

Delaware Bay Estuary Project

Coastal Program

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D-DE)
Senator Thomas R. Carper (D-DE)
Rep. Michael N. Castle (R-DE)
Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ)
Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ)
New Jersey districts 1 through 5, 7, 11 and 12
Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY)
Senator Hillary R. Clinton (D-NY)
New York districts 20 and 22
Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA)
Senator Robert Casey (D-PA)
Pennsylvania districts 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 17

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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
Migratory Bird Act
Oil Pollution Act

Management Activities

- Collaborating with federal agencies, states, non-government organizations 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 Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey and Delaware to identify biodiversity conservation priorities and avoid conflicts with development interests



Stranded horseshoe crabs

- Conserve native biodiversity through outreach and the control of invasive species

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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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 federal agencies, states, non-government organizations and individuals to protect and restore forested, wetland and riparian habitat for migratory birds.

Work with Cape May Bird Observatory (New Jersey Audubon Society) 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.

