

Monitoring Standards for Tidal Wetland Enhancement Projects



Special Panel Session
Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental
Summit
Wednesday, January 28, 2015
9 to 10:30 am
Crystal Ball Room, Grand Hotel, Cape May,
New Jersey
<http://delawareestuary.org/summit>



Description: Coastal wetlands and some other habitats are increasingly degraded, eroding, and drowning in the Delaware Estuary and vicinity. In response, many types of projects are being proposed or implemented to help stem these losses and impart coastal resilience, such as living shorelines, thin-layer sediment application, and hydrologic improvements. The states of Delaware and New Jersey are beginning to work with academic and non-profit entities to devise frameworks for monitoring and assessment of project performance so that outcomes can be learned and shared.

Panel:

Bart Wilson, USFWS, Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Federal Sector
Danielle Donkersloot, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, State Sector
Alison Rogerson, DE Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, State Sector
Danielle Kreeger, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, National Estuary Program Sector
Doug Janiec, Sovereign Consulting, Inc., Private Sector
Moses Katkowski, The Nature Conservancy, Non-Profit Sector
Capt. Al Modjeski, American Littoral Society, Non-Profit Sector

Format: 30 minutes of short 3 minute panelist presentations, followed by 1 hour of general discussion (about 10 minutes per question). Following the panel presentations, PDE staff will facilitate discussion of the challenge questions, one at a time. Notes will be taken and shared following the meeting, facilitating development of state-based monitoring frameworks for ecological restoration projects such as living shorelines.

Challenge Questions:

1. What are typical goals for your restoration projects and how is monitoring used?
2. Was baseline site monitoring used to design the project, or was the monitoring tailored to a designed project?
3. What core monitoring parameters are/should be included to assist with project design or gauge its performance, and for how long? (e.g. physical, chemical, biological, economic, other)
4. Should projects by private, public, non-profit and academic sectors monitor some of the same parameters (a.k.a. metrics), using similar methods, and be required/expected to meet some basic monitoring benchmarks?
5. How should monitoring outcomes be shared? Or are there constraints on sharing data and outcomes?

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