual meeting was to develop a model for collaboratively engaging public/private partnerships towards habitat protection and conservation efforts at the priority sites. During this meeting, two projects: Dauphin Island Migratory bird Habitat and Robinson Island Restoration. The long-term goal of this effort is to leave in place a team of local conservation experts to facilitate information exchange, the development of partnerships and resource sharing.



Project Objectives: Convene a Coastal Habitats Coordinating Team; create an atlas of priority habitat conservation sites; bring priority site project managers together with team to provide targeted technical assistance on an annual basis.

Task HM-A1.2 (HM-A1 step 2e): *Habitat Restoration Incentive Program-Continuing*

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$35,000
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$26,742
Total Current Plan Funds:	$61,742
NEP Prior Funds:	$20,000
Outside Funding:	$50,000
Related Priority Issue(s):	HM-B1, HM-D1 and HM-E1
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director/Project Manager



The MBNEP will issue requests for proposals or partner with other agencies to conduct habitat restoration projects within the MBNEP study area. Acceptable restoration projects may include acreage enhancement, acquisition, or restoration. An effort to use native plants will be made for these projects. A Habitat Management 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. The intent of this restoration program is habitat improvement with some degree of permanence (25 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; restoration of coastal watershed; support of Gulf-wide habitat goals; increased public involvement and leverage.

Task HM-A1.2 (HM-A1 step 2e): *Legal Assistance for Community Habitat Conservation-NEW*

Performing Organization:	MBNEP and MASGC Legal Program
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$3,000
Total Current Plan Funds:	$3,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
Outside Funding:	Not Known
Related Priority Issue(s):	HM-B1, HM-D1 and HM-E1
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director/Project Manager

In order to determine the legislative and other infrastructural requirements of habitat management and restoration, MBNEP must investigate Alabama and federal laws as well as local municipal regulations and ordinances that govern zoning and land use issues. MBNEP will contract for legal assistance to research current laws both within the state of Alabama and at the federal level, as well as research other community ordinances and regulations aimed at managing sensitive habitat. This information will be used to develop ordinance templates and model regulations that can be used by local communities.

Project Objectives: Develop ordinance template for use by local communities

Task HM-A1.2 (HM-A1 steps 2 h,k): *3 Mile Creek Restoration Project*

Performing Organization:	City of Mobile, USACE, MBNEP
Principal Investigator:	Jenny Jacobson USACE, John Bell City of Mobile
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$0
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	
Outside Funding:	$10,000 USACE PRP, City of Mobile
Related Priority Issue(s):	Water Quality, Human Uses
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director

At the request of the City of Mobile and the MBNEP, the USACE has agreed to undertake a feasibility study for restoration along a portion of an unnamed flood control canal and 3 Mile Creek. The objective is to investigate the feasibility of diverting some of the canal water back into the original 3 Mile Creek channel. A Preliminary Restoration Plan was completed by USACE and the City agreed to serve as the non-federal sponsor for the USACE cost share. MBNEP will begin work with our congressional delegation to identify USACE restoration funding for this project.

Project Objectives: Design project for diverting water back into 3 Mile Creek channel; enhance area with habitat restoration; investigate and implement public access and educational enhancements for the area in association with area Greenway plan.

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 Estuary

Task HM-B1.1 (HM-B1 step 1a,b): SAV Restoration Management Plan-Continuing

Performing Organization:	Vittor & Associates
Principal Investigator:	Tim Thibaut
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$20,000
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$20,000
NEP Prior Year Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	Contributed services
Outside Funding:	$5000 in-kind TBD
Related Priority Issue(s):	Living Resources
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director/Project Manager

This is an extension of the SAV mapping contract. The contractor is using NRCS photography from the 1940s, historical studies, new data and bathymetry to produce a map showing the locations, extent and depth at which SAVs have lived along the Alabama Coast. This map will result in status and trends for SAVs in coastal Alabama, show areas of potential restoration and will be a valuable tool for mitigation projects where SAVs must be relocated.

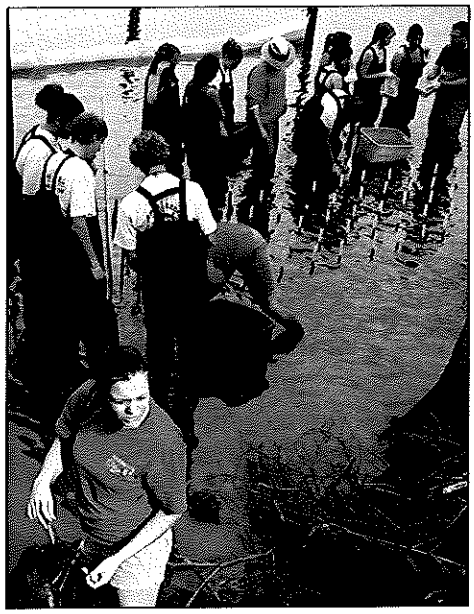
The SAV restoration management plan will divide up the coastline into regions based on salinity or SAV species composition. Each region would be divided into low, medium and high priority restoration areas. Classification criteria will be detailed for the low, medium and high priority restoration areas. (For instance, low priority might be due to heavy boat traffic or some other condition not present when SAVs originally grew in that area.) The report will also state any obvious considerations to a restoration area which would possibly enhance or hinder a restoration project. Potential acreage within each classification would be identified. Total potential acreage would also be identified for coastal Alabama.

Project Objectives: GIS layers and associated map depicting historical SAV coverages, current SAV coverages and bathymetry; SAV Restoration Management Plan – a report detailing historical findings, a status and trends analysis, listing of potential restoration sites with a classification ranking of low, medium and high priority for restoration.

Task HM-B1.1 (HM-B1 steps 1c,f): SAV Gardening Project-Continuing

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Principal Investigator:	Dr. Just Cebrian, DISL/ Lisa Allen, GSHS
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$0
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	Volunteer labor
Outside Funding:	$31,500 GOMP, $2,000 Exxon-Mobil internship(DISL),
$10,000 GSHS Toyota Grant	
Related Priority Issue(s):	Education and Public Outreach
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach/Education Coordinator

This project will be an expansion of a pilot volunteer SAV gardening project begun in 2003. This is the first project along the Gulf Coast to: 1) cultivate *Vallisneria americana* and *Ruppia maritima*; 2) transplant harvested or cultivated plugs; and 3) solicit volunteer support. This project involves identification of planting sites, cultivating and planting SAV, and subsequent monitoring for transplant success. As success is demonstrated, additional SAV maybe added to the program. Partners include DISL, MBNEP, WBNERR, and GSHS.



Project Objectives: Develop a manual, cultivate SAV, solicit partners, involve volunteers, and support GMP SAV objectives.

Action Item HM-C1 Maintain and/or Improve Beneficial Wetland Functions within individual watersheds of the MBNEP 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 (HM-C1 step 1): *Wetland Restoration Planning- CANCELLED*

Task HM-C1.1 (HM-C1 steps 1a): *Environment Evaluation/EMERGY Analysis-Complete*

Performing Organization:	TAI/Strand Associates
Principal Investigator:	Don Blancher, Mark Brown, FSU
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$12,000
FY 05 NEP Funding	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$12,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	$5,337 contributed services
Outside Funding:	TBD
Related Priority Issue(s):	Living Resources
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director

The accounting of economic values across a wide variety of resources, both man-made and natural, is achievable using the formal process of Emergy Analysis. Emergy is a measure of the available energy required, directly and indirectly to make a product or service. It is a way of calculating the value of both natural and man-made items on an equal basis and indicates their true contribution to the human economy. Emergy analysis can be used in the design of sustainable development at all scales of the environment. The Emergy analysis of wetlands, coastal zones and their restoration, and of entire watersheds may lead to the development of sustainable designs in harmony with both man and nature. The cost benefit analysis of large-scale environmental restoration projects can be accomplished using the tools provided by Emergy analysis.

This is a pilot project. Complete analysis of all habitats is needed for our area. This project will focus on just one portion of the complete series of habitats: wetlands. If funds are available, additional habitats will be evaluated. The results of this project can be used for wetland permitting, wetland restoration, and public outreach.

Project Objectives: Gather data needed for analysis; complete analysis of wetlands; provide information to the public and regulatory agencies regarding the economic value of Coastal wetlands.

Task HM-C1.1 (HM-C1 step 1b): *Habitat Mapping Project- Continuing*
(formerly Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Assessment)

Performing Organization:	USGS
Principal Investigator:	Larry Handley
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$0
NEP Prior Funds:	$529,263
EPA Match:	
Outside Funding:	$363,000 ($170,000 GOMP; $18,000 ADEM; $150,000ADCNR)
Related Priority Issue(s):	Living Resources
MBNEP Project Coordinator:	Director

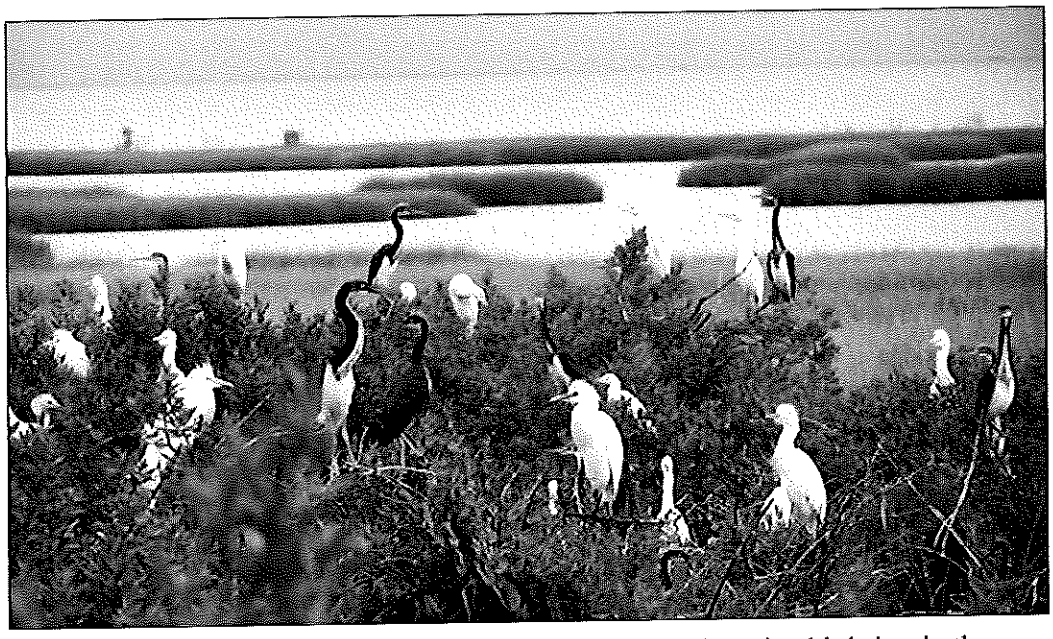
The focus of this project is to gather digital color-infrared geo-referenced photography of Mobile and Baldwin Counties to determine a baseline. Photography has been collected and digital ortho quads have been completed for Mobile County. Color infrared photography will be acquired during the winter December 2003-February 2004 for Baldwin County. The product will be color infrared digital orthophotos of Baldwin County in GeoTIFF format. The photography will meet national map accuracy and GIS standards. The resulting photography for both counties will then be mapped to provide classification of wetland and upland habitats using Cowardin, et.al wetland classification system, and uplands using Anderson/Handley level II upland classification scheme. This is a multi-year project. 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 and Baldwin Counties.

Project Objectives: Determine status and trends; quantify the extent of wetlands and other habitats loss or conversion within Mobile and Baldwin Counties by habitat type, watershed, and cause; produce a GIS map layer and attribute file portraying the above information; produce a hardcopy map of Mobile and Baldwin Counties habitats; make available on DIMS.

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 bulk heading 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.

Task HM-E1.2 (HM-E1 step 2): *Colonial Bird Nesting Habitat Survey- Continuing*

Performing Organization:	DISL
Principal Investigator:	John Dindo
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$15,000
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$15,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$15,000
EPA Match:	contributed services
Related Priority Issue(s):	Living Resources
MBNEP Project Coordinator:	Project Manager



Establishing a baseline of nesting area information for colonial nesting birds (including shorebirds, seabirds, and wading birds) sites in the MBNEP area is important to determine status and trends for management decisions and public information. The quality and quantity of bird nesting sites may be an important indicator of ecosystem health and extent of human impacts. A complete inventory of all colonial nesting bird sites in the MBNEP area had not been completed in recent history. Partial surveys for bird-nesting sites were conducted as part of the Mobile Bay symposiums. Documentation of existing colonial nesting bird sites is essential to developing a conservation plan that may include protection of existing sites and management or enhancement of others. Efforts will be made to coordinate the project with other similar, ongoing programs and projects to build upon and ensure efforts are not duplicated.

Project Objectives: Create a map of nesting sites of colonial birds for Mobile and Baldwin Counties; incorporate into CHCT priority sites.

IV. Human Uses

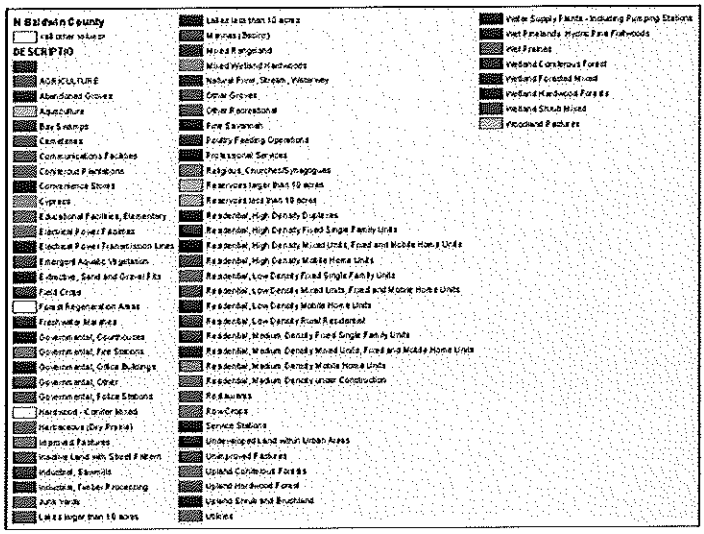
Provide consistent, enforceable, regional land and water use management that ensures smart growth for sustainable development and decreases the negative impacts of growth related activities on human health and safety, public access, and quality of life by developing and implementing plans consistent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

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

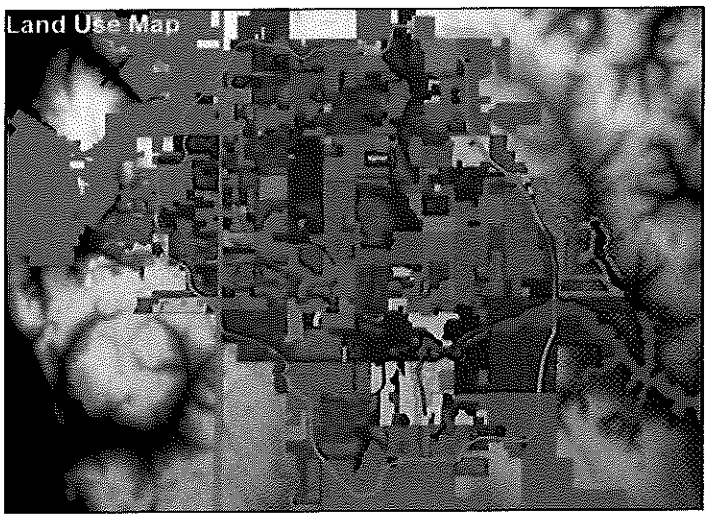
Action Item HU-A1 Develop and implement land use planning that ensures smart growth for sustainable development designed to abate sprawl and loss of aesthetically pleasing environment.

Task HU-A1.1 (HU-A1 step 1): *Detailed Land Use Land Cover Database- Complete*

Performing Organization:	Baldwin County, Alabama
Principal Investigator:	Cara Stallman
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$30,000
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$30,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	$221,828
(Baldwin County MOA)	
Outside Funding:	$50,000 State
Lands Coastal Division/NOAA	
Related Priority Issues:	Water Quality
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director



Conduct an inventory of land uses/Land cover for Baldwin County, Alabama using the Florida Land Use/Land Cover Classification System (FLUCC). Integrate current land use coverages already developed at the state and local levels and current land cover types resulting from the wetland habitat mapping projects. The resolution will be at 1 meter. The resulting database will be updated periodically every 5 years. The inventory will be useful for TMDL implementation and for future land use planning and sustainable growth efforts. MBNEP will work with Mobile County to develop a similar project.



Project Objectives: Detailed land use land cover map that can be integrated into TMDL model; Land use land cover map used for smart growth and urban planning in both counties.

Task HU-A1.1 (HU-A1 step 1): *Coastal Conservation Planning-NEW*

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$10,000
Total Current Plan Funds:	$10,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	Cash, volunteer labor hours
Outside Funding:	
Related Priority Issues:	Water Quality, Habitat Management
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director/Project Manager

MBNEP will work with local communities to aid in the development of land use/conservation plans that ensure smart growth for sustainable management and development. One project will address stormwater run-off for Baldwin County communities and another will examine conservation planning for a Mobile County community.

Project Objectives: Provide technical assistance to local communities to develop long range strategies for consistent, enforceable, land and water use management

Task HU-A1.2 (HU-A1 step 2b,c): *Healthy Coastal Communities Initiative-Continuing*

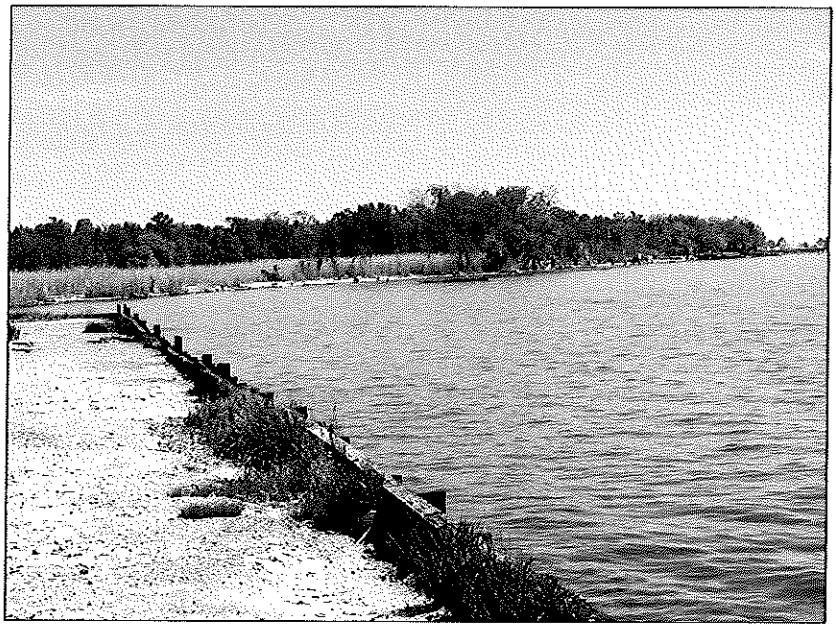
Performing Organization:	MBNEP, MASGC
Principal Investigator:	Smart Coast (formerly Interlink, LLC)
FY 04 NEP Funds	$3,000
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$5,000
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$8,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$88,410
EPA Match:	contractor contributed services
Outside Funding:	$13,500
Related Priority Issues:	Public Education and Outreach, Habitat Management
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach/Education Coordinator

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." Activities will involve supporting the actions of partners such as the City of Mobile, Envision Mobile-Baldwin and other groups. The MBNEP will play a role from planning to implementation of these various projects. In addition, funding will be provided to initiate "Builders for the Bay" patterned after a similar organization in Chesapeake Bay.

Project Objectives: Investigate Chesapeake "Builders for the Bay" for replication in South Alabama; Conduct Smart Growth Summit; Support local Smart Growth Initiatives such as development of Model Ordinances and Transportation Planning; Publish Smart Growth Survey

Task HU-C1.1 (HU-C1 step1): *Public Access – Helen W. Wood Park DIP- Continuing*

Performing Organization:	ADCNR-State Lands Division Coastal Section
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$25,000
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$25,000
NEP Prior funds:	$30,000
Outside Funding:	$60,000 (ADCNR); City of Mobile in-kind services, volunteers, $5,000 USFWS; USACE (PRP for breakwater development)
Related Priority Issue(s):	Habitat Management, Public Education and Outreach
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director; Outreach/Education Coordinator



Located along Dauphin Island Parkway in Mobile, Alabama, seven acres of waterfront property were donated to the ADNCR. This acreage is available for restoration to create native habitat, public access, and improved water quality. Partners involved in this restoration plan will include the MBNEP, ADCNR, City of Mobile, Parkway Pride, Plaice and Johnson Landscape Architects and volunteers. Restoration includes removal of exotics, removal of pavement, planting native vegetation, paving with permeable materials, and building a boardwalk. The USACE has developed a PRP for an offshore breakwater along the property to reduce wave energy. Citizens of Mobile County will benefit from the restoration project. The result is both a habitat restoration and public access project. Several hundred yards of shoreline will be restored.

Project Objectives: Create new public access site, restore natural habitat conditions.

Task HU-C1.2 (HU-C1 step 2): *Dauphin Island Causeway Public Access Study-NEW*

Performing Organization:	MBNEP, ADCNR
Principal Investigator:	Charlene LeBleu, Auburn University
FY 04 NEP Funds	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$0
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	Contractor Contributed services
Outside Funding:	$20,000 (including match of $10,000 for ADCNR)
Related Priority Issues:	Habitat Management
MBNEP Coordinator:	Project Manager

The demand for boat ramps and waterfront access is on the rise in Alabama. Furthermore, the trend of waterfront development is increasingly private which limits public access. Complimentary to a major restoration

project being conducted by USACE, MBNEP is partnering with ADCNR and MASGC to undertake a public access project along the Dauphin Island Parkway causeway. The USACE project is chiefly geared toward restoration of approximately 4 acres of wetlands habitat and 1 acre of oyster reef in southern Mobile Bay. The objective of the Public Access project associated with this restoration is to develop pocket parks and possible boat ramp in this area to increase public access to Mobile Bay. Before any decisions are made regarding public access opportunities, MBNEP engaged a contractor to assess the feasibility of developing this area for public access.

Project objectives: Evaluate the potential for a proposed new public access boat ramp; determine the appropriate slips and other amenities, analysis of site for pocket parks and view spots; prepare a master plan including graphic renderings; provide a written report containing the conclusions of the feasibility study and survey analysis.

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.

No tasks identified at this time.

Action Item HU-B2 Restore to more natural hydrological conditions, where feasible, MBNEP waters that have been adversely impacted by artificially created structures.

No tasks identified at this time.

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.

No tasks identified at this time.

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.

V. Education and Public Involvement

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

The Education and Public Involvement Workgroup of the MBNEP 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 Work Plan 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 Work Plan 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 *Strategic Planning/Management Conference Retreat-Continuing*

Performing Organization:	Bellwether Group
Principal Investigator:	Mary Mullins
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$10,000
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$10,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$16,585
EPA Match:	Donated services
Outside Funding:	
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Project Manager

Although the MBNEP continues to enjoy the strong support of some local governments and our state sponsor, there is uncertainty and a lack of understanding of the role and function of the MBNEP among the public and some members of the management Conference. The MBNEP is currently following recommendations contained in the *Implementation Strategy and Finance Plan* prepared for us by Battelle in 2001. These recommendations include the need to focus on annual work plans as a means of generating local rather than long term strategic planning. This recommendation envisioned completing short-term projects, building a record of success, and demonstrating an ability to implement locally relevant policies as a means to both continued local support and generating sustainable long - term support. To a degree, this has been effective. However, the project approach requires a high level of sustained activity to hold public attention. It requires sustained funding and intensive staff effort to be effective. This is the drawback to such an approach since it limits resources available for participation in area activities and issues, longer term planning, and development of new action plans to cope with changing conditions. A related issue is how do we more effectively engage the public in implementation. In order to maintain the momentum, MBNEP will actively explore ways to identify how MBNEP can position itself within the environmental community as more relevant to coastal Alabama.

Project Objectives: Revisit the objectives and action plans of the CCMP to evaluate what gaps in implementation exist; develop a strategy that includes priorities for implementation, updating of objectives, modifications to the plan as needed, identification of outcomes and attaching indicators to the priorities as identified at the Indicator workshop; identify MBNEP's role among the many organizations; develop an effective organizational structure; create an investment strategy for long-term financial (matching) support from community leaders; publish an education and cultivation tool that outlines the investment strategy.

Task EPI-A1.1 *Support for Second Implementation Review Report-Continuing*

Performing Organization:	TBD
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$5,000
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$5,000
NEP Prior Funds	$0
Outside Funding:	TBD
Related Priority Issues:	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director/Project Manager

As a requirement of implementation, the MBNEP must complete an Implementation Review to be approved by EPA. This item may in part be contracted to an outside entity. This work plan document serves as the foundation for the biennial requirement.

Project Objectives: Write and deliver report as required by EPA.

Task EPI-A1.2 (EPI-A1 step 2c): *Alabama Mississippi Gulf Symposium- NEW*

Performing Organization:	MBNEP, MASGC, DISL, Alabama Cooperative Extension (ACES)
Principal Investigator:	Lee Yokel, Shonda Borden
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$20,000
Total Current Plan Funds:	$20,000
NEP Prior Year Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	
Outside Funding:	$20,000 TBD; $10,000 ACES
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach/Education Coordinator

The purpose of the symposium is to promote environmental stewardship through science and community based environmental management in the North Central Gulf of Mexico. The major theme of the symposium is the integration of research and management as it relates to the effects of human activities on coastal ecosystems. The objectives of the symposium include reviewing status and trends as well as citing case studies related to water quality, living resources, and habitat management. Partners include the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, Gulf Coast Research Lab, Alabama Center for Estuarine Studies, and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. The tentative date is November 2006.

Project Objectives: Bring together the scientific community with resource managers as a vehicle for information sharing.

Task EPI-A1.2 (EPI-A1 step 2c): *Water Report- DELAYED*

Performing Organization:	TBD
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$0
NEP Prior Year Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	
Outside Funding:	$10,000 TBD
Related Priority Issue(s):	Water Quality
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach/Education Coordinator

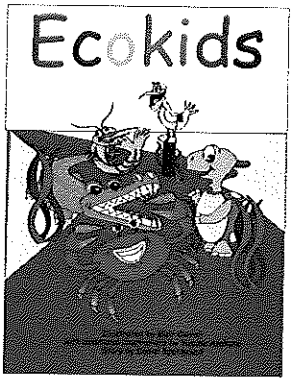
As new information and data become available, area citizens are updated on the status of water quality in the Mobile Bay and along the coasts. This document will serve to share new information the MBNEP and its conference members have obtained and highlight continuing issues and concerns with the water quality. This will be a water quality report on the Mobile Bay estuary. The development of this report will be done by a variety of partners and coordinated with ADEM.

Project Objectives: Produce a water quality report based on data collected identifying trends, problems, high quality waters, data needs, and other appropriate information regarding the data collected.

Task EPI-A1.2 (EPI-A1 step 2c): *Estuary Cookbook- CANCELLED*

Task EPI-A1.2 (EPI-A1 step 2c): *Ecokids Coloring Book-Continuing*

Performing Organization:	MASGC, MBNEP, Spring Hill College
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$2,000
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$2,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$1,525
EPA Match:	Volunteer Labor
Outside Funding:	$3,500 (MASGC)
Related Priority Issues:	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach/Education Coordinator



Develop a coloring book for children and place it in area marinas, at schools, and at local events. Coloring book will contain information for children regarding estuarine life to include coloring area, games, and information.

Project Objectives: Obtain original artwork developed by Spring Hill College Graphic Arts Students; make material print ready; obtain partners; distribute; re-print if funds are available.

Task EPI-A1.2 (EPI-A1 Step 2d): Participation in Area Events-Continuing

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Principal Investigator:	Various
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$10,000
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$11,000
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$16,700
Total Current Plan Funds:	$37,700
NEP Prior Funds:	$7,000
EPA Match:	Volunteer labor, contributions
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach/Education
Coordinator	

Participation in trade shows and festivals provides regular exposure for the MBNEP 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, Coastal Kid's Quiz, children's fishing events, and Bay Area Earth Day.

Project Objectives: Participate in and / or support area environmental events

Events that will be supported during **2005-2006** include:

Event	Budget	Date
ACF Kids Quiz	500.00	April, 2006
ACF Tree Planting	500.00	February, 2006
Bay Area Earth Day	1,000.00	April, 2006
Birdfest	5,000.00	October, 2005
Coastal Clean Up	2,000.00	September, 2006
DISL Spooktacular	1,200.00	October, 2005
Dog River Dog Paddle	500.00	June, 2006
Hurricane Landing Canoe Trip	5,000.00	TBD
International Migratory Bird Fest	1,000.00	April, 2006
Total	16,700.00	

Task EPI-A1.2 (EPI-A1 Step 2d): Maritime Center Display-Continuing

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$ 0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$6,500
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$6,500
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	Donated Space
Outside Funding	$6,500
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach/Education Coordinator

From http://mobilelanding.com/, "Serving as a gateway to the Bay area, the Maritime Center at Mobile Landing will reconnect us with our living history. The Maritime Center, with a passenger ferry terminal and regional visitor's mall, will provide a unique transportation hub between the city's downtown venues and to other communities on Mobile Bay and our gulf beaches. In the same facility, we will enjoy a state of the art maritime interpretive complex, with interactive exhibits which will immerse the visitor in our area's maritime connections." The MBNEP will contribute to the exhibit arena with a display about the Bay and Delta. Interactive monitors showing Bay conditions will be included in this new and developing center. Several opportunities exist to incorporate MBNEP themes within the displays.

Project Objectives: Work with Mobile Landing developers and Maritime Museum Staff to establish display; coordinate theme and materials

Task EPI-A1.2 (EPI-A1 step 2e): Development of Stakeholder Report- DELAYED

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$9,000
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$9,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	
Outside Funding:	TBD
Related Priority Issues:	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Project Manager

As indicators are developed and information is gathered, MBNEP will create a stakeholders report that both graphically as well as with descriptive narrative, provide a baseline report to the community of the health of our estuary. This document will also serve to share new information about the MBNEP and its conference members and highlight continuing issues and concerns about the water quality and living resource base of the bay and delta.

Project Objectives: Produce indicator report/publication.

Task EPI-A1.2 (EPI-A1 step 2e): *Mini-Grant Program*

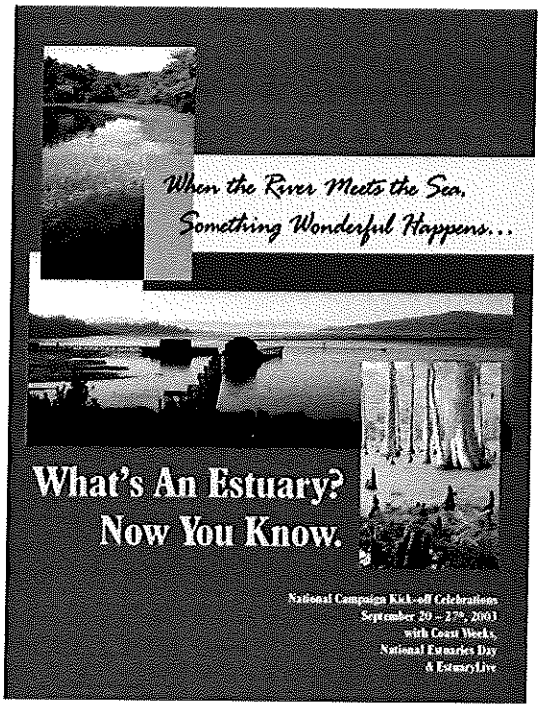
Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Principal Investigator:	N/A
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$25,000
Total Current Plan Funds:	$25,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	Cash/in-kind services
Outside Funding:	various dependent on awards
Related Priority Issues:	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach/Education Coordinator

The MBNEP Mini-grant Program will be re-designed to better clarify program objectives and desired outcomes with the goal of the project continuing to be increased community awareness and education about the environmental issues affecting the estuary. Any grants awarded under this program will be required to directly relate the major issues and objectives of the MBNEP CCMP. Funding ranges, match requirements, and project timelines will be decided in partnership with a Mini-Grant Committee which will be established to oversee program management.

Project Objectives to be determined. Committee to be established.

Task EPI-A1.3 (EPI-A1 step 3a): *National Campaign – What's an estuary?-Complete*

Performing Organization:	ANEP
Principal Investigator:	Gayle Mariner-Smith
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$2,000
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$2,000
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$4,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	
Outside Funding:	Other estuary programs,
national media campaign	
Related Priority Issues:	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach/Education
Coordinator	



The NEP Outreach Campaign will be an integrated National Media Campaign incorporating television, radio and print advertisements/PSAs, the internet, editorial columns and articles in print and electronic media, partnerships with businesses, and a Community Outreach Project that will permeate deeply into the local NEP watershed level. The NEP Outreach Campaign will be designed to be seen by millions across the country and to involve a critical mass of individuals, organizations and businesses to create public awareness about what an estuary is and why it's important to protect. The theme, "What's an estuary? Now you know," has been approved by ANEP and NEP directors.

Project Objectives: Obtain National Sponsor; develop Local Campaign Materials (video, CD, website, radio PSAs)

Task EPI-A1.3 (EPI-A1 step 3a): Local Outreach Campaign- Continuing

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$5,000
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$5,000
NEP Prior Funding:	$0
EPA Match:	
Outside Funding:	TBD
Related Priority Issues:	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach/Education Coordinator

At the request of MBNEP CAC members, a local campaign will be developed to address local concerns. This outreach campaign may take the form of bumper stickers or other useful advertising materials and include use of TV and/or radio time previously budgeted to increase public awareness of specific local issue. Examples might include: bulkheads and armoring shoreline, re-cycling household cooking oil or other actions individuals exercise control over. Concepts, development, and distribution will be decided on by CAC members in conjunction with the MBNEP staff.

During 2005, the CAC undertook a bumper sticker contest with area ninth graders. These are the two winning designs.

Project Objectives: Develop local campaign message; develop local campaign materials

Task EPI-A1.3 (EPI-A1 step 3g): Estuaries Live!-Continuing

Performing Organization:	WBNERR, MBNEP, GBNERR
Principal Investigator:	Margaret Sedlecky, Lee Yokel, Jennifer Buchanan
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$1,000
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$1,000
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	volunteer labor
Outside Funding:	$0
Related Priority Issues:	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach/Education Coordinator

Held on or near National Estuaries day in September, Estuaries Live is an interactive web based program for K-12 students and teachers. National Estuaries Day is an annual celebration to increase the public's understanding of estuaries and the need to protect them. Estuary Live! is an interactive fieldtrip through our nation's estuaries. Trained naturalists will lead the event, telling the tales of our diverse estuaries and the plants and animals who live there. Students and teachers can email questions and have them answered live over the internet!

Project Objectives: Develop script for hour long web cast; conduct web cast; market program.

Task EPI-A1.4 (EPI-A1 step 4b): Workshops-Continuing

Performing Organization:	MBNEP, AUMERC, WBNERR, ADCNR, others
Principal Investigator:	Lee Yokel
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$10,000
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$8,000
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$6,919
Total Current Plan Funds:	$24,919
NEP Prior Year Funds:	
EPA Match:	
Outside Funding:	$20,000 (ADCNR)
Related Priority Issue(s):	All
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach/Education Coordinator

The following workshops have been identified in the CCMP and will be held throughout the 2005-2006 program year:

WQ-B2.2 USGA NAWQA Results- Workshop will educate public on the results of the USGS's Mobile River Basin NAWQA study through presentations to community groups.

LR-A2.2 Enforcement and Regulations for the Protection of Species at Risk- Workshop will assess the need for any changes regarding state regulations and enforcement.

LR-C3-2 Marine Resources Regulations and their Enforcement- Workshop will facilitate communication and cooperation between agency reps., judges, DA's, fishers, and other interested parties and will cover marine resources regulations and their enforcement.

HM-E1.3 Enforcing State & Fed. Regs. Re: Colonial & Migratory Bird Habitats- Workshop will present factors that are adversely affecting bird nesting habitats and will, working with public and USFWS, identify geographic areas where increased enforcement efforts should be targeted.

Project Objectives: Coordinate with area partners; develop target audience; conduct workshops

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.

Task EPI-B1.2 (EPI-B1 step 2): AMRAT- Volunteer Rapid Assessment -Continuing

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Principal Investigator:	
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$0
NEP Prior Funds:	$0
EPA Match:	
Outside Funding:	Not known at this time
Related Priority Issue(s):	Water Quality, Living Resources
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach/Education Coordinator

Non-native species have been introduced, both intentionally and unintentionally, into habitats of the United States, for hundreds of years. Agricultural pests have long been recognized as a significant economic burden to our domestic farming industry. More recently, other non-native species have invaded our environment and produced significant economic and environmental concerns, including nutria, zebra mussels, giant *Salvinia*,

Hydrilla, and water hyacinth to name a few. These species spread rapidly, produce serious environmental impacts, out compete native species, and result in economic and social losses to our nation. Broad efforts are underway nation-wide to combat the entry of new species into our country and to effectively control and manage those non-native species that have already made their way here. States have recognized their important role in addressing these issues through the passage of state legislation and the development of state aquatic invasive species plans.

Volunteers will take an active role around the bay by looking for "10 most wanted" species. These will be identified by experts working on the AMRAT to be conducted in September 2003. The project will be modeled after Dock Watch and will probably be the first in the country. Data will be used in the DIMS program.

Project Objectives: Identify species to be targeted by volunteers; develop educational handout; develop monitoring / reporting mechanism; organize monitoring schedule; solicit volunteers

Task EPI-B1.2 (EPI-B1 step 2): *Monarch Monitoring Pilot- DELAYED*

Performing Organization:	MBNEP, WBNERR
Principal Investigator:	volunteers (Richard Coram)
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$0
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$0
Total Current Plan Funds:	$0
NEP Prior Funding:	$0
EPA Match:	
Outside Funding:	TBD Grant writing possible
Related Priority Issue(s):	Water Quality, Living Resources
MBNEP Coordinator:	Outreach/Education Coordinator

This would be a pilot project for Coastal Alabama. Monarch butterflies have come under severe stress in recent years. These butterflies migrate from many areas in the Continental United States to Mexico for the winter. The habitats supporting these creatures have been severely damaged both in the United States and Mexico. This project would enlist the aid of volunteers including both individuals and schools to record Monarch butterfly appearances. In addition, volunteers would be encouraged to plant food sources suitable for butterflies, Monarchs and others.

Project Objectives: Identify time of year for migration; solicit area organizations to use monarchs instead of balloons; coordinate with Weeks Bay NERR to report monarch sitings, plant milkweed; utilize monarch experts programs; solicit volunteers

Task EPI-B1.2 (EPI-B1 step 2): *Crab Watch*

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Principal Investigator:	TBD
FY 05 Funding:	$0
Prior Year FY 04 NEP Funding:	$0
Outside Funding:	TBD
Related Priority Issue(s):	Water Quality, Living Resources
MBNEP Coordinator:	Project Coordinator

The Mobile Bay Crab Watch Program is a joint effort between the MBNEP and the AMRD. This program will provide area residents with an opportunity to participate in a local environmental monitoring program. Crab Watch is volunteer based, which allows recreational crabbers to monitor crab populations and incidentally monitor for invasive species in coastal Alabama.

Project Objectives: establish monitoring data on seasonal recreational crabbing effort; define program criteria; solicit volunteers; manage data; report findings.

Management and Administration

The MBNEP Program Office works closely with all of the MBNEP Management Conference committees and answers directly to the Policy Committee. Task MPA 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 EPA required documents; administer grants/contracts; monitor projects including coordination of work plans, progress reports, and draft/final reports with principal investigators; coordinate project work plans and activities with other local, state and Federal agencies; provide for overall program coordination.

Task MPA: Management and Program Administration-Continuing

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Principal Investigator:	Director
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$312,241
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$323,944
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$326,653
Total Current Plan Funds:	$962,838
NEP Prior Funds:	
EPA Match:	DISL contribution toward truck purchase
Outside Funding:	Additional $5,000
Related Priority Issue(s):	N/A
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director

This task includes all necessary items for Program Administration including, salaries, benefits, rent, supplies equipment, phone, internet services etc. Indirect costs charged by our host institution to administer the grant are included.

Staff Position	Employee	Responsibilities	Main Activities
Program Director	David W. Yeager	General Oversight, Acceptance, and Implementation of Program	Generates financial and political support for program; participates in regional and national initiatives associated with program; engages in project identification and design; builds collaborative teams for accomplishing objectives; liaison between program and local governments and other public agency leaders; spokesperson for estuary related activities and needs throughout the community; Oversees all office activities.
Projects Manager	Roberta Arena Swann	Conduct activities and develop projects that further the implementation of the CCMP	Executes strategic and organizational planning for program; conducts project design, development and implementation; assists with financial resource development and management; oversees CCMP indicator program; prepares EPA plans and reports; prepares contracts with local entities; and other activities as deemed necessary
Outreach/Education Coordinator	Lee Yokel	Coordinate all outreach and education activities of the program	Coordinates MBNEP participation in workshops and special events; oversees development of all public relations materials; manages program website; assists with volunteer monitoring programs; develops special educational programs that provide for technology transfer; and other activities as deemed necessary
Project Coordinator	Kara Lankford	Develop and coordinate volunteer involvement programs	Coordinates oyster gardening and crab watch volunteer programs; other activities as deemed necessary
Business Manager	Tiffany England	Overall business and office management	Maintains budget, project files, financial record keeping, grant reporting; coordinates notices, agendas, and logistics for all committee meetings; and other office management duties

Indirect Cost charged at a rate of 15% on all cash input (grant and matching funds) to the MBNEP by Dauphin Island Sea Lab. DISL allowable Indirect Cost negotiated rate with Federal Government is 43%. The un-recovered indirect of 28% is provided to the MBNEP by DISL/MESC as an in-kind matching contribution. Additional in-kind and support services not covered by indirect costs are also provided to the MBNEP by DISL on a case by cases basis.

Task MPA: Travel

Performing Organization:	MBNEP
Principal Investigator:	Director
FY 04 NEP Funding:	$17,000
FY 05 NEP Funding:	$15,000
FY 06 NEP Funding:	$16,000
Total Current Plan Funds:	$48,000
NEP Prior Funds:	
EPA Match:	
Outside Funding:	
Related Priority Issue(s):	N/A
MBNEP Coordinator:	Director

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.