



DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE
INLAND BAYS
Research. Educate. Restore.

Environmental Monitoring Plan

The Middle

Logistics

- Since at least 1995
- Current format - initiated in 2015
- Updated in 2018, 2020
- Update due in 2022 – must be complete by July 31, 2023

- STAC Completes online survey (March)
- STAC Reviews issues with strong* disagreement (April)
- STAC First Draft (end-May); Review comments due mid-June
- CIB Final (end-July)

* Top 10% of variance in answers



STAC Task (March)

- Is this list complete?
- What, if any of the parameters could/should be phased out over the next two years?
- Which of the parameters, new or proposed are of the greatest priority for the Center to collect?
 - CCMP; Future; Manage
 - Collected by others
 - Not “Key”
- What are the STAC priorities?
 - How do these priorities advance future action and management

Survey Stats

7 respondents

21 of 41 metrics had identified needs

14 of 21 had at least one comment that no change was needed

Possible Redundancy/Metrics to Retire

Point Source Wastewater Discharges - is there a need for CIB Review?

National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS) - is there a need for CIB Review?

Seaweed Metric - how is this being used? CIB is reviewing current protocol

Opportunities (Change Metric)

Hard Clam Landings (Commercial)

not indicative of Bays health; rather change in business plan

Shellfish/Blue Crab Abundance

many are low/not actively being restored; redirect resources to more helpful metric?

e.g. recreational landings

Fish Kills

how is data being used? one request to dive deeper

Salt Marsh Acreage/Long-Term SET

standard condition metric? vegetation metric?

Moving Forward

Tidal Flushing at Indian River Inlet - asked that this be reviewed & renewed periodically - who? how?

Re-establish Atmospheric Monitoring Station in the watershed - who? how?

Non CIB - Opportunities

Stream/Tide Gaging

USGS/USACE/DNREC

Atmospheric Deposition of Nitrogen

Ocean Acidification

Climate Characteristics

Recreational Fishing

Hard Clam Landings

DNREC (Can have outside partner)

Shellfish (general)

Bird Metrics (no comments, just highly variable response)

Breeding Bird

Mid-Winter Waterfowl

Bald Eagle/Osprey Nesting

New Metrics

Plastics - HANG UP in the PAST - how would this be used?

Sea Grass Suitability Monitoring - generalized bay health “if it is good enough for sea grass, it is good enough for ____”

Additional Stream (inflow) Monitoring - Nutrients

Chlorophyll Monitoring

Disease load in Aquaculture Oysters

Riparian Buffer Quality/ Forest Quality

STAC Priorities (2023)

- Question #4: What are the STAC priorities?

Refine Current Metrics?

Free up Time/Resources

Add new Metrics (how many is reasonable?)

Encourage Partners to Add new Metrics

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