

Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Mid-Atlantic States

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Presentation Outline

- Wetland Monitoring and Assessment in Region III
- Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program For Wetlands
- Mid-Atlantic Wetland Working Group (MAWWG)
- National Wetland Assessment
- Regional Wetland Assessment


Water Quality Monitoring

- Under the Clean Water Act 305(b) States are required to monitor and report on the quality of waters within their states, which includes wetlands.
- Wetlands not adequately protected through CWA programs
 - Lack of data in 305(b) reports; data on only 4% of Nation's wetlands
 - Some data on quantity, but little on the quality or condition of wetlands
 - Lack of wetland-specific water quality standards

Elements of a State Water Monitoring Program

- March 2003 EPA document, Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program (EPA 841-B-03-003)
 - Tool to aid state water quality monitoring programs meet CWA objectives
 - States required to assess all waterbody types by incorporating the ten elements from EPA Guidance
 - Wetlands are a waterbody type
 - All Region III states included wetlands in their WQ Monitoring Strategies

Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program for Wetlands

- How to implement a wetland monitoring and assessment program within the context of 2003 Elements Document
 - Duplicates 10 elements and describes how to apply that element to wetlands 
 - Promotes interstate consistency in reporting the quantity and quality of the nation's wetlands
- A) Monitoring Program Strategy
 - B) Monitoring Objectives
 - C) Monitoring Design
 - D) Core and Supplemental Indicators
 - E) Quality Assurance
 - F) Data Management
 - G) Data Analysis/Assessment
 - H) Reporting
 - I) Programmatic Evaluation
 - J) General Support and Infrastructure Planning

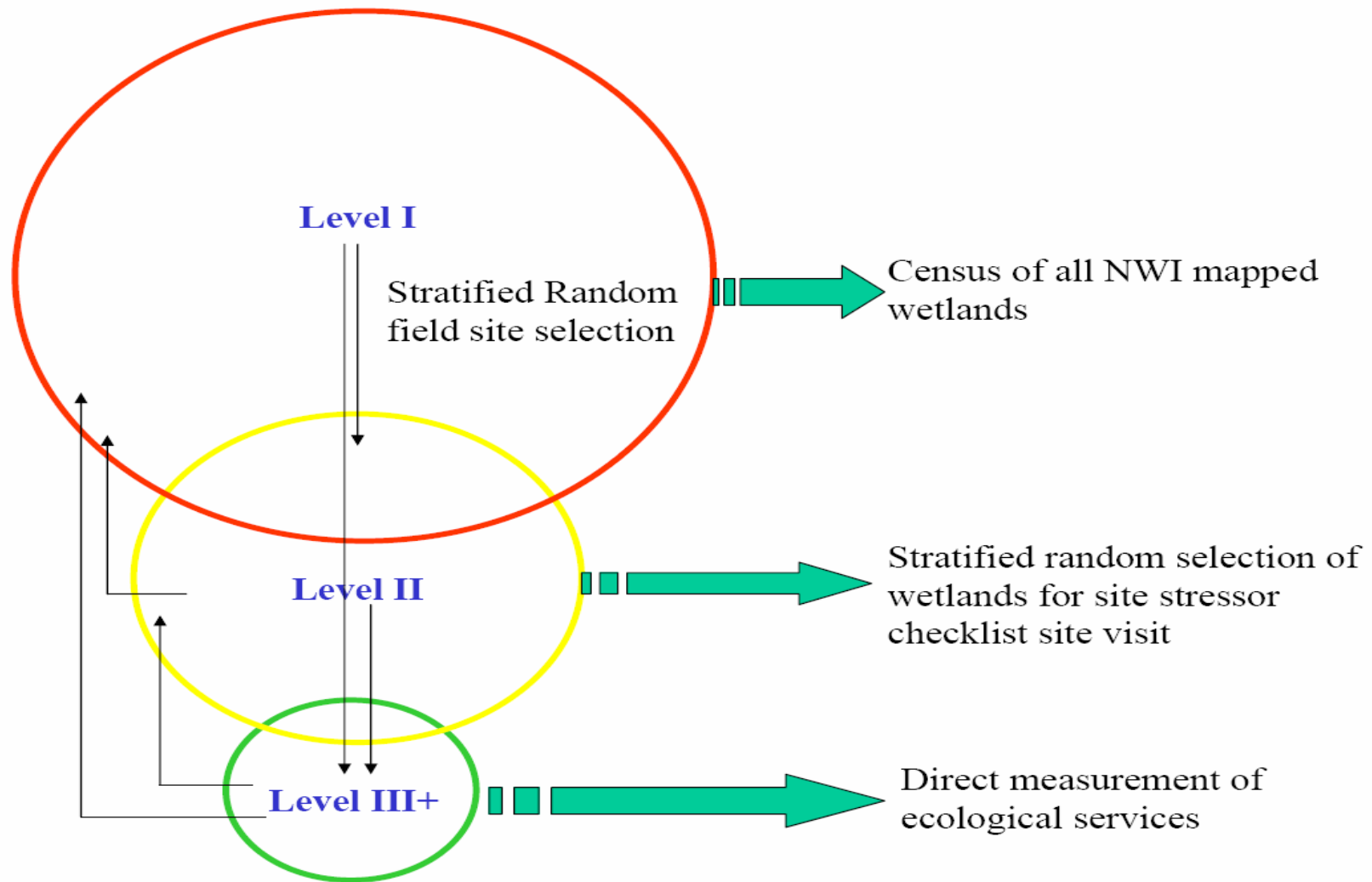
Mid-Atlantic Wetland Working Group (MAWWG)

- Participants include regulatory personnel and scientists from Region III states, New Jersey and Ohio
- Goal:
 - Development and implementation of state wetland monitoring strategies for the mid-Atlantic region.
 - Inclusion of wetlands into traditional water assessment programs
 - State collaboration/ training in monitoring and assessment method design and application
- <http://www.mawwg.psu.edu/default.asp>

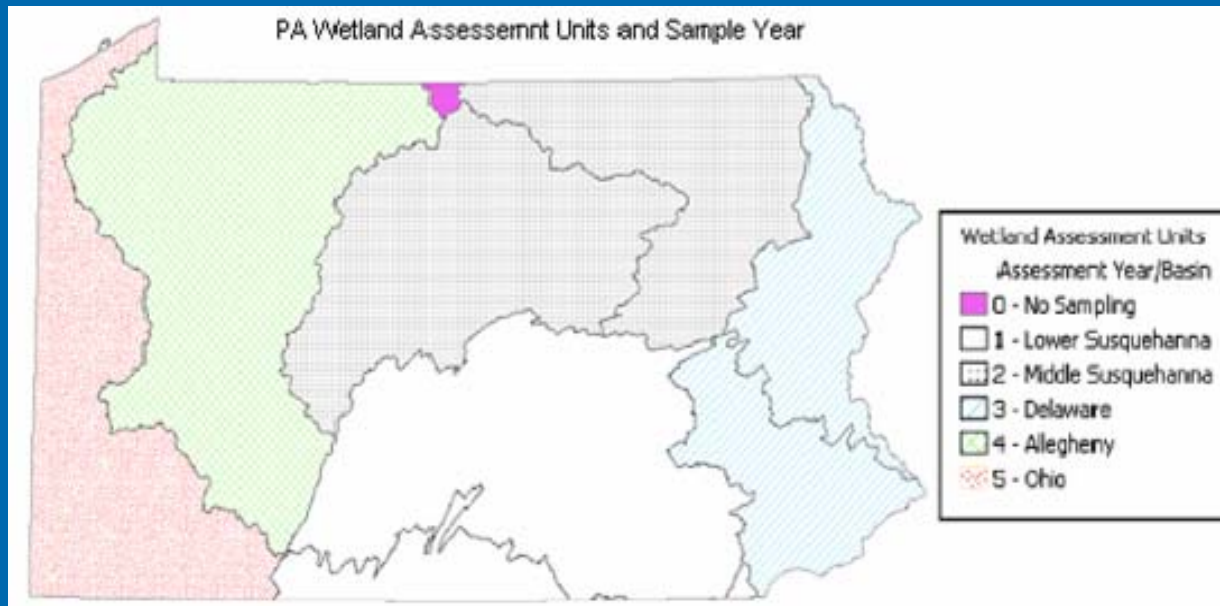
MAWWG Accomplishments

- Four states (PA, DE, MD, VA) have developed/developing state wetland monitoring strategies
 - DE and VA implementing rotating basin program
 - PA beginning 2006
- MAWWG states share tools that cross ecoregions
 - HGM/IBI Models
 - FQAI
 - Rapid Assessment Methods
 - Landscape/GIS Tools
- Tools that are field tested and are currently being used at the field level
 - Level 1, 2 and 3

Overview of Protocols



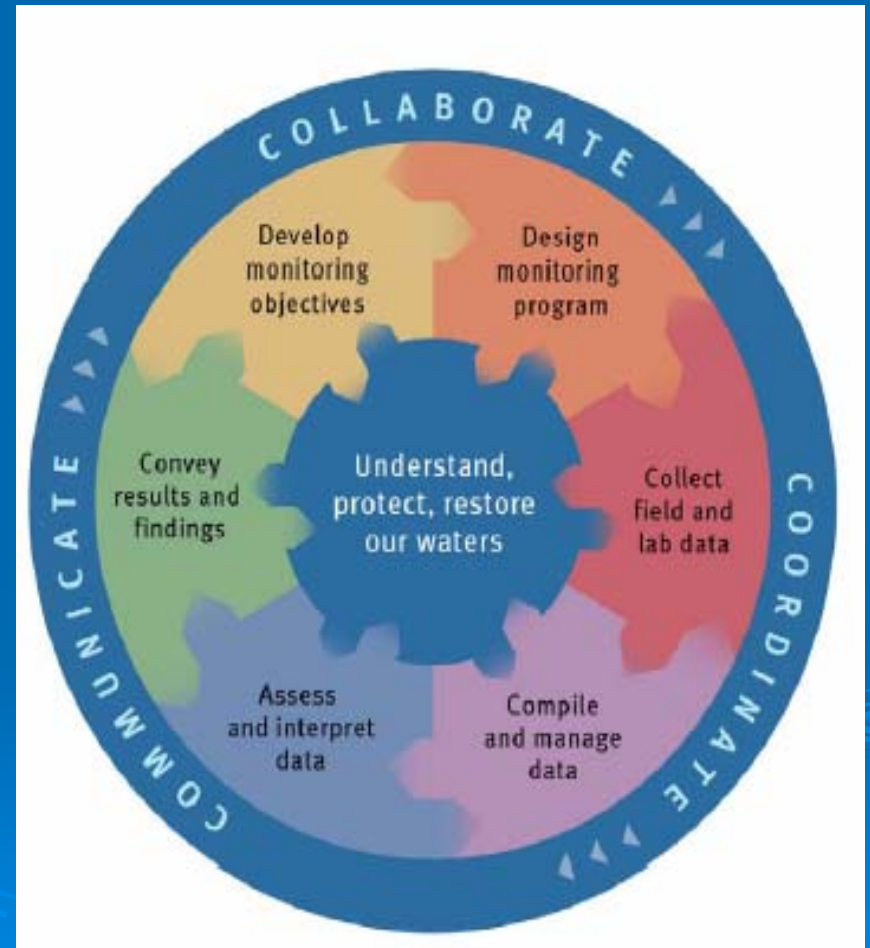
Pennsylvania Highlights



- Developing statewide strategy/sampling design to report wetland condition on a rotating watershed basis to cover all assessment units (6-digit HUCs) in a 5-year time frame.
- Baseline assessment, status and trends, and report on the probability of impairment
- Field work begun in Lower Susquehanna River Basin spring/summer 2006

National Waters Assessment

- Collaborative, consistent survey of Nation's waters
- Statistically valid extrapolation of condition throughout ecological regions of US
- Wetlands are included in National Waters Assessment



National Waters Assessment

Wetlands are included in National Waters Assessment

	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12
Lakes	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report*	Research	Design	Field
Rivers	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report	Research	Design
Streams	Report	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report	Research
Coastal	Labdata	Report	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report
<u>Wetlands</u>	Research	Research	Research	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data

National Assessment of Wetland Condition

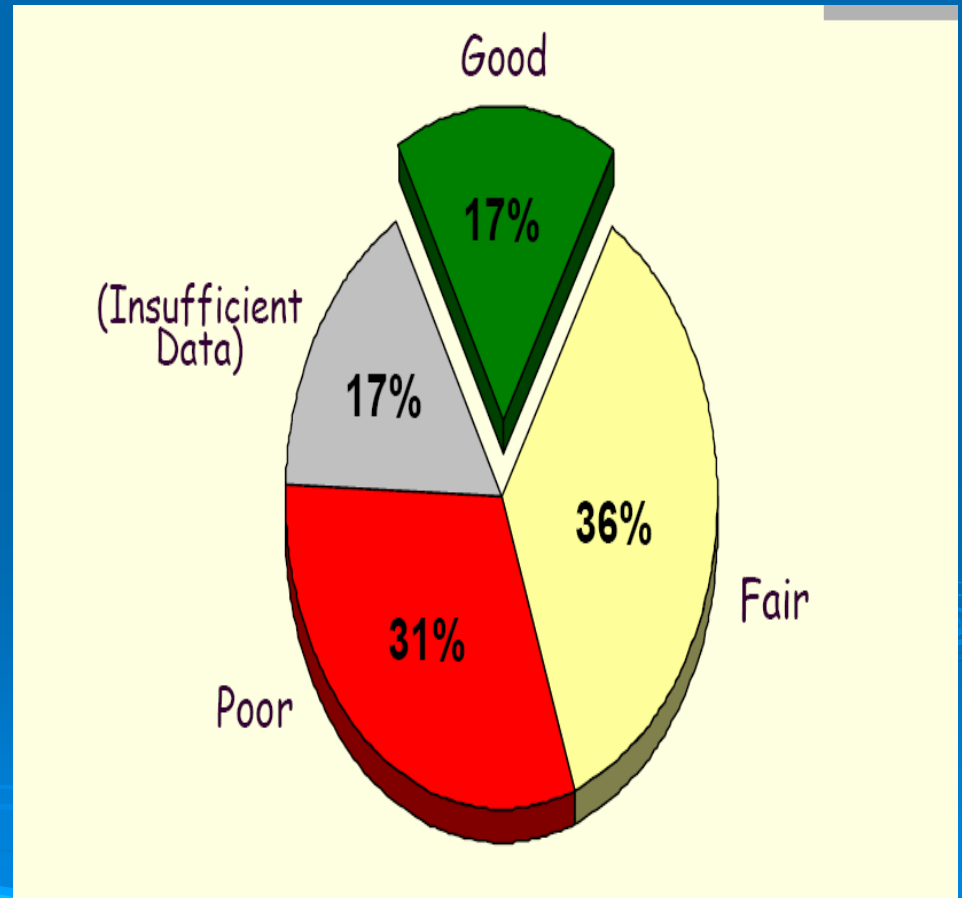
- Monitoring/assessment major priority for EPA's National Wetlands Program
- Area of increased program emphasis beginning in FY07
- Opportunity to increase efforts to improve wetlands monitoring and assessment throughout the country

Regional Wetland Assessment Mid-Atlantic Region

- Multi-year REMAP funds, beginning 2007
- Stratified, statistically-valid sample survey design
- Extrapolation of wetland condition throughout ecological regions of the Mid-Atlantic R3
- EMAP will provide support on sample design and data management and will participate in analysis and reporting
- MAWWG/states will collaborate on methods, survey design, sample frame, indicators etc

Regional Wetland Assessment Mid-Atlantic Region

- Report card on the state of wetlands in the Mid-Atlantic region
- Additional funding will be sought to add value to the project
- Partners and collaborators are welcome



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