



# THE ASSOCIATION OF National Estuary Programs

The US coastal economy depends on our nation's estuaries. For 30 years the National Estuary Program (NEP) has served our nation's coasts by delivering innovative, non-regulatory, and locally-based solutions focused on resilient communities and economies, clean water, and healthy ecosystems. The National Estuary Program focuses on the Administration's priority of implementing *cooperative federalism activities under various environmental statutes* and EPA's core mission to *ensure clean air, water and land*. As our nation faces the challenges of nutrient pollution, increased coastal flooding, and harmful algal blooms, the NEP delivers innovative and effective leadership for our communities, our economies, and our shared lands and waters.



[HTTPS://NATIONALESTUARIES.ORG/](https://nationalestuaries.org/)

**REAUTHORIZATION BILL**  
**S. 3171: Protect & Restore**  
**America's Estuaries Act**  
**\$50M/year**  
**2022-2026**

- 28 ORGANIZATIONS IN THE NEP
- 268+ M US RESIDENTS
- 18 STATES & TERRITORIES
- 85% OF NATION'S EMPLOYMENT



**"The NEP is an essential partner for port authorities for environmental sustainability of the bays and ecosystems that are within or adjacent to ports."**

Kurt J. Nagle, CEO  
 American Association of  
 Port Authorities

**2.3 M**

**JOBS**

in the tourism industry alone in coastal states

**2 MILL**

**ACRES**

of vital habitats restored by the NEP since 2000

**\$19**

**FOR \$1**

The NEP leverages \$19 in local funds for every federal dollar

**\$320 B**

**GDP**

Ocean industries contribution to the US economy



## ECONOMIC IMPACT: FISHERIES & TOURISM

# THE NEP HELPING COMBAT HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

The fishing industry loses as much as \$34M a year in sales when seafood is contaminated with toxins from harmful algal blooms (HABs) (CDC 2019). Researchers estimate \$22M is lost annually (medical costs & lost work days) during HAB events (FL Dept. of Health, 2019). The NEP works to reduce nutrient pollution entering our waters from all sources, conserves coastal habitats that remove pollution, and encourages sustainable stormwater management to control the pollution that can lead to HABs.



**"As climate change advances, it's never been more important to have healthy estuaries that provide a natural buffer between high winds and storm surges and coastal homes and businesses"**

SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE  
(D-RI)

## COMMUNITY IMPACT: RESILIENCE

# THE NEP BUILDS RESILIENT COMMUNITIES & ECOSYSTEMS

The NEP focuses on building innovative solutions that better help ecosystems and the communities that surround them to be resilient to storms and increased pollution. Oyster restoration helps to keep waters clean and provides a food source for local communities. Salt marsh restoration is a built-in natural protective barrier for storms and provides essential habitat for all commercial fish species.

**"Estuaries not only support Louisiana's tourism and seafood industries, but serve as natural barriers to minimize potential damage during hurricanes and other Gulf storms. We must recognize the importance of estuaries to Louisiana and preserve them."**

SENATOR BILL CASSIDY  
(R-LA)



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