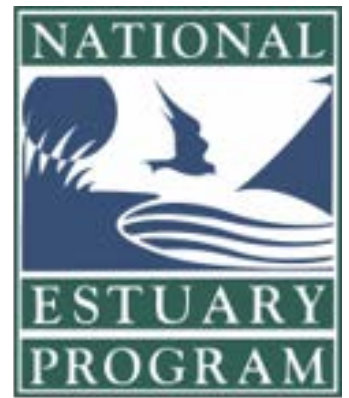




# National Estuary Program Overview

*Estuaries: Scenes of Transition*  
Poster by John D. Dawson



# Healthy Estuaries Support a Healthy Economy



- 1 in 5 jobs in the **Tampa Bay** estuary watershed depends on a healthy Bay
- **Tampa Bay's** estimated nitrogen removal rates are such that no new investment in sewage treatment plant is planned
- **Casco Bay** watershed is 4.4% of Maine's land mass and supports 32% of its total employment
- Each visitor to the **Indian River Lagoon** spends about \$162/day, and every 85 tourists = 1 job



# National Estuary Program Overview

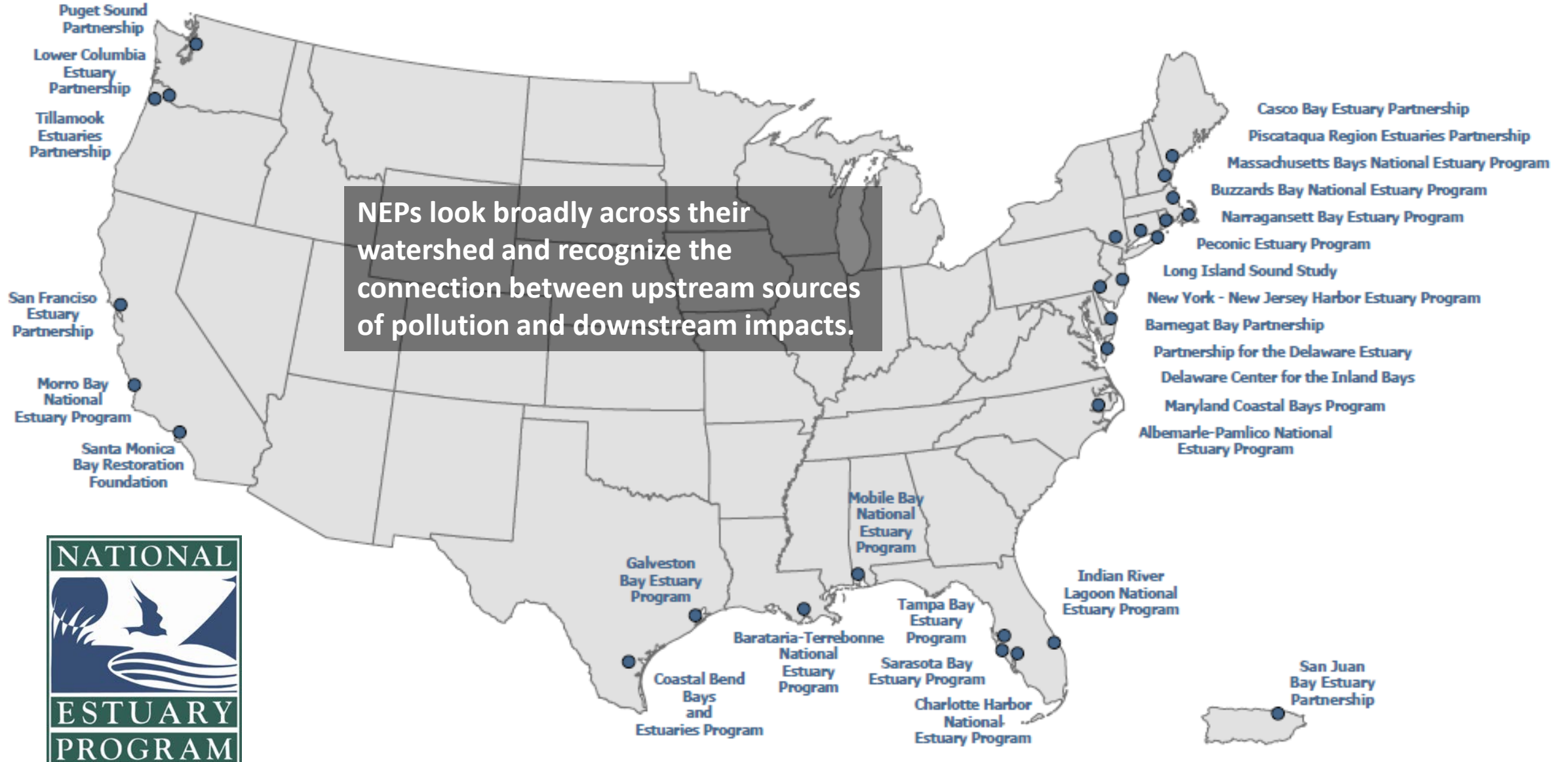


## Voluntary Program Established by §320 of 1987 Clean Water Act Amendments, Reauthorized in 2016

- NEPs **facilitate** development & implementation of science-based, **locally-driven plans** to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the estuary
- NEPs **bring together** diverse stakeholders that identify and build **shared goals and common visions**. They include representatives from:
  - Federal, state, & local governments, NGOs, academia, business sectors, and the public
- EPA has a fiduciary role, facilitates this unique public-private partnership, provides technical & program assistance, and engages in tech transfer to inform decision-making.



# National Estuary Program Locations

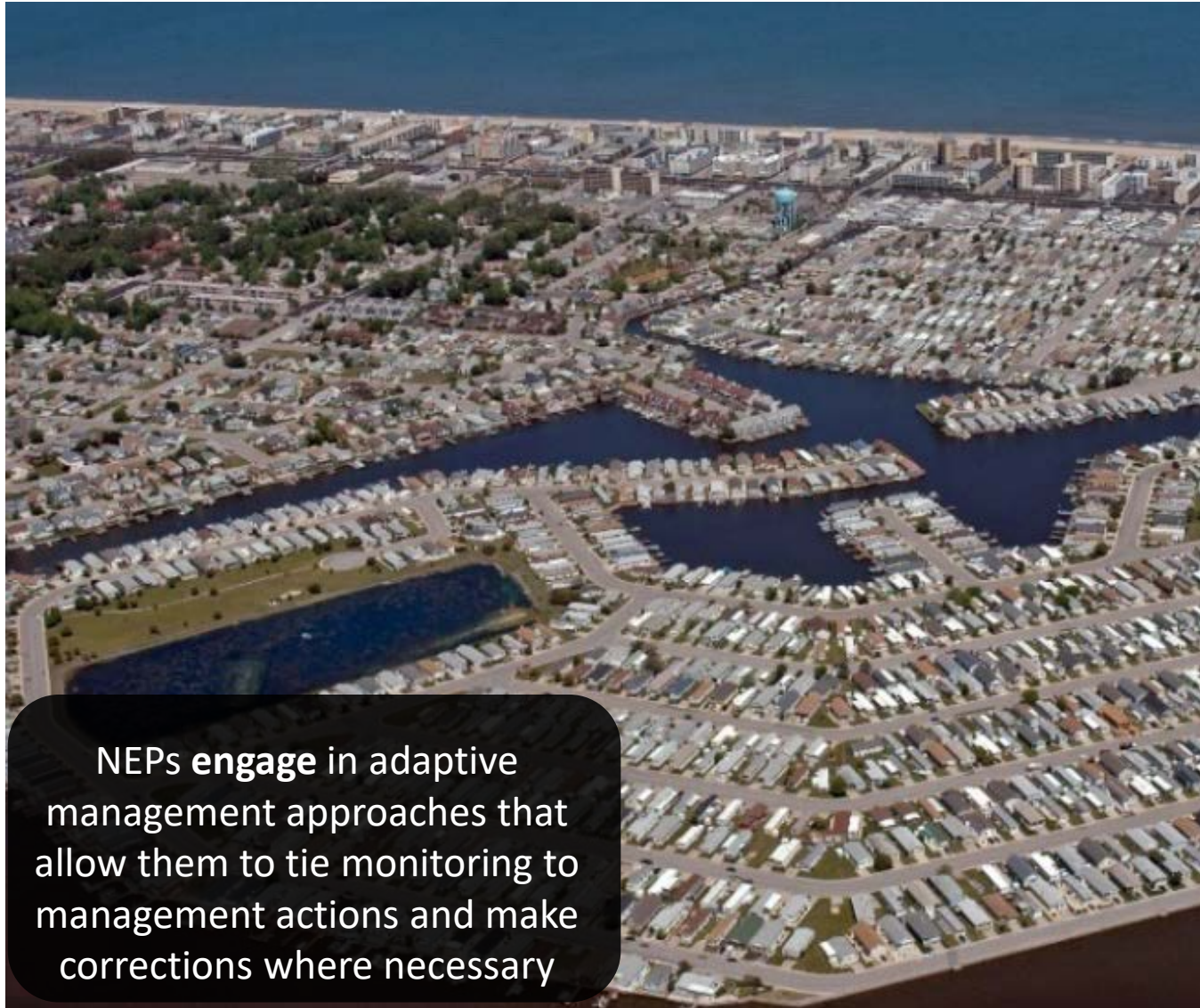


# Cornerstones of the NEP -- An Adaptable Model for Ecosystem Management

- Systematic approach to watershed protection and restoration
- Stakeholder-driven, Collaborative problem-solving
- Integration of good science with sound decision-making
- Public participation
- Proven on-the-ground results
- Strong buy-in and leveraging from States and locals



# NEP Address Priority Challenges and CWA Mandates

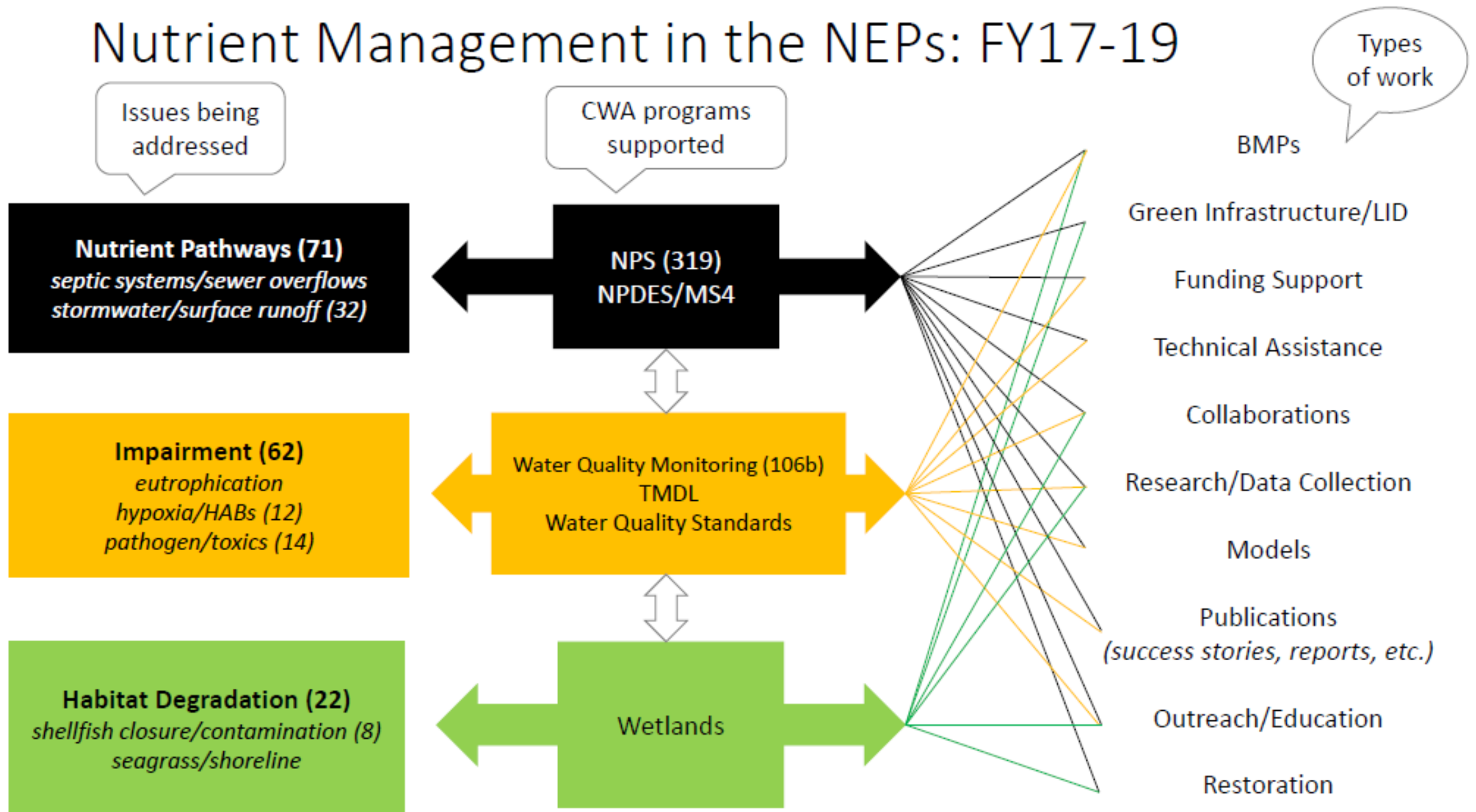


NEPs engage in adaptive management approaches that allow them to tie monitoring to management actions and make corrections where necessary

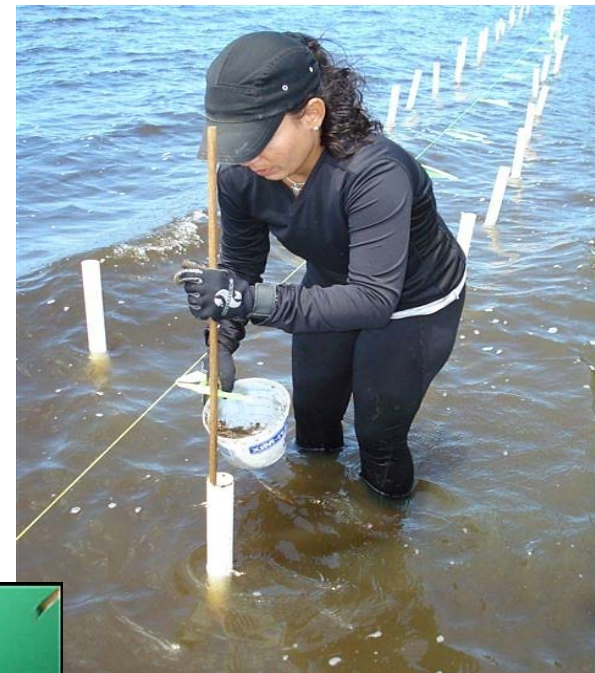
- Habitat loss and degradation
- Declines in fish and wildlife resources
- Invasive species
- Alteration of natural flow regimes
- Nutrient overenrichment
- Pathogen contamination
- Toxics and emerging contaminants
- Harmful algal blooms
- Sea level rise, coastal flooding, and coastal erosion



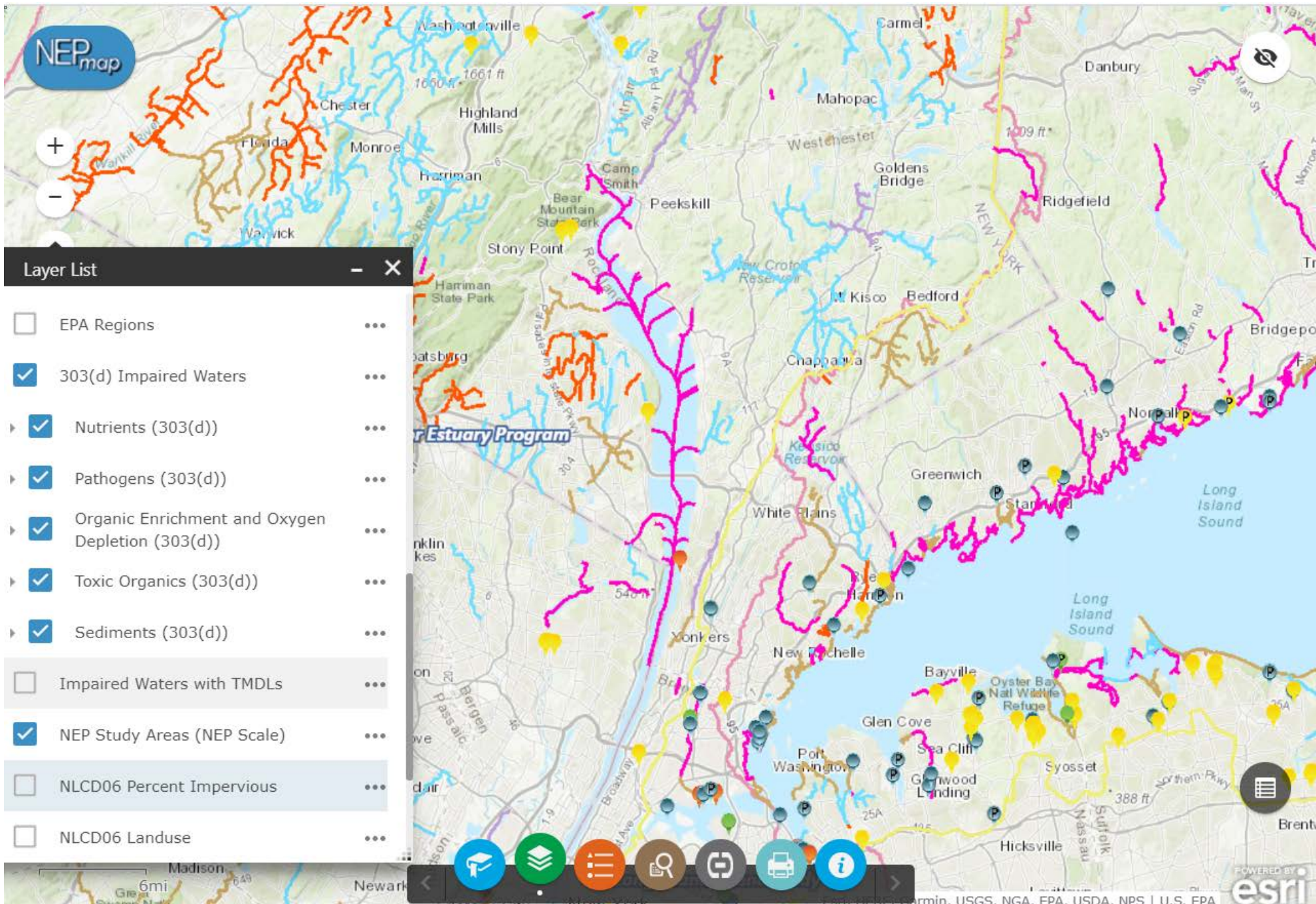
# Nutrient Management in the NEPs: FY17-19



[www.epa.gov/NEP](http://www.epa.gov/NEP)



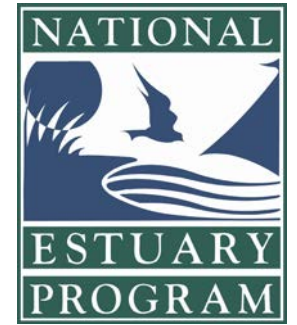




NEPmap

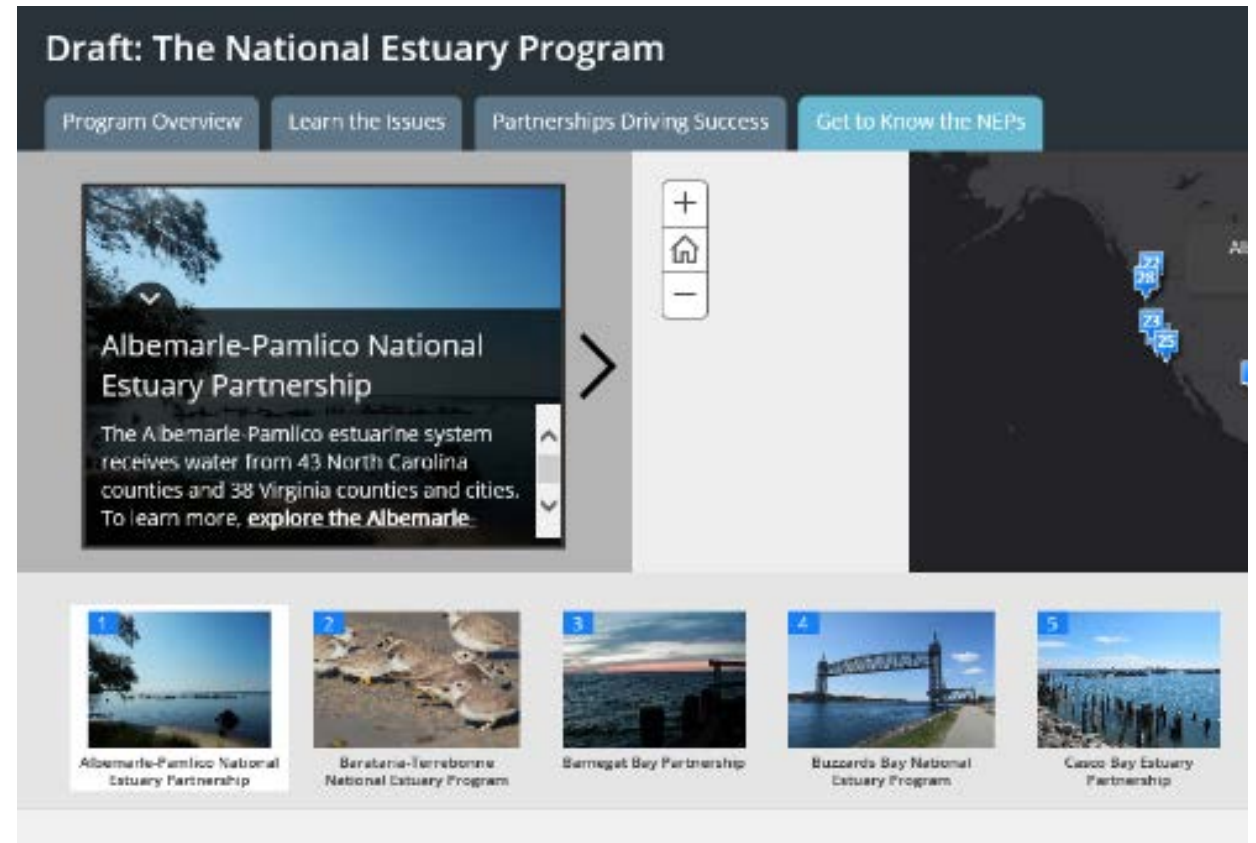


# Telling the NEP Story in an Engaging and Powerful Way



## NEP StoryMap – A Compelling Method of Communication

- Highlight the value of this public-private partnership
- Feature CWA Section 320 results and accomplishments
- Demonstrate where are 28 NEPs are located
- Transfer lessons learned to other local communities



# NEP Coastal Watersheds Cooperative Agreement

- Awarded to Restore America's Estuaries, which will request sub-award proposals later this year.
- Funded projects will address urgent and challenging issues threatening the well-being of coastal and estuarine areas around NEPs.
- Sub-awards will likely range between \$75,000 and \$250,000.
- Proposals must address priorities in an NEP, State, or local watershed management plan.
- Eligible applicants include state and tribal entities, regional water pollution control agencies, state coastal zone management agencies, and non-governmental organizations.



**Urgent and Challenging Issues:** Habitat loss, HABs, marine mammal mortalities, invasive species, flooding, coastal erosion, nutrients, contaminants of emerging concern.