



National Estuary Program

NEP Facts



NEPs are **NON-REGULATORY**, consensus-driven, and science-based.



FOR EVERY DOLLAR

EPA provides,

NEPs LEVERAGE \$19

in local funds to protect and improve coastal environments, communities, and economies!



NEPs ARE SUCCESSFUL.

Since the year 2000, NEPs have protected and restored more than 2 million acres of vital coastal habitats.

Celebrating 30 Years of Protecting America's Estuaries

THE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM WAS REAUTHORIZED IN 2016 WITH UNANIMOUS, BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT!

NEPs: Effective & Efficient

NEPs empower communities to manage estuaries according to local values and needs. EPA's National Estuary Program consists of 28 voluntary programs established by the Clean Water Act. Among federally funded coastal programs, only NEPs organize local stakeholders in a unique decision-making framework to create a shared vision and develop an action plan to improve communities. From Puget Sound to Tampa Bay to Casco Bay, our national estuaries help protect thousands of communities from flooding, support fish and wildlife, provide untold opportunities for recreation and education, and sustain millions of jobs in tourism, fishing, transportation and other industries.

NEPs: Public-Private Partners

NEPs promote efficient private-public partnerships to achieve on-the-ground success. NEPs lead and support wide-ranging projects, including coastal infrastructure, seagrass and shellfish restoration, innovative pollution controls, and science and monitoring to guide decision-making. NEPs stretch federal dollars by engaging diverse partners, including farms, fisheries, colleges and universities, utilities, restaurants, state agencies, local governments, landscaping professionals, engineering and mining companies, and faith-based and other community organizations.

NationalEstuaries.org

ANEP, a 501(c)3 which provides a unified voice for the 28 NEPs and helps promote estuarine protection and restoration, funded this fact sheet.





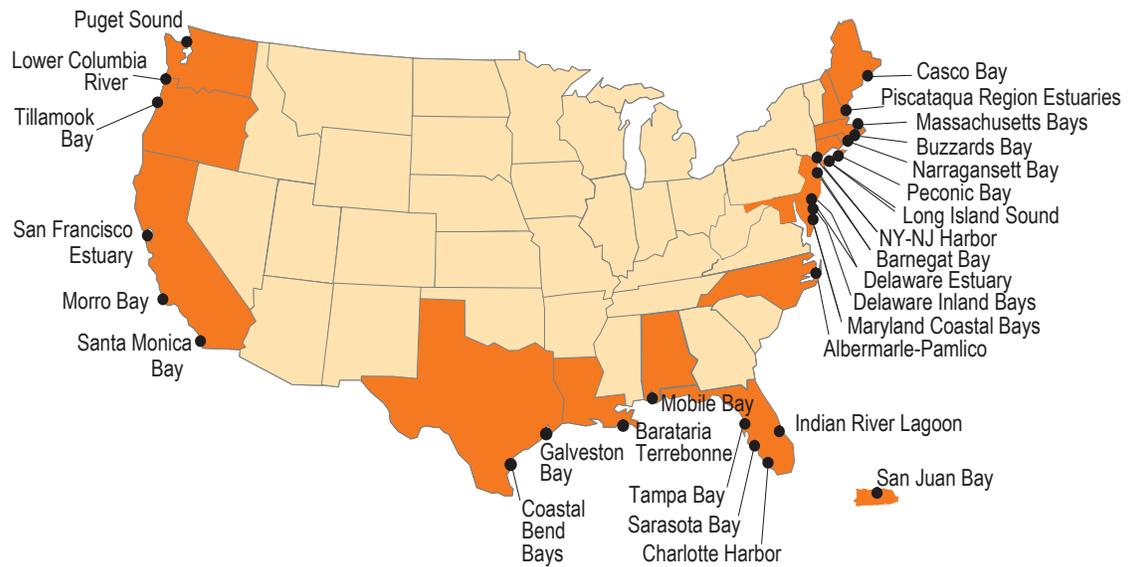
Clean Estuaries Sustain Vibrant Economies and Healthy Coastal Communities.

COASTAL REGIONS...

- Provide **40% of US employment** and support more than 69 million jobs;
- Generate **half the nation's GDP** and protect almost \$2 trillion in trade annually;
- Employ **13.5 million people in the tourism industry** in over 750,000 business establishments, earning combined wages exceeding \$266 billion and generating a total economic value of roughly \$531 billion; and
- Supply **nursery and other key habitats for over 75%** of our nation's commercial fish catch and 80-90% of the recreational fish catch worth billions of dollars.

Protect our Estuaries: Protect our Future.

Over the past 30 years, more and more Americans have moved to the coast; today, more than 52 percent of the nation's population lives along our coasts. This population shift increases the environmental, economic, and social challenges to restoring healthy estuaries and building sustainable communities. Because they provide locally driven forums to develop adaptable, science-based management approaches and innovative solutions, NEPs contribute to improvements in the environment *and* coastal economies, both *essential* to our overall quality of life.



Build on 30 Years of NEP Success.

INVEST IN NATIONAL ESTUARIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

Thanks to strong bipartisan Congressional support, the NEP has established a thirty-year track record of success in protecting and restoring our national estuaries. NEPs implement specific actions (e.g., stormwater infrastructure projects, wetland restoration) based on local consensus and the best available science to improve water quality, protect open space, update critical coastal infrastructure, and reduce the risks, impacts, and costs of coastal flooding.

Congressional support for EPA funding is essential for the NEP to continue its unique partnership with local communities. Our national estuaries, the economies of coastal communities, and our quality of life depend on your support.