

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program
(APNEP)

**Science and Technical Advisory
Committee (STAC)
Action Plan**

**For the Period July 1, 2010 through June
30, 2012**



As published in the Committee Bylaws, the duties of the STAC are as follows:

The APNEP STAC is charged with playing a pivotal role in providing APNEP with the scientific and technical support needed to develop research initiatives, and to review policy recommendations and implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).

The STAC provides advice and support to the Policy Board on scientific and technical issues and acts as a forum for the exchange of scientific information about the APNEP region. Additionally, it will work toward a more consistent and cooperative approach to scientific data and design and implement scientific and technical projects assigned by the Policy Board. The STAC may also recommend possible work tasks to the Policy Board.



STAC activities include:

- (1) coordinate an Albemarle-Pamlico Sounds Ambient Monitoring Program (APSAMP) and other science;
- (2) track key indicators of A-P Sounds health;
- (3) develop a comprehensive A-P GIS database;
- (4) research and collate best practices around key issues (e.g., stormwater, toxics remediation), and maintain the database for practitioners.

The STAC will assist in:

- (1) developing near- and long-term action plans, reviewing draft documents, and making recommendations to the Policy Board on a document's technical merit;
- (2) designing and evaluating an effective information management system;
- (3) developing requests for proposals; and
- (4) reviewing and evaluating proposals received and making recommendations on projects to be funded. Additional duties may be assigned at the direction of the Policy Board.

The 2010-2012 Action Plan

- The plan is organized around the STAC activities and areas of assistance as specified in the Bylaws, and considers as well the four functional areas discussed by the Executive Board during their July 30 meeting
- (1) exchanging and sharing scientific information among STAC members and colleagues;
- (2) preparing technical issue papers;
- (3) finalizing monitoring strategies and integrated monitoring plan;
- (4) completing integrated assessment and
- (5) sharing information about the APNEP region.

Mandated Activities and Proposed Tasks (from Bylaws):

- 1) Coordinate Albemarle-Pamlico Sounds Ambient Monitoring Program (APSAMP) and other science
- 2) Track key indicators of A-P Sounds condition
- 3) Explore development of a comprehensive A-P GIS database
- 4) Research and collate best practices around key issues
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1) Coordinate Albemarle-Pamlico Sounds Ambient Monitoring Program (APSAMP) and other science

- A. Select members will participate with state and federal agency representatives on the APNEP Monitoring and Assessment Teams, whose respective theme areas are Living Aquatic Resources, Water Resources, Atmospheric Resources, Wetland Resources, Terrestrial Resources, and Human Dimensions. Monitoring and Assessment Team objectives include evaluating all or a subset of indicator-metrics adopted by APNEP in December 2007, evaluating current monitoring programs, and if deemed necessary, proposing monitoring design enhancements.
- B. Select members will participate in an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Team, whose objective is to ensure technical consistency across monitoring theme teams. This team will coordinate review and finalization of indicator monitor strategies, including refinement of lists after comments from the APNEP Policy Board, Management Advisory Committee, Citizens Advisory Committee.

2) Track key indicators of A-P Sounds condition

- **A. Initial assessment of the A-P region in 2010 will estimate conditions (status and trends of indicators) including three time periods: at some specified historic baseline (TBD), in 1995 after the initial CCMP was released, and present (2010).**
- **B. Schedule an APNEP-sponsored technical workshop in early 2011 on efficacy of riparian buffers. Topics for additional future workshops may include: “Remote Sensing Applications for National Estuary Program Indicators”, “Assessing the Potential Impacts of Climate Change on National Estuaries”, or “Assessing the Potential Impacts of Offshore Petroleum Activities on National Estuaries.” The proposed workshops would be topical in scope and need not be limited to the geographic context of the Albemarle-Pamlico watershed.**
- **C. Schedule an APNEP-sponsored science & technology conference in late 2011, featuring research to support the assessment of ecosystem condition.**

3) Explore development of a comprehensive A-P GIS database

- A. Explore development of a comprehensive temporal and spatial database (Content Management System) as a form of clearinghouse for pertinent environmental data and modeling information in the A-P region.
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- B. Explore development of a catalog and metadata of current and historical remote sensing imagery in the public domain taken within the APNEP region. All imagery catalog information resulting from workshop output would be included in the proposed Phase 1 APNEP Content Management System.

4) Research and collate best practices around key issues

- A. Interact with other APNEP advisory committees to identify and prioritize topics for future technical issue papers.
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- B. Create new, and update existing, technical issue papers
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- C. Receive and respond to feedback from other APNEP advisory committees (CAC, MAC and PB) on technical issue papers.
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Mandated Assistance and Proposed Tasks (from Bylaws):

- 1) Develop near- and long-term action plans, review draft documents, and make recommendations to the Policy Board on a document's technical merit.
- 2) Design and evaluate an effective information management system

1) Develop near- and long-term action plans, review draft documents, and make recommendations to the Policy Board on a document's technical merit.

A. STAC Executive Board draft, seeks programmatic review, and finalizes 2010-2012 STAC Action Plan.

B. Review for technical merit any draft document received from APNEP staff or other APNEP advisory committees.

2) Design and evaluate an effective information management system;

- A. Initiate comprehensive science & technology literature review of research whose study area includes the A-P region or subset thereof. This task would possibly be supported with EPA contracting services, and/or graduate student(s) from local universities.
- B. Evaluate possible models for the information management system (GulfBase?, others), draft design options. Ensure that the resulting design is part of the Content Management System and thus includes linkages with the GIS database base.
- C. Create a data library for the APNEP region to support indicator development, assessments and management

Other Tasks

- Given that the STAC can be assigned additional duties at the discretion of the Policy Board, the STAC recommends that it be authorized to:
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 - 1) Undertake outreach activities, to include the development and implement of workshops on topics relevant to A-P issues and/or needs
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 - A. Schedule STAC workshops for an audience of managers and policy makers in response to requests for further information on a STAC Technical Issue Paper.