



# NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

*Celebrating 30 Years of Protecting America's Coastal Waters*

## NEPs: EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT

The NEP consists of 28 unique, voluntary, ecosystem programs established by the Clean Water Act to protect and improve estuaries of national significance. Each NEP engages its local community in a non-regulatory, consensus-driven, and science-based process. For every dollar EPA provides, NEPs leverage \$19 in local funds to protect and improve coastal environments, communities, and economies.

## HOW DO NEPs WORK?

Of all federally funded coastal programs, only NEPs organize local stakeholders as partners in a unique decision-making framework to fund local priorities. NEPs provide technical, management, and communication assistance to develop priorities and implement comprehensive actions, stormwater & green infrastructure projects, seagrass & shellfish restoration which support fishing & tourist industries, science & monitoring to guide decision-making, and innovative education programs designed for the next generation of Americans.

## NEPs: PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERS

NEPs engage industries, businesses, and other community members to develop solutions for tough problems. The NEP's public-private partnerships stretch federal dollars to provide successful on-the-ground results driven by diverse stakeholders. NEP partners include commercial agriculture & fisheries, energy & water utilities, local restaurants & tourist businesses, construction & landscaping professionals, engineering & mining companies, state & local governments, colleges & universities, public & private schools, and faith-based & other community organizations.

*The National Estuary Program was reauthorized in 2016 with unanimous, bipartisan congressional support!*

ANEP is a 501(c)3 that works with and provides a unified voice for the 28 individual NEPs. Information herein has not undergone USEPA review and may not reflect agency views.



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## NEP Facts



**MORE THAN 52%  
OF THE U.S.  
POPULATION**  
lives along the coast.



In 2010, the total economic value by coastal tourism alone

**EXCEEDED  
\$531 BILLION.**



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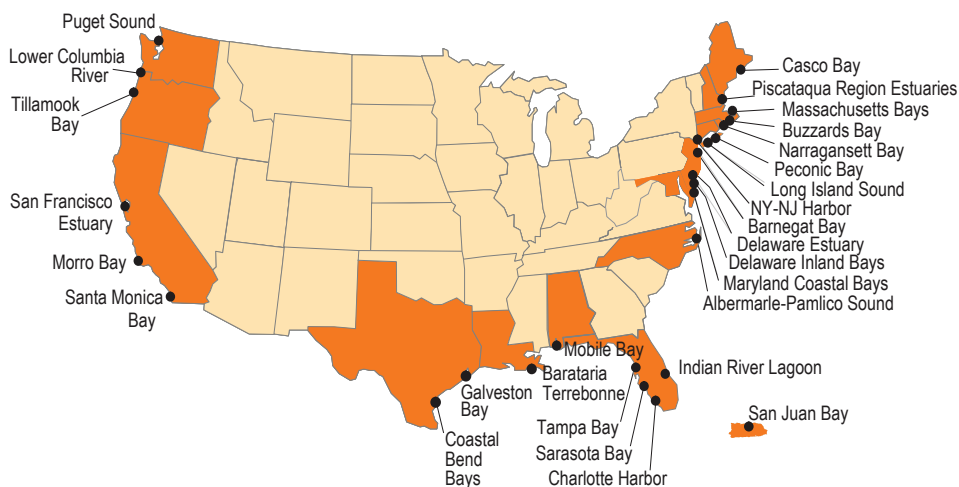
*Clean estuaries sustain healthy coastal communities and vibrant economies.*

## COASTAL REGIONS:

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;  
Provide 40% of U.S. 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 total economic value of roughly \$531 billion.

## PROTECT OUR COASTS, PROTECT OUR FUTURE

Over the past 30 years, an increasing percentage of Americans have moved to the coast. Today, more than 52 percent of the nation's population lives along the coast. This population shift is likely to continue and further increase the stressors on coastal watersheds and the vulnerability of coastal communities. NEPs provide locally-driven and science-based forums to help address demands on coastal resources, develop innovative management approaches, and leverage institutional capacities of partners to cost effectively improve conditions and increase community resilience.



*Build on 30 Years of Success.*

## INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF AMERICA'S COASTAL COMMUNITIES

NEPs develop Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans based on community consensus and the best available science to ensure the quality of life in coastal communities. These plans outline specific actions and on-the-ground projects that ensure local engagement and promote public support for states and communities working together to protect open space, update critical coastal infrastructure, and respond to dramatic changes along our coasts. NEPs have collectively restored and protected more than 2,000,000 acres of vital habitats since 2000 alone. Consistent Congressional funding of the National Estuary Programs (NEPs) is essential - resulting in clean water, healthy estuaries, and strong coastal communities. This investment in our national estuaries will help strengthen America's economy and support thousands of jobs, and will secure the future of our coastal communities.