

# 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