

**DELAWARE ESTUARY RSM WORKGROUP**  
**RSM STATEMENT FOR THE DELAWARE ESTUARY**

*The Delaware Estuary is recognized internationally for its significance as a primary destination for maritime operations (commerce) as well as its unique natural resources. Regional Sediment Management (RSM) is a “system-based approach” that seeks to address a variety of sediment management challenges that traditionally are addressed in isolation and to design solutions that fit within the context of a regional strategy. RSM is the integrated management of upland, riverine, estuarine and coastal sediments to achieve balanced and sustainable solutions to sediment-related processes which consider the current and future vulnerabilities of the system’s natural resources. Delaware Estuary RSM strategies aim to improve the interactions between human activities and sediment flows to balance/optimize both ecological and economic considerations. RSM requires developing an understanding of issues and processes including: sediment transport; sediment mass balance; contaminants; sources, sinks, and pathways; scour, deposition, flow management; upland erosion; and linking sediment availability with sediment utilization. The aim is to optimize opportunities to effectively manage sediments in a manner to achieve a sustainable balance between ecological and economic activities. This vision can best be implemented as a joint effort between federal, state and local entities to ensure local project decisions are made in the context of the sediment system, and not on a ‘project-by-project’ basis.*