

Summary of State Monitoring and Assessment Efforts in the Mid-Atlantic Region

Denice Wardrop

Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center

General Monitoring and Assessment Efforts

Delaware	Maryland	New Jersey	Pennsylvania	Virginia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-authored study to review rapid assessment methods nationwide; • Integrated educational programs with monitoring and assessment; • Developed restoration plan for the Nanticoke watershed; • Devised management matrix; Working on watershed assessment framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Joint Strategy between DNR and MDE; • Still need to resolve issues concerning strategy and program elements (i.e., how to report on condition and function); • Working on developing a classification system (reviewed both HGM and NWI, but have not reached consensus yet); • Assessing the efficacy of their mitigation program and working on mitigation protocols; • Identifying priority areas for wetland restoration and protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted Elements Document; Completed study of mitigation sites; • Rutgers and DEP completed a study on Level 2 assessment methods across the county; • Selected methods were tested on reference and mitigated wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on a wetland monitoring and assessment strategy; • PSU will be partnering with VIMS to conduct a regional assessment; • The Atlantic Slope Consortium has developed regional assessment tools; • Pennsylvania has over 200 wetland reference sites throughout the Commonwealth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed state wetland monitoring strategy; • Currently dealing with IT issues (where to store data)

Level 1 Monitoring and Assessment Efforts

Delaware	Maryland	New Jersey	New York
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively inventorying restoration sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIS/LDI LIDAR is available for part of the state (for sea level rise concerns); currently investigating the use of LIDAR to ID wetlands in the state. Heritage Program identifies key wildlife habitats and species, some of which are key wetland habitats; when wetlands are identified by Heritage, then the State has to monitor them; Working on a Level 1 assessment for tidal wetlands with VIMS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entire state is mapped on 1-acre aerial photographs for the years 1986, 1995, 2002; Habitats for state and federal T&E species are also mapped; Vernal pools are mapped and they are now certifying them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suny Albany developing Level 1 assessment using hyperspectral photography; looking at two test areas - Hudson River Basin and Piedmont

Pennsylvania	Virginia	West Virginia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIS - land use within a 1-km circle centered on study site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1 completed statewide (uses 1-km circle centered on site and 1-km distance upstream of site to look at WQ); Beta-testing GIS-based map for the internet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using LIDAR hyperspectral imagery to identify, delineate, and classify wetlands (to augment NWI mapping); Completed high-elevation wetland classification

Level 2 Monitoring and Assessment Efforts

Delaware	Maryland	Pennsylvania	Virginia
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DERAP (non-tidal wetlands);• DECAP (tidal wetlands)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigating rapid assessment methods (DE method, ORAM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rapid Assessment Method (collects information on HGM subclass, buffers and stressors);• Coastal zone staff will be conducting Level 2 assessments for all coastal wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Level 2 assessment continuing in Piedmont;• Level 2 uses site stressors

Level 3 Monitoring and Assessment Efforts

Delaware	Maryland	New Jersey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed HGM assessment models for flats and riverine wetlands; • Completed Nanticoke and Inland Bays assessments; • Will be sampling three additional watersheds in 2007; • University of Delaware is working on an HGM model for slope wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrapping up joint research effort with Delaware in the Nanticoke watershed; • Starting research effort in Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floristic Quality Assessment Index available for the state as monitoring tool; • Completed pilot project with macroinvertebrate and vegetation IBIs

Pennsylvania	Virginia	West Virginia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant, macroinvertebrate, amphibian, and bird IBIs; • HGM functional assessment models; • Floristic Quality Assessment is available for portions of the state; • Conducted monitoring pilot study in lower Susquehanna Basin in 2006; will be monitoring mitigation sites in 2007 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floristic Quality Assessment available for the state; • Level 3 assessment continuing in Coastal Plain; • Completed tidal assessment for York River watershed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collected data at 60 sites to develop IBIs using birds, frogs, and vegetation; • Volunteers are conducting frog counts, invasive species studies