

## **Section 5: Sediment Quality in the Maryland Coastal Bays**

### **General Introduction**

Sediment quality is critical for seagrasses, demersal fish, and benthic communities. Sedimentation rates in the Coastal Bays are generally low, but nutrient enrichment due to human inputs is high in some areas. Chemical contamination is currently not a major threat in the Coastal Bays. However, the combined effects of 'low levels' of multiple contaminants may be impacting biological resources.

**Sediment Quality Monitoring Objective:** To adequately assess the types and concentrations of contaminants in sediments to inform decisions concerning inputs.

**Chapter 3.1 Total organic carbon in Maryland Coastal Bays sediments:  
status of a regulator of chemical and biological processes**

**Chapter 3.2 A synthesis of sediment chemical contaminant studies in the  
Maryland Coastal Bays**

**Chapter 3.3 Ambient toxicity of sediments from the Maryland Coastal Bays**