

Maryland Coastal Bays Program

Fall 1998

Fast Facts

Shallow coastal lagoons located behind Fenwick (Ocean City) and Assateague Islands including Isle of Wight and Assawoman bays in the north, and Chincoteague, Newport, and Sinepuxent bays in the south.

Watershed of 175 square miles within Worcester County.

Population of 21,781 swells to over 300,000 in summer; expected to double within 30 years.

19 animal species and 89 plant species currently on state's rare, threatened, or endangered list.

Important wintering, staging, and breeding habitats for more than 360 bird species.



ANEP
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PROGRAMS

Status Update & Next Steps

The northern bays, major tributaries, and artificial canals are degraded while the southern bays are in relatively good health. Eutrophication is the single greatest environmental problem.

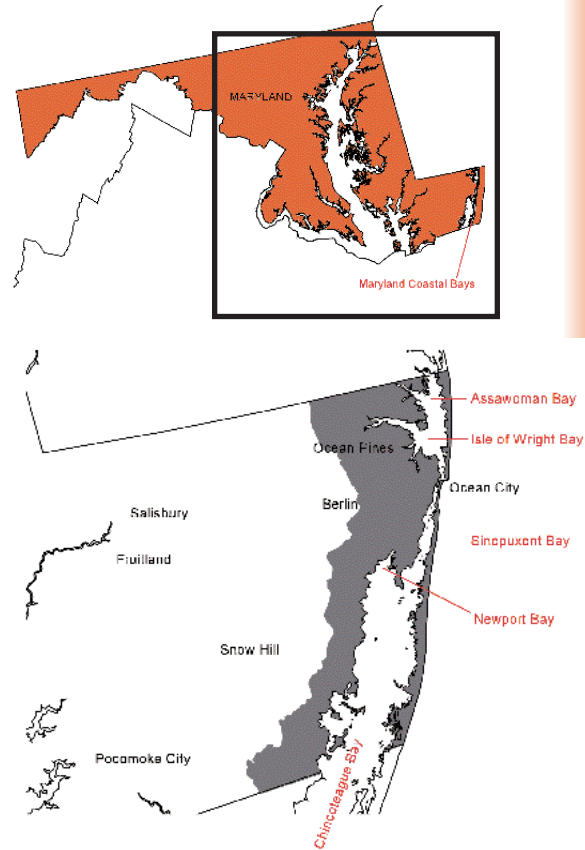
Loss of terrestrial and aquatic habitat has contributed to the degradation of the bays and, in some locations, chemical contaminants occur at levels that are likely to cause harm to living resources.

The amount of nutrients entering the coastal bays today is significant.

Approximately one-third of the nutrients come from the wastes

produced by animal farming operations primarily in the north. This is particularly impressive because these areas constitute only 1% of the watershed.

Correcting nutrient inputs from these lawns and farms.



Maryland Coastal Bays watershed. Courtesy of USEPA.

Areas with natural vegetation will help filter nutrient-rich runoff and provide habitat for wildlife.

For more information regarding the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, call (410) 326-7300. BAYS, write us at Stephen Decatur Berlin, MD 21811 or email us at mdcoastal@anep.org.



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.

