CZM Programs and Wetlands Monitoring and Assessment

A Review of Legislative Mandates and the Massachusetts Experience
Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990

• Created requirements for Coastal Nonpoint Control Programs
• Joint implementation and coordination by EPA and NOAA
• Develop a Plan with enforceable measures for 56 identified management measures
• Monitoring and assessment required for tracking
• NPS categories included sources of pollution from urban, forestry, agriculture, marinas, and hydromodification sources AND FOR WETLAND PROTECTION!

• States were required to develop plans to address sources and to provide an enforceable mechanism, for approval by EPA and NOAA
Wetlands Protection Measures

• Protect wetlands from adverse effects where they serve a NPS abatement function and protect this and other functions as measured by biology, chemistry, and physical characteristics

• Promote restoration of pre-existing functions in damaged or destroyed wetlands

• Promote engineered vegetative treatment such as constructed wetlands to serve abatement function
Issues to be addressed:

• What are the functions we are interested in?
• How do we define damage?
• How do we monitor and track success and failure?
Massachusetts Approach

• Develop and submit Plan for joint EPA and NOAA approval
• Implement the measures where we identify a role for MA CZM
• Secured a research grant from NOAA’s Coastal Services Center
• Participation in NBAWWG beginning in 1997
• Current joint efforts with MA DEP and UMass