

National Coastal Condition Assessment

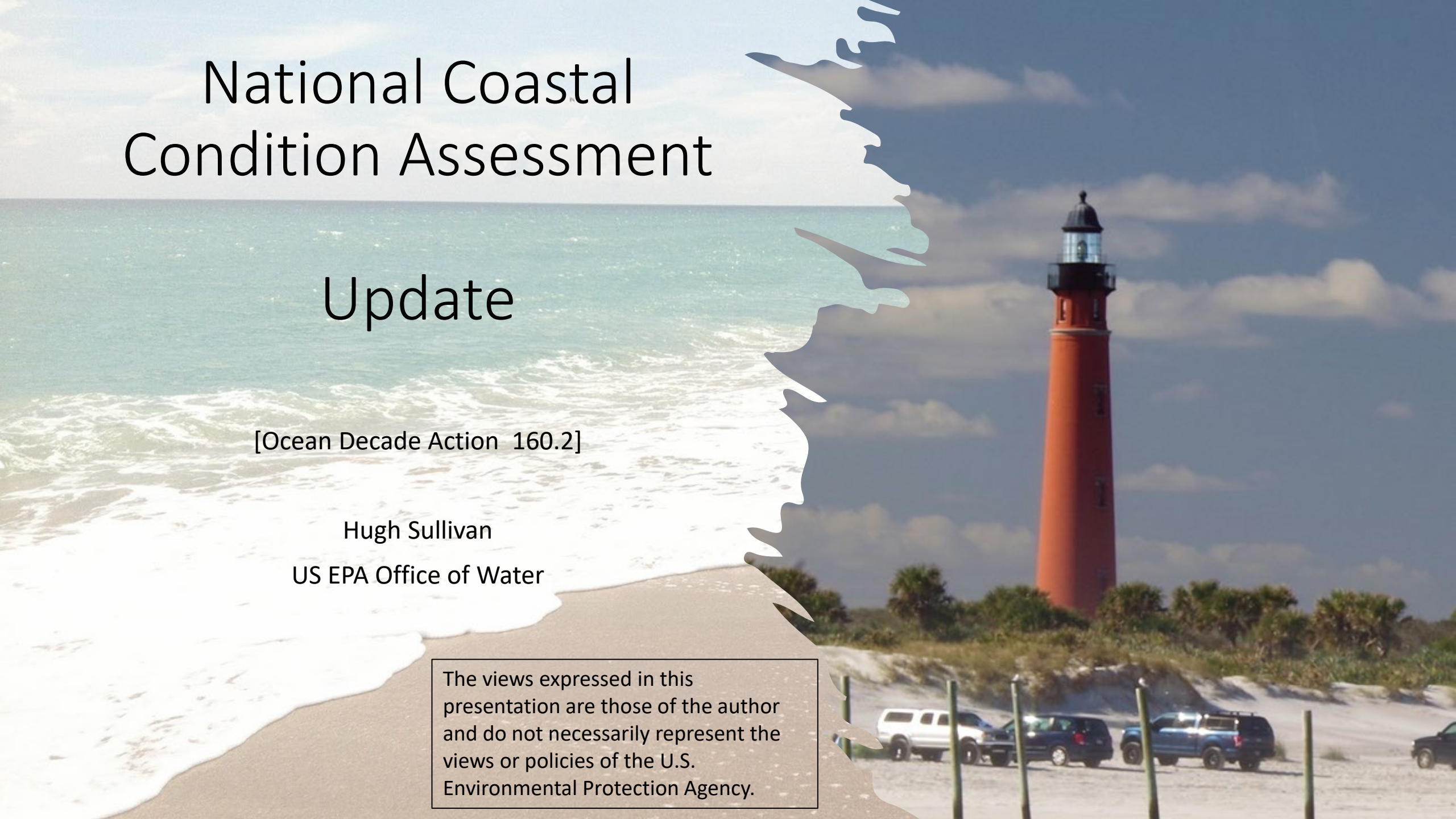
Update

[Ocean Decade Action 160.2]

Hugh Sullivan

US EPA Office of Water

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Agenda

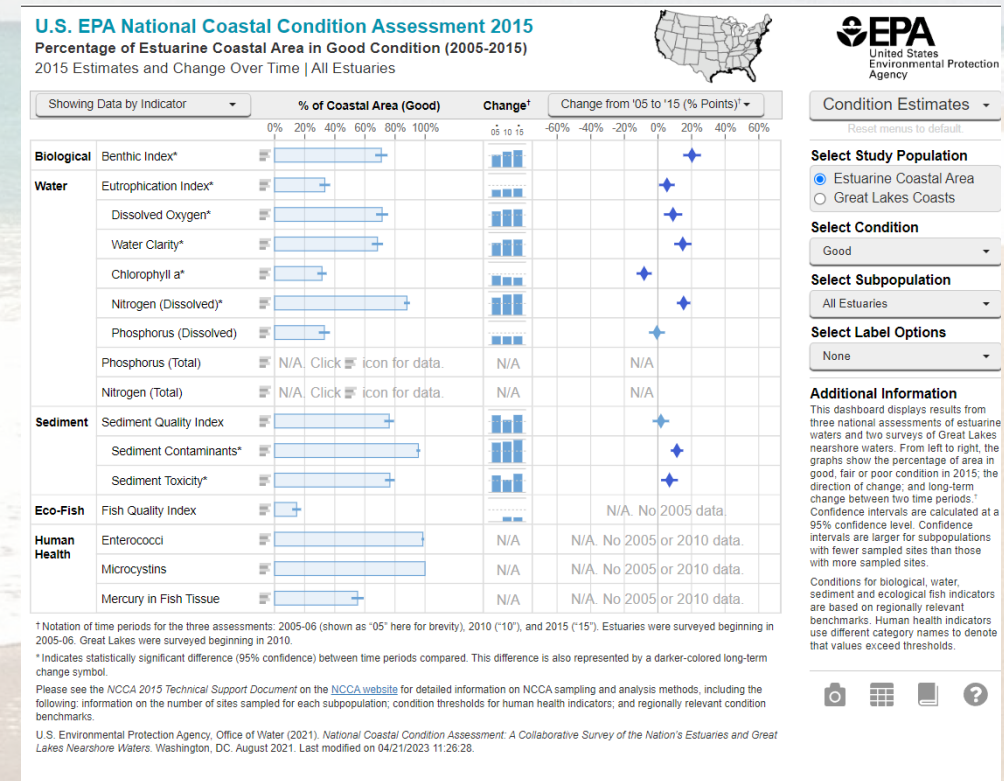
- National Coastal Condition Assessment Overview
- NCCA Project Status
- Ocean Decade Update
 - Ocean Decade Commitment
 - Successes
 - Challenges
 - Opportunities
- NCCA Links



National Coastal Condition Assessment

- Overview

- Statistical survey of health of estuarine and Great Lakes nearshore waters
- Ecological and human health indicators
- One of four National Aquatic Resource Surveys
- Field seasons rotate every five years (2010...15...20...25...)
- Partnership with states, tribes, territories and others
- Add-on studies
 - Pacific Island reef flat studies
 - USVI beach survey
 - Special studies funded by geographic programs such as Long Island Sound, Pensacola Perdido Bays, etc.



National Coastal Condition Assessment

- Ecological Indicators
 - Eutrophication
 - Sediment Quality
 - Ecological Fish Tissue Contaminants
 - Biological Condition
 - Hydrographic Profile
- Human Health Indicators
 - Fish fillet contaminants
 - Enterococci
 - Microcystins



NCCA Project Status

• 2020 Survey Status

- Field sampling extended into 2022 due to Covid-19
- 2020-22 data files publicly available
- Population estimates November 2024
- Draft Report January 2025
- Public release of Report Winter-Spring 2025

• 2025 Survey

- Planning in progress
- Pacific Island territories confirmed
- Adding USVI Beach survey
- Potential participation by three Tribes
- Alaska: Kachemak Peninsula estuaries
- 4 Geographic program partnerships
- New PFAS in fish fillet study
- Supporting Total Alkalinity research

Commitment to the UN Ocean Decade

- Sustainable Development Goals
 - SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
 - SDG 14: Life Below Water
 - SDG 17: Partnerships
- Ocean Decade Outcomes
 - Outcome 1: A clean ocean where sources of pollution are identified and reduced or removed
 - Outcome 2: A healthy and resilient ocean where marine ecosystems are understood, protected, restored and managed.
 - Outcome 6: An accessible ocean with open and equitable access to data, information and technology and innovation.
- Ocean Decade Challenges
 - Challenge 1: Understand and beat marine pollution
 - Challenge 2: Protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity
 - Challenge 9: Skills, knowledge and technology for all

NCCA Ocean Decade Update

• Successes

- SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
 - Data available
 - Nutrients & Chlorophyll *a*
 - Sediment Contaminants & Toxicity
 - Whole fish contaminants & mercury in fillets
 - Algal toxins & fecal indicator
- SDG 14: Life Below Water
 - Benthic assemblage data
- SDG 17: Partnerships
 - USVI & Alaska participating in 2025
 - Increased geographic program partnerships
 - UN Cartagena Convention
 - Prince William County Schools Oceanography class field trip

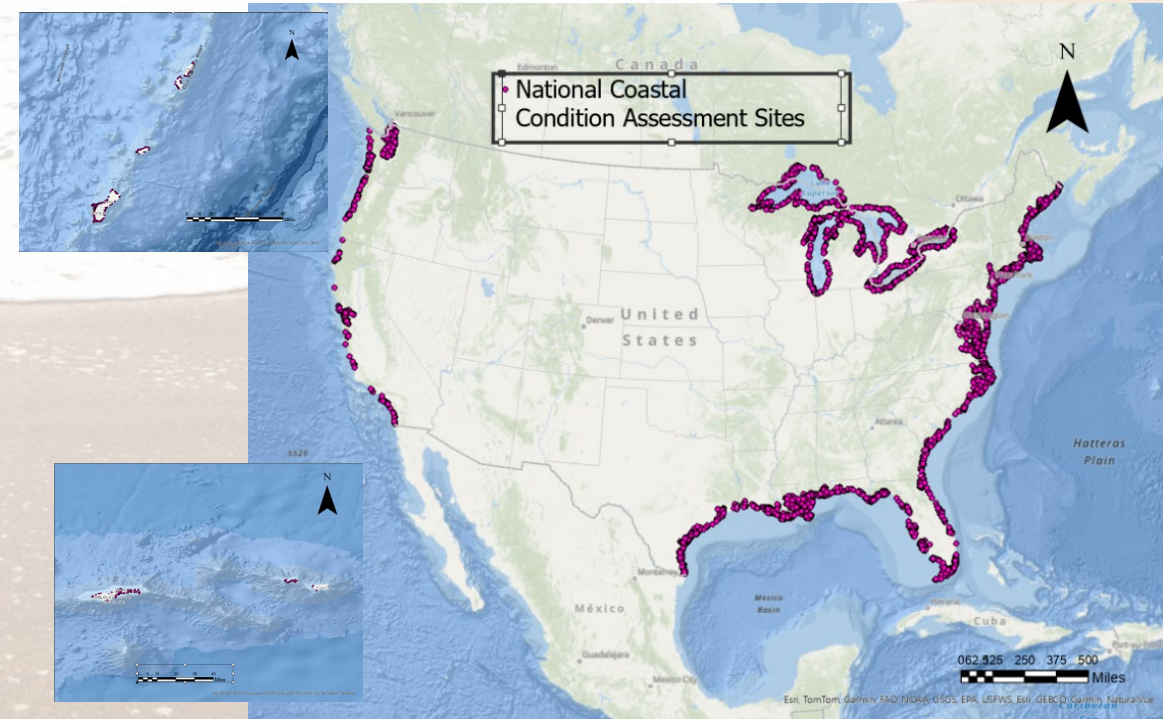


• Challenges

- Covid-19 related challenges
 - Travel restrictions
 - Contract lab staffing challenges
 - Multi-year data aggregation challenges
 - Cancellation of in-person training led to data quality issues
- OD-related challenges
 - OD-related communication
 - Expanding partnerships
 - Pacific Island knowledge transfer

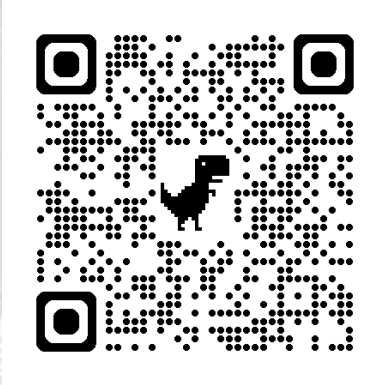
Potential Ocean Decade Opportunities

- Expanding partnerships
 - Ocean literacy & education
 - Encourage statistical surveys beyond US waters
- Capacity Building
 - Open access to NCCA Manuals and QAPP
 - Open access to NCCA field training videos
- Data sharing
 - Data for 2010 through 2020(22) plus historical data
 - Novel analyses beyond basic NCCA condition estimates



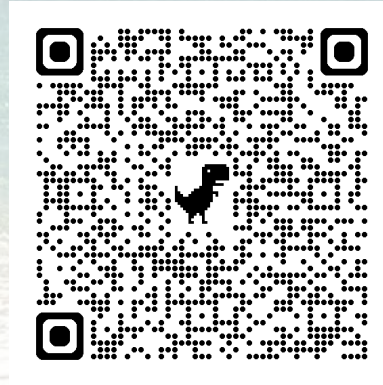
Links

NCCA Web Page



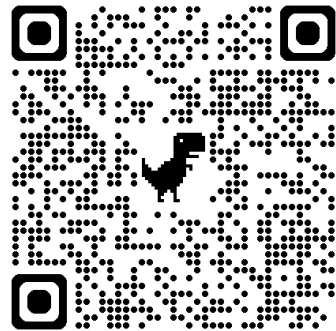
<https://www.epa.gov/national-aquatic-resource-surveys/ncca>

NCCA Interactive Dashboard



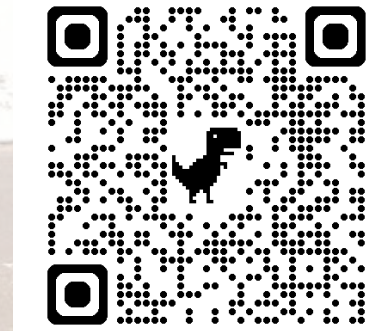
<https://coastalconditions.epa.gov/dashboard>

NARS Data Page



<https://www.epa.gov/national-aquatic-resource-surveys/data-national-aquatic-resource-surveys>

NCCA Field Training Videos



https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7F4YD5AdOGLUYcdX6R7yK_FVEw_-jIRz

Thank you!

Questions?

Hugh Sullivan
NCCA Project Lead
US EPA Office of Water
sullivan.hugh@epa.gov

