

Coastal Water Quality Network

The purpose of this Network is to provide basic measures of the ecological health of New Jersey's coastal waters (includes ocean, estuarine and tidal river waters). Temperature, salinity, suspended solids and oxygen measurements can provide information on the degree of environmental stress that organisms are exposed to. Nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) and chlorophyll relate to the amount of plant material in the water. Too much or too little plant material in the water can be detrimental to other organisms in the bay and ocean.

The Network monitors parameters such as dissolved oxygen, salinity, nitrogen, phosphorus, secchi depth, temperature, chlorophyll and suspended solids. Samples are collected four times per year (once each quarter) at approximately 270 locations.

Data and results from this Network may be obtained from the Bureau's webpage (www.nj.gov/dep/wmm/bmw) or by calling the Bureau at (609) 748-2000.

