Overview of the Bight Program

- Bight started as a pilot program in 1994
  - This is the sixth survey

- Bight is continually evolving
  - Elements added to address new management questions

- Bight has been held up as a national model for a Regional Monitoring Program
  - Reputation for success in translating science to management
Goal of Today’s Talk

• Describe Bight ‘18 elements
  • This is your opportunity to provide feedback while we are still in the planning process

• Status of planning efforts

• Schedule for field campaigns
Bight ‘18 Elements

- Sediment Quality
- Harmful Algal Blooms
- Ocean Acidification
- Trash
- Microbiology
Sediment Quality

• Characterize sediment quality impacts by habitat type using multiple lines of evidence
  • How wide-spread? How severe? Is it getting better or worse?

• Measure bioaccumulation of contaminants in edible fish tissue
  • Is it safe to eat the fish?

• What’s New: Pilot new screening tools for contaminants of emerging concern
Harmful Algal Blooms

• Marine HABs: Measure Domoic Acid concentrations in shelf sediments
  • Are sediments a source of DA?

• Freshwater HABs: Characterize impact of cyanotoxins on shellfish at the marine/freshwater interface
  • What is the risk of cyanotoxins on the marine environment?
Ocean Acidification

- Characterize carbonate chemistry of Bight continental shelf waters
  - Status with respect to known thresholds? Trends?

- Assessment of biological impacts
  - Do we see biological impacts? Where? When?

- What’s new: Developing new indicators and new metrics
Trash

• Characterize distribution of trash on the seafloor

• Characterize distribution of trash in streams
  • How much? How wide-spread? What types?
  • Trends related to recent policy actions?

• What’s New: pilot new technologies for trash assessments
Microbiology

• Understand implications of new EPA coliphage standards for beach water quality assessments
  • Compare coliphage to fecal indicator bacteria

• What’s new: pilot new standards before they hit prime time
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Four-Step Process to Field Launch

1. Generate monitoring questions

2. Develop study design

3. Match study design to available effort
   • Workplan

4. Pre-survey Quality Assurance and Information Management
   • QA Plan, Intercalibrations
   • Field and Laboratory Manuals
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Field Program Schedule

• Sediment Quality
  • July – September ‘18

• Harmful Algal Blooms
  • Domoic Acid: with Sediment Quality
  • Cyanotoxins: October ‘18 – January ‘19

• Ocean Acidification
  • January 2019 – November 2020

• Trash
  • Seafloor: with Sediment Quality
  • Streams: with Stormwater Monitoring Coalition March ’18 – June ’18

• Microbiology
  • July – September ‘18
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Are You Getting What You Need From Your Program?

• Do the elements adequately capture your immediate management needs?

• Is there anything we can refine to make the program more valuable?

• What is the feedback you’ve received from your staff?
For More Information...

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