ALBEMARLE SOUND DEMONSTRATION STUDY OF THE NATIONAL MONITORING NETWORK FOR U.S. COASTAL WATERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES

Michelle Moorman, Sharon Fitzgerald, Keith Loftin, and Elizabeth Fensin[1]

The U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) is implementing a demonstration project in the Albemarle Sound for the National Monitoring Network for U.S. coastal waters and their tributaries. The goal of the National Monitoring Network is to provide information about the health of our oceans and coastal ecosystems and inland influences on coastal waters for improved resource management. The network integrates biological, chemical, and physical features and links uplands to the coastal ocean. The purpose of the Albemarle Sound pilot study is to: 1) Inventory current monitoring programs in the Albemarle Sound, 2) Conduct a gap analysis to determine current monitoring needs, 3) Implement a monitoring program to address data gaps, and 4) Create a web-based map portal of monitoring activities. As part of the project, the USGS worked with stakeholders to inventory current programs and design a monitoring program. Results after 3 years of implementation will be discussed.

[1]Michelle Moorman, Biologist, US Geological Survey, North Carolina Water Science Center, Raleigh, NC 27607
Sharon Fitzgerald, Research Hydrologist, US Geological Survey. North Carolina Water Science Center, Raleigh, NC 27607
Keith Loftin, Research Chemist, US Geological Survey, Kansas Water Science Center, Lawrence, KS 66049
Elizabeth Fensin, Algal Ecologist, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources, Raleigh, NC 27699