

Proposed Adaptive Management Plan

Presented by the Great Bay Municipal
Coalition

Dover, Exeter, Newmarket,
Portsmouth, and Rochester

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Areas of Agreement

- Nitrogen levels in the estuary have increased
- Eelgrass has declined in the estuary
- Oyster resources in the estuary are decimated
- It is necessary to lower the nitrogen load to the estuary
- It is now time to begin nitrogen reduction efforts

Key Plan Components

- Efficient use of scarce resources
- Addresses point and non point sources
 - Monitor progress and adapt

Adaptive Management

- Process which blends
 - Scientific research
 - Monitoring
 - Practical Management activities
- Learn By Doing

Adaptive Management Proposal

- WWTP's contributing to Great Bay
 - 8 mg/l N seasonal permit limits for 10 yrs
 - Operational within 5 yrs or sooner
 - Assess WQ improvements during permit
- Invest in WQ and Habitat monitoring
- Invest in Bio-extraction and habitat restoration projects
 - Oyster restoration and aquaculture
 - Eelgrass restoration

Adaptive Management Proposal

- Stormwater improvements
 - Adopt consistent stormwater regulations
 - Adopt watershed wide use of BMP's
 - Partner with UNH to develop effective BMP's
- Septic system contribution
 - Develop and implement a strategy- NHDES
- Fertilizer use controls
 - NH Legislature enabling legislation
 - Work with manufacturer's to reformulate product

Adaptive Management Proposal

- Stream and wetland buffers
 - Protection
 - re-establishment
- Watershed Nutrient trading program
NHDES
- Perform literature search on macroalgae and nitrogen in the estuarine environment