Information Needs, Prioritization & Connection to Priority Setting & Decision-Making

Info Needed for CCMP Goal	Short Description	Within an Indicator?	Help with Priority Setting or Decision Making?	Priority (med, high)
Sediment Quality	Organic chemistry, grain size, benthic community & toxicity assessments	No.	Critical for management of both nutrient & toxic pollution, not covered by water concentration data	High, esp. chemistry component
Sediment Transport	Better understand current sources & movements of sediments for estuaries	No.	Suspended sediments are important. Understanding sources helps to inform management decisions.	High
Bio-Optical Modeling	Highly resolved (time, space) measurements of TSS, CDOM, chl-a to understand light limits	No.	Light a suspected issue. Work would guide whether interventions were achieving light goals.	Med
Nitrogen Budget, Part 1	Clearly bound the system in terms of what goes in and what goes out	Part of "N Loading"	Builds a foundation for further understanding cycling of N within the estuary, critical for managing N	High
Nitrogen Budget, Part 2	Clarify how N cycles through system: nitrify/denitrify; export to ocean; sediment sink/regeneration	Part of "N Loading"	Critical for N management; currently we only know what is "loaded" into the estuary	High
Emerging Contaminants (Amount)	Better understand quantity of emerging contaminants in our systems	No.	Critical for interventions such as: source control or wastewater treatment.	Med
Emerging Contaminants (Impacts)	Better understand impacts of emerging contaminants on ecosystem & human health	No.	Critical for motivating interventions such as: source control or wastewater treatment.	Med
Clams Ecology Research	Better understand reasons for changes in clam health: disease, predators, water quality, etc.	Part of "Clams" indicator	Better understand intervention options for improving clam abundance	Med
Lobster Abundance & Health	Assess changes in number & health parameters of lobsters	No.	Lobster info may add insight into ecosystem dynamics & also increase attention for interventions	Med
Green Crab Abundance	Understand changing numbers of green crabs, which have big impacts on ecosystems	Yes. Part of "Clams" indicator	Help understand changes in other habitats; help understand if current interventions are working	Med
Oyster Reef Mapping	Assess where and how big oyster reefs are in our estuaries.	Yes. Part of "Oyster" indicator	Currently track densities at 6 reefs; but also important to know other places oysters are.	High
Seaweed Tissue Analysis, P. 1	Use seaweed tissue analysis an integrated measurement of N concentration over time	No.	Studies show that seaweed analysis can add insight into N dynamics & impacts on seaweed abundance	Med
Seaweed Tissue Analysis, P. 2	Associated with above, use isotope analysis to determine where N is coming from	No.	Helps to target interventions based on source of N: freshwater, WWTP, etc.	Med
SeagrassNet (Seagrass Health)	Use SeagrassNet Health Protocol to understand changes in specific seagrass parameters	No.	Current presence/absence assessment of seagrass not enough to guide management decisions	High
Seagrass Deep Edge Assessment	Clarify changes in where the deepest eelgrass is.	No.	Noting changes in deep edge location helps track changes in water clarity	Med
Ocean/Coast Acidification	Measure changes in pH & pCO_2 in coastal & estuarine waters.	No.	Acidification impacts productivity & eutrophication & could impact water quality results/management	Med
Improve past WQ trend analysis	Analyze last 10-15 years of data re: NPS N, light attenuation, chl-a & TSS, relationship to weather	No.	Adds insight to water quality issues & helps forecast future challenges.	Med
High-Res loading around storms	Study nutrient loading dynamics as they relate to storms, using high-resolution sampling	No.	Can help guide stormwater management practices & understand changes in system health	Med