CATALOG DOCUMENTATION
NATIONAL COASTAL ASSESSMENT- NORTHEAST DATABASE
YEARS 2000-2006
SAMPLING EVENT DATA: "EVENTS"

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. DATASET IDENTIFICATION
2. INVESTIGATOR INFORMATION
3. DATASET ABSTRACT
4. OBJECTIVES AND INTRODUCTION
5. DATA ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING METHODS
6. DATA MANIPULATIONS
7. DATA DESCRIPTION
8. GEOGRAPHIC AND SPATIAL INFORMATION
9. QUALITY CONTROL AND QUALITY ASSURANCE
10. DATA ACCESS AND DISTRIBUTION
11. REFERENCES
12. TABLE OF ACRONYMS
13. PERSONNEL INFORMATION

1. DATASET IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Title of Catalog document
National Coastal Assessment-Northeast Region Database
Years 2000-2006
Sampling Event Data

1.2 Authors of the Catalog entry
John Kiddon, U.S. EPA NHEERL-AED
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1.3 Catalog revision date
September 2009

1.4 Dataset name
EVENTS

1.5 Task Group
National Coastal Assessment-Northeast

1.6 Dataset identification code
002

1.7 Version
001

1.8 Request for Acknowledgment
EMAP requests that all individuals who download EMAP data acknowledge the source of these data in any reports, papers, or presentations. If you publish these data, please include a statement similar to: "Some or all of the data described in this article were produced by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency through its Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP)".

2. INVESTIGATOR INFORMATION (for full addresses see Section 13)

2.1 Principal Investigators (NCA Northeast Region)

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3. DATASET ABSTRACT

3.1 Abstract of the Dataset

The EVENTS data file reports information about the sampling events conducted in the 2000-2006 National Coastal Assessment (Northeast component). Reported here is information regarding the sampling event, including: sampling date; water depth at station; actual station location (planned locations are reported in the STATIONS data file); and presence or absence of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) or macroalgae. One record is presented per sampling event.

3.2 Keywords for the Dataset

Latitude, longitude, station water depth, sampling date, SAV, macroalgae

4. OBJECTIVES AND INTRODUCTION

4.1 Program Objective

The National Coastal Assessment (NCA) is a national monitoring and assessment program with the primary goal of providing a consistent evaluation of the estuarine condition in U.S. estuaries. It is an initiative of the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP), and is a partnership of several federal and state environmental agencies, including: EPA's Regions, Office of Research and Development, and Office of Water; state environmental protection agencies in the 24 marine coastal states and Puerto Rico; and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA). The NCA program was initiated in 2000 and completed in 2006.

Stations were randomly selected using EMAP's probabilistic sampling framework and were sampled once during a summer index period (June to October). A consistent suite of indicators was used to measure conditions in the water, sediment, and in benthic and fish communities. The measured data may be used by the states to meet their reporting requirements under the Clean Water Act, Section 305(b). The data were also used to generate a series of national reports characterizing the condition of the Nation's estuaries http://www.epa.gov/nccr/.

4.2 Dataset Objective

To report information about actual station locations and presence or absence of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) or macroalgae.

4.3 Dataset Background Discussion

Refer to Section 4.4 for a list of dataset parameters. Additional information about selected parameters are discussed in this section.

The EVENTS data file contains the actual sampling date, latitude, and longitude. These entries may differ slightly from that initially planned by the NCA managers. Information regarding planned locations is reported in the STATIONS data file. If it were not possible to sample within 0.05 nautical mile of the planned location (*e.g.*, due to inadequate depth, safety concerns), sampling operations were performed at an alternate sampling location designated by the sampling plan. The parameter STAT_ALT indicates whether sampling occurred at the original planned site (STAT_ALT = "A"), or whether sampling occurred at the first or second alternate sites (STAT_ALT = "B" or "C"). For further information regarding STAT_ALT, refer to discussion in the STATIONS metadata file.

The presence or absence of SAV or macroalgae is determined by visual observation at the time of sampling.

Some stations were visited more than once in their sampling year, e.g., first for water sampling, then for sediment sampling. Physical parameters such as temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, etc were typically measured on each visit. Multiple visits are indicated by the parameter VIS_NUM, which specifies the visit number to a station. Users may wish to disregard results from return visits to avoid "double counting."

Actual station locations for Maine Lobster collection sites were not reported, as well as a few other stations. User may wish to substitute planned location data for these stations, as provided in the STATIONS data file.

4.4 Summary of Dataset Parameters

* denotes parameters that should be used as key fields when merging data files

*STATION	Station Identifier
*STAT_ALT	Station Location (A, B or C)
*EVNTDATE	Event Date
VISNUM	Visit Number to a Station
STADEPTH	Depth of Water at Station (m)
EVNT_LAT	Event Latitude (decimal degrees, datum NAD83
EVNT_LNG	Event Longitude (decimal degrees, datum NAD83)
SAV	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation visible
MACROALG	Macro-Algae present at Station

5. DATA ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING METHODS

5.1 Data Acquisition / Field Sampling

5.1.1 Sampling Objective
Record the date, location, water depth, and visit number of sampling events.

5.1.2 Sample Collection: Methods Summary
A Differential GPS or a Loran system was used to measure station latitude and longitude. Station depth was measured with an electronic depth finder. These measurements were performed at the beginning of a sampling event. Presence of submerged aquatic vegetation and macro-algae and was determined by visual inspection.

5.1.3 Beginning Sampling Dates
21 April 2000

5.1.4 Ending Sampling Dates
4 December 2006

5.1.5 Sampling Platform
Samples were collected from gasoline or diesel powered boats 18 to 133 feet in length.

5.1.6 Sampling Equipment
The navigation system consists of two components: a Northstar Loran receiver and a Leica MX400 Differential GPS receiver.

5.1.7 Manufacturer of Sampling Equipment
LORAN: Northstar
GPS: Raytheon

5.1.8 Key Variables
Not applicable

5.1.9 Sampling Collection: Calibration
Not applicable

5.1.10 Sample Collection: Quality Control
The station latitude and longitude values were referenced to the datum NAD83[H]. If it were not possible to sample within 0.05 nautical mile of the planned location (*e.g.*, due to inadequate depth, safety concerns), the sampling site was relocated to an alternate planned location (see Section 4.4). Recorded and nominal latitudes and longitude values were compared at the conclusion of the field season.

5.1.11 Sample Collection: References
Strobel, C.J. 2000. Coastal 2000-Northeast Component: Field Operations Manual U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Atlantic Ecology Division, Narragansett, RI. EPA/620/R-00/002.

5.1.12 Sample Collection: Alternate Methods
Not applicable.

5.2 Data Preparation and Sample Processing
No analytical processing was involved with the EVENTS parameters

6. DATA ANALYSIS AND MANIPULATIONS

6.1 Name of New or Modified Values
Not applicable

6.2 Description of Data Manipulation
Not applicable

7. DATA DESCRIPTION

7.1 Description of Parameters

7.1.1 Components of the Dataset

Name	Type	Length	Label
STATION	Char	9	Station Identifier
EVNTDATE	mmddyyyy	8	Event Date
STAT_ALT	Char	1	Station Location (A,B or C)
VISNUM	Num	8	Visit Number to a Station
STADEPTH	Num	8	Depth of Water at Station (m)
EVNT_LAT	Num	8	Event Latitude-Decimal Degrees
EVNT_LNG	Num	8	Event Longitude-Decimal Degrees
SAV	Char	1	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation visible
MACROALG	Char	1	Macro-Algae present at Station

7.1.2 Precision of Reported Values
EVNT_LAT and EVNT_LNG are reported to 0.0001 decimal degree units.

7.1.3 Minimum Value in Dataset

EVNTDATE	7/7/2000
VISNUM	1
STADEPTH	0.1
EVNT_LAT	36.5637
EVNT_LNG	-77.3041

7.1.4 Maximum Value in Dataset

NAME	MAX
EVNTDATE	11/24/2006
VISNUM	6
STADEPTH	99
EVNT_LAT	45.1848
EVNT_LNG	-66.9562

7.2 Data Record Example

7.2.1 Column Names for Example Records

STATION EVNTDATE STAT_ALT VISNUM STADEPTH EVNT_LAT EVNT_LNG SAV MACROALG

7.2.2 Example Data Records

STATION	EVNTDATE	STAT_ALT	VISNUM	STADEPTH	EVNT_LAT	EVNT_LNG	SAV	MACROALG
CT03-0021	8/20/2003	A	1	14.1	40.9635	-73.6227		
CT03-0034	8/27/2003	A	1	10.1	41.232	-72.8333		
CT03-0035	8/27/2003	A	1	11.1	41.2092	-72.9108		

8. GEOGRAPHIC AND SPATIAL INFORMATION

8.1 Minimum Longitude (Westernmost)
-77.3041 decimal degrees

8.2 Maximum Longitude (Easternmost)
-66.9562 decimal degrees

8.3 Minimum Latitude (Southernmost)
36.5637 decimal degrees

8.4 Maximum Latitude (Northernmost)
45.1848 decimal degrees

8.5 Name of area or region
The National Coastal Assessment Northeast Region covers the northeastern US coastline from Maine to Delaware.

9. QUALITY CONTROL AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

9.1 Measurement Quality Objectives
Provide accurate information regarding the location of sampling events

9.2 Data Quality Assurance Procedures
All measurements were performed in the field. See Section 5.1.10 for sampling QA/QC procedures.

9.3 Actual Measurement Quality
Not applicable

10. DATA ACCESS

10.1 Data Access Procedures
Data can be downloaded from the web
http://www.epa.gov/emap/nca/html/regions/index.html

10.2 Data Access Restrictions
None

10.3 Data Access Contact Persons
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10.4 Dataset Format
ASCII (CSV) and SAS Export files

10.5 Information Concerning Anonymous FTP
Not available

10.6 Information Concerning WWW
No gopher access, see Section 10.1 for WWW access

10.7 EMAP CD-ROM Containing the Dataset
Data not available on CD-ROM

11. REFERENCES

Strobel, C.J. 2000. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program: Coastal 2000 - Northeast component: field operations manual. Narragansett (RI): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Atlantic Ecology Division. EPA/620/R-00/002. 68 p.

U.S. EPA. 2001. National Coastal Assessment: Field Operations Manual. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Gulf Ecology Division, Gulf Breeze, FL. EPA/620/R-01/003. 72 p.

U.S. EPA. 2001. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP): National Coastal Assessment Quality Assurance Project Plan 2001-2004. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Gulf Ecology Division, Gulf Breeze, FL. EPA/620/R-01/002. 189 p.

12. TABLE OF ACRONYMS

AED	Atlantic Ecology Division
EMAP	Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
NCA	National Coastal Assessment
NHEERL	National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control

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