

# Delaware Bay Estuary Project

## Our purpose

The Delaware Bay Estuary Project is part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program. Project staff work through partnerships to conserve the ecological integrity of wildlife resources. We work throughout the Delaware River watershed that encompasses portions of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. We also work along the coasts of Delaware and New Jersey. We partner with private individuals, non-government organizations, states, municipalities, and other federal agencies to pursue conservation and restoration related to coastal resources.

## How we can help you

We are a small program that strives to be flexible in how we can help our conservation partners achieve shared goals. Please contact us if you think we may be able to partner.

## Contact us

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## Our primary priorities

We currently focus much of our time and resources on making a meaningful impact on these three priorities. We expect to increasingly focus on these areas in the future.

### 1) Delaware Bay shorebirds

Monitoring the delicate balance between the second largest concentration of spring migrating shorebirds in North America and the food source they rely on, the eggs of the largest spawning population of horseshoe crabs in the world. Data collected on these species are directly applied to ongoing conservation efforts.

### 2) Coastal resilience and shoreline habitats

Conserving and restoring beach and intertidal shoreline habitats relied on by fish, wildlife, and communities. We facilitate ecologically-responsible solutions to shoreline erosion and beach degradation to create shores resilient to storms, sea level rise, and navigational impacts for the benefit of many coastal habitat-dependent species, including shorebirds and beach nesting birds.

### 3) Delaware and New Jersey salt marsh

Conserving, restoring, and studying the vulnerable salt marshes of Delaware and New Jersey to protect and improve the habitat of the unique variety of fish and wildlife relying on them. We especially explore novel restoration and monitoring techniques that address tidal marsh birds such as saltmarsh sparrow and black rail.

## Our secondary priorities

We have three other issues that we focus on as resources allow. We believe these are important to the watershed and are areas where we are capable of having a meaningful impact. We provide funding, organizing, technical, and on-the-ground assistance through partnerships we are currently part of.

- 1) Aquatic connectivity: Removing barriers to fish passage and natural hydrology throughout the Delaware River Watershed and coastal bays of New Jersey.
- 2) Forest habitat for migratory birds in Delaware: Reforesting to create habitat for forest-interior dependent wildlife especially neotropical songbirds of conservation concern in Delaware.
- 3) Connecting people with nature: Supporting efforts to get students and communities outside and have meaningful experiences in nature in the lower Delaware River Watershed and to learn through outreach associated with our restoration and conservation projects we work on throughout our work area.