

Delaware Bay Estuary Project

Coastal Program

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Thomas R. Carper (D-DE)
Senator Edward Kaufman (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 Kirsten Gillibrand (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

Contact

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Profile

Established: 1990
Staff: 4
FY 2009 budget: \$471,245

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

Highlights

Working with the states of Delaware and New Jersey, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the U.S. Geological Survey to use science to identify horseshoe crab harvest levels that will allow recovery of the red knot population at the Delaware Bay Spring Shorebird Stopover.

Working with private landowners, The Nature Conservancy, New Jersey Audubon Society and others to restore forested habitat for migrating songbirds and other species that depend upon the Cape May – Cape Henlopen Fall Stopover.

Working with partners to restore riparian habitat for songbirds and fish passage for migratory species like shad and eel throughout the Delaware River drainage basin.



Gregory Breese/USFWS

Red knot

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

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Issues

Although horseshoe crab populations have been stable for the last ten years and show a number of signs that suggest an increase, shorebird populations have declined and show no signs of recovery yet. Efforts to understand and manage these resources often cause debate and receive media attention.

Continued population growth in the coastal area and its associated development pressures are leading to additional habitat losses and fragmentation.

Climate change and sea level rise have the potential to cause major shifts in habitat and population ranges that scientists are only beginning to understand. Coupled with the threat to communities and infrastructure this will likely require complex and difficult management decisions in the future.