



Great Bay Coast Watch

Supporting GBCW Volunteer Training and Program Management



A Final Report to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

Submitted by

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Mid-project Report

Project	Supporting GBCW Volunteer Training and Program Management	
Grant Number	Project Starts	Project Ends
14N630	7/1/2006	6/25/2007

Task ID Tasks

1. Active GBCW volunteers will be trained in Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved water quality methods.

Since the funding for the grant came after the start of the sampling season, spring training in 2007 will fulfill this requirement. However, new volunteers starting in September benefited from this grant. Their training was completed in the field with one-on-one attention by the GBCW coordinator.

2. Active volunteers will pass a spring and/or midseason Quality Assurance /Quality Control (QAQC) test.

Fifteen active volunteers passed the midseason QAQC session and continued the water quality sampling at 19 testing sites around the Great Bay Estuarine System. From July through November, active GBCW volunteers were being observed and field-tested by the QAQC team.

3. The GBCW staff will be trained in using Dreamweaver software.

Karen Diamond, assistant to the Great Bay Coast Watch water quality monitoring program, has completed the Dreamweaver course I and II and will take course III on March 9, 2007. She is sharing her training with the rest of the web site team.

4. The GBCW web site will be redesigned to facilitate eventual online data entry.

Meetings have been held to review what changes will be made to the website. Several example designs have been tried and we are waiting for the Dreamweaver training to be completed before any final decisions are made.

End of Project Report

Project	Supporting GBCW Volunteer Training and Program Management	
Grant Number	Project Starts	Project Ends
14N630	7/1/2006	6/25/2007

Task ID Tasks

1. Active GBCW volunteers will be trained in Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved water quality methods.

Each spring, all new volunteers are provided with classroom training followed by field training. All volunteers are required to be certified each year. Classroom training includes a review of the volunteer manual, the monitoring kit and its equipment. Volunteers are then trained in standard procedures, and allowed to practice them, thus becoming familiar with the equipment and monitoring techniques. Since some volunteers are gaining a new skill of scientific data collection, extra time is spent discussing the importance of consistency.

For field training, new volunteers are taken to a site and allowed to practice all of the techniques.. They work with experienced monitors, as a special training session, or as part of a monitoring day activity. New volunteers who joined after the spring classroom training and QAQC sessions assist certified monitors until they can be certified.

2. Active volunteers will pass a spring and/or midseason QAQC test.

A QAQC certification session was offered in April, 2007, when 38 volunteers were certified. The QAQC team, made up of specially trained volunteers, assists Coordinator Ann Reid in running the QAQC sessions. Volunteers are tested on all of the parameters they process in the field. They are allowed to work with their partners and to use all of the resources they have in the field; the use of manuals and notes are allowed during the sessions. The data collected from the QAQC sessions is used to calculate accuracy and precision each year. These calculations are provided to data users and are included in the annual report.

3. The GBCW staff will be trained in using Dreamweaver software.

Karen Diamond took the last Dreamweaver class on 1/3/07, completing her classroom training. She continued to practice using Dreamweaver while helping develop the new web site with volunteer Lyn Rodger, who is the developer. She will be updating the site with current information as needed.

4. The GBCW web site will be redesigned to facilitate eventual online data entry.

Lyn Rodger has built the new web site, and it is waiting for a few polishing touches before going live. It has multiple layers designed to flow together and for easy access for people who are not generally computer savvy. Several pages are planned that cannot be completed yet due to the need to pay for server space. However, because of the training received in this grant, these pages will be ready when there is funding available to support them. Please go to <http://www.gbcw.unh.edu/> for the online web site. See the accompanying CD for the web site pages developed from this grant.