

What is a CCMP?

In the simplest of terms, a CCMP is a roadmap for protecting and restoring the estuary, developed through the collaborative efforts of various agencies and groups. Every NEP must develop and implement a CCMP. All of the Center's work is linked to actions identified in the Inland Bays CCMP.

Much was done to ensure that the original CCMP reflected the public interest, noting the importance of identifying actions "directly linked to the needs of people living, working, and playing in the watershed." Subsequent addendums and updates to the CCMP carried forward this intention, with a diverse group of partners and the public engaged through surveys, workshops, and public forums. The Inland Bays CCMP was last revised in 2021.

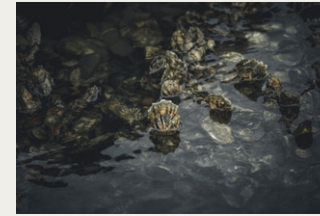


Bob Collins, winner of 2005 Friend of the Bays award and now Manager of Programs and Facilities, pictured in 2004.

Photo by John Hoyt



Horseshoe Crab Survey Launched



Addendum to the Inland Bays CCMP completed.



Statewide Living Shoreline Committee convened to promote and facilitate the use of living shoreline practices along Delaware's waterways.

2016 State of the Delaware Inland Bays report finds that water quality in the Inland Bays remains fair to poor, though Little Assawoman Bay and open waters near the inlet are showing some improvements

37 acres of former cropland reforested at Bullseye-Ferry Landing Preserve in partnership with Austin (Pete) Okie, The Nature Conservancy in Delaware and DNREC Division of Parks and Recreation.



Ribbon cutting ceremony for the Rehoboth Beach ocean outfall, which marked the removal of the last point source to the Inland Bays

Watershed Reforestation Plan for the Inland Bays developed in partnership with Sussex Conservation District.

Last point source of pollution removed from the Inland Bays.

Implementation of the James Farm Ecological Master Plan begins with Phase I groundbreaking.



A record 15 fish kills occur, indicating that water quality challenges in the Bays persist and progress on pollution control is stalling.



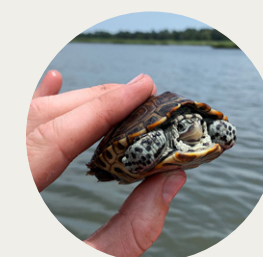
2021 State of the Delaware Inland Bays assigns the waters of the Inland Bays a "Poor" or "D" rating, the same as the 2016 report.



Delaware Botanic Gardens Living Shoreline



Water Quality Monitoring



Native Plant Sale merges with DNREC's Water Family Fest, adding a suite of environmental exhibitors, educational tours, and hands-on activities to the beloved community event.

Implementation of the James Farm Ecological Master Plan continues with Phase II construction.

Delaware Botanic Gardens Living Shoreline receives Best Restored Shores Awards from the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association.

Continuous Water Quality Monitoring program launched.

First leases for shellfish aquaculture in the Inland Bays issued.

First Living Shoreline Demonstration Project completed on Loop Canal in Bethany Beach.



Delaware Aquaculture Act signed into law by Governor Jack A. Markell, permitting shellfish aquaculture in Delaware's Inland Bays.



Ron Kernehan (right) launched the Inshore Fish and Blue Crab Survey in 2011



The Center's office before renovation.



Photo credit: Ron MacArthur

Sudden marsh dieback affects 40% of salt marshes in the Inland Bays.

Slough's Gut, adjacent to James Farm Ecological Preserve, restored with meandering tidal creeks, mudflats, and pools to benefit wildlife.



Education Programs begin at James Farm Ecological Preserve.

Inaugural "Gardening for the Bays" Native Plant Sale held.

Volunteer Bob Collins wins "Friend of the Bays" Award.

TMDLs established for Little Assawoman Bay and the major tributaries of the Inland Bays.

Inland Bays Tributary Action Team formed, representing the beginning of Volunteers for the Bays.

The Center assumes management of the James Farm Ecological Preserve through partnership with Sussex County.

Delaware Nutrient Management Program established by the Delaware General Assembly to reduce nutrient pollution from farmland.

Newly elected Governor Ruth Ann Minner performs her inaugural Wade-In in Rehoboth Bay to raise awareness for the Inland Bays.

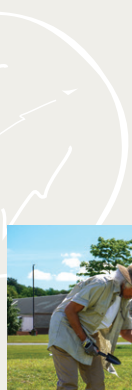
The first Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for Delaware's Inland Bays submitted to Governor Tom Carper and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Inland Bays officially designated as a National Estuary Program.

State of Delaware designates the Inland Bays and their tributaries as waters of Exceptional Recreation or Ecological Significance (ERES).

Volunteers for the Bays

In 1998, citizens from all parts of the watershed formed the Tributary Action Team and worked for years to develop Pollution Control Strategies for the Inland Bays. Since then, thousands of Center volunteers have given countless hours to participatory science, outreach and education efforts, shoreline and habitat restoration projects, management of the James Farm, service on committees and the Board of Directors, and so much more. Many of the Center's major accomplishments over the years wouldn't be possible without their help.



Environmental Study of Rehoboth, Indian River, and Assawoman Bays commissioned by Governor Russell W. Peterson.

US Congress establishes the National Estuary Program via section 320 of the Clean Water Act.

Governor Michael N. Castle nominates the Inland Bays to the National Estuary Program.

Center for the Inland Bays established as an independent nonprofit by the Delaware General Assembly and then-Governor, Tom Carper, via the Inland Bays Watershed Enhancement Act.

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