

Delaware Bay Estuary Project

Coastal Program

Fact Sheet

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D-DE)
Senator Thomas R. Carper (D-DE)
Rep. Michael N. Castle (R-DE)

Senator Jon S. Corzine (D-NJ)
Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ)
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th and 12th
Congressional districts

Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA)
Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA)
1st, 2nd, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 13th, and
15th Congressional districts

Contact

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Purpose

The Delaware Bay Estuary Project is part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Coastal Ecosystems Program. Project staff work to conserve the ecological integrity of wildlife resources in the Delaware River and Delmarva Peninsula ecosystems, an area encompassing portions of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Their work is guided by several laws and related legislative authorities, including:

Clean Water Act
Coastal Barrier Improvement Act
Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
Endangered Species Act
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
Oil Pollution Act

Management Activities

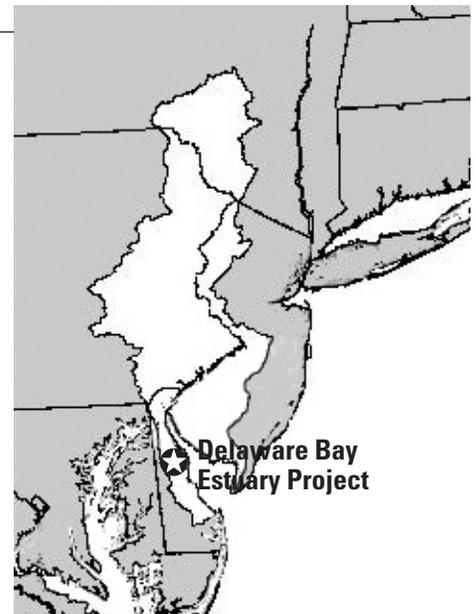
- Collaborating with groups and individuals to protect fish, wildlife and plants
- Assisting in the recovery of federally protected threatened and endangered plants and animals
- Restoring wetlands, riparian habitat and forests on private lands
- Mapping habitat and wildlife distributions in PA, MD, VA, NJ and DE to identify biodiversity conservation priorities and avoid conflicts with development interests
- Identifying water quality restoration opportunities and needs to improve wetlands, riparian buffers and other important wildlife habitat

Highlights

Work with the states of Delaware and New Jersey and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to conserve horseshoe crabs and populations of migratory birds dependent upon the Delaware Bay spring stopover.

Work with the state of Delaware and others to conserve Pea Patch Island heronry via a Special Area Management Plan.

Work with Cape May Observatory and the state of Delaware to identify, using radar and GIS techniques, important songbird stopover habitat in order to prioritize habitat protection and restoration efforts.



Issues

Although horseshoe crab populations have been stable, bird populations are declining. Efforts to understand and manage these resources often cause debate and receive media attention.

Continuing population growth and associated development pressures are leading to additional habitat losses, forest fragmentation and population declines for many species of conservation concern.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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<http://www.fws.gov>

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