

# Delaware Estuary Program

Fall 1998

## Fast Facts

Includes 3 states, 2 USEPA regions, 22 counties, and over 500 municipalities.

Drainage basin is home to almost 8 million people and spreads about 13,500 square miles -- population projected to increase by 14% by 2020.

World's largest fresh-water port and second largest refining-petrochemical center in nation.

Provides 10% of U.S. with drinking

Over 200 fish and largest horseshoe crab population in world.

Hosts millions of migrating birds in spring and fall.

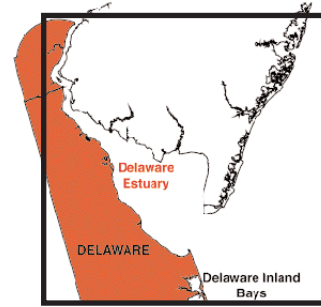


## Status Update & Next Steps

**W**ater quality is improving. Most strikingly, dissolved oxygen levels have improved enough to see the return of anadromous fish, including striped bass and American shad, and resident species of fish to the urban river region.

Lower bacterial levels now permit contact recreation in all regions of the estuary except for occasional high levels associated with combined sewer overflows in urban areas.

New, more stringent toxic water quality criteria have been devel-



*Delaware Estuary watershed. Courtesy of USEPA.*

annual rotating is, provide a primary um for implementa- 1.

For more information ding the Delaware y Program, call the ship for the e Estuary at (302) , write us at P.O. Box ington, DE 19809 or tners@udel.edu.



# Association of National Estuary Programs

The Association of National Estuary Program (ANEP) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting responsible stewardship and a common vision for the preservation of our nation's bays and estuaries.

## ANEP's Mission

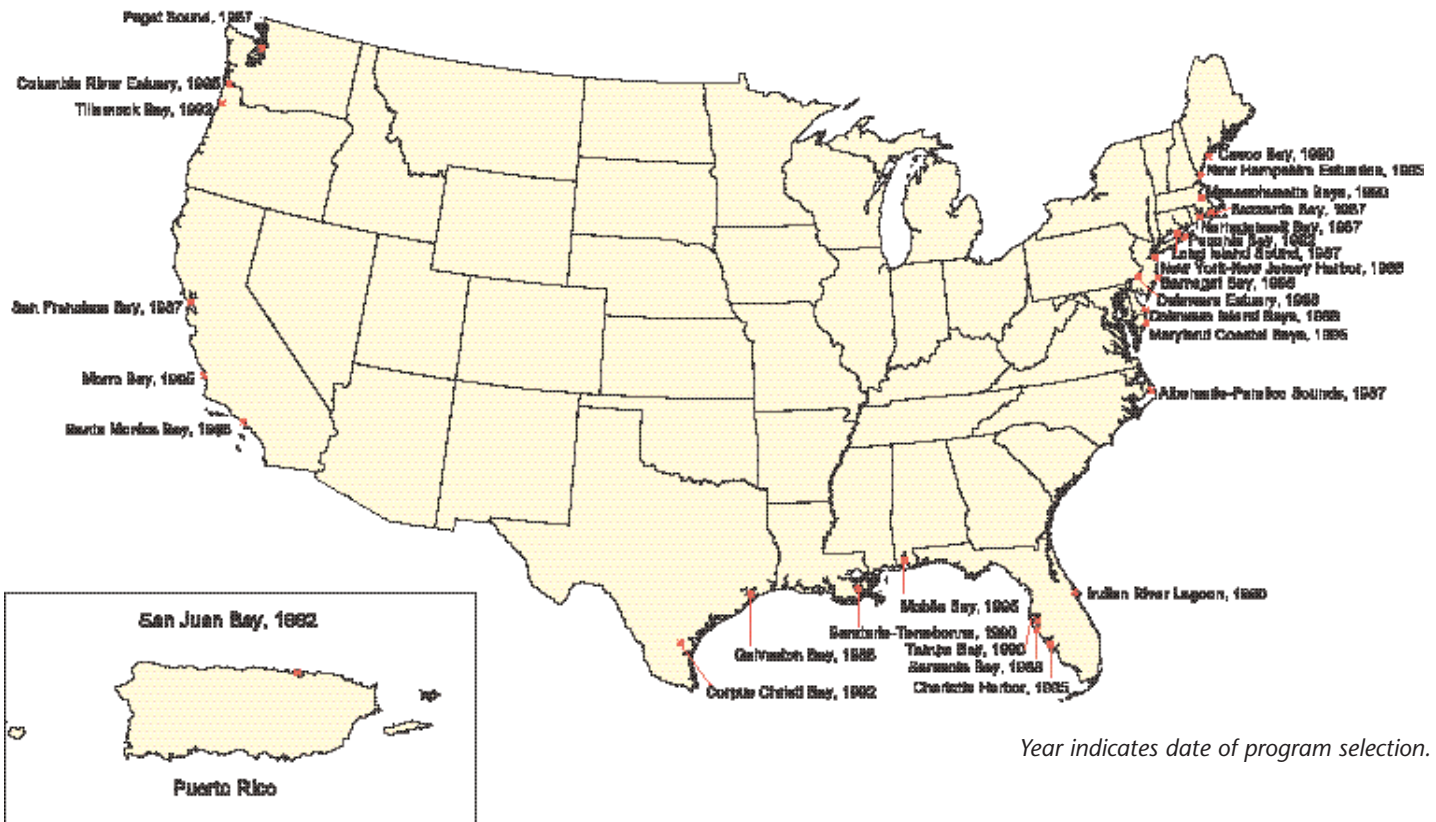
Bring consistency to estuarine data collection and management, and turn data into useful information that is consolidated into meaningful status and trends at the national scale. Ensure that data are reliable, objective, and goal-directed. Achieve recognition of the critical roles for continued monitoring and assessment.

Educate the public on the meaning and practical application of "responsible stewardship." Ensure that the public understands the long-term nature of solutions to the environmental problems now facing bays and estuaries.

Achieve mutual support and coordination among all coastal programs. Enhance communication among NEPs and between NEPs and other coastal programs. Report both successes and failures to Congress and the American public, while understanding that through 'adaptive management' we can achieve effective management of our nation's bays and estuaries.

Seek explicit congressional support and commitment to implement Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs). Capitalize on the hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours invested thus far, nationwide, and recognize the important role that Management Conferences play as a continuing forum for all stakeholders.

Achieve sufficient federal funding to strengthen the federal/state/local and public/private partnerships that have been fledged across the nation. Achieve stable funding for core program operations, project implementation, and local government pass-through dollars as incentive for regional, multi-jurisdictional cooperation.



Year indicates date of program selection.