



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Philadelphia District

PROJECT FACT SHEET

**Delaware Estuary Environmental Restoration
Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania**

January 2011

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: Reps. Carney (DE-AL), Andrews (NJ-1), LoBiondo (NJ-2), Brady (PA-1), Meehan (PA-7), Schwartz (PA-13)

APPROPRIATION / PHASE:
Reconnaissance / General Investigations

BUSINESS PROGRAM:
Ecosystem Restoration

AUTHORITY: TBD

LOCATION: The study area includes all of Delaware Bay both New Jersey and Delaware.

DESCRIPTION: The Delaware Estuary is home to the largest freshwater port in the world, the second largest petrochemical port and five large refineries. At the same time, the Estuary serves as a vital ecosystem with over 400,000 acres of wetlands and 130 species of fish, crabs, oysters, and other aquatic organisms. The Estuary also hosts the largest concentration of migrating shorebirds and spawning horseshoe crabs in the Western Hemisphere and several threatened and endangered species. These conflicting functions create many environmental challenges for the estuary.

This study will address the restoration of many hallmark features of the Delaware Estuary: saltwater and freshwater marshes, spawning habitat for horseshoe crabs, shorebird feeding sites, and water quality. Freshwater and saltwater marshes represent critical habitat and are important for adapting to climate change. This study will integrate wetland mapping and shoreline survey data to identify areas for wetland protection, restoration of bivalve shellfish biodiversity, and endangered species habitat enhancement. Replenishing bivalve populations along tidal riverine systems improves water quality and guards shorelines against erosion. Restoring oyster beds retains a keystone species and habitat, improving water quality, benthic productivity, and species diversity for many recreationally and commercially important species of finfish. Providing spawning habitat for horseshoe crabs and sturgeon helps sustain imperiled species legendary in the Delaware Estuary. These efforts system-wide combat the effects of climate change and sea level rise, and provide economic benefits to coastal communities many of which represent the most impoverished areas in the surrounding states.

STATUS: The first \$150,000 of the funding would be used to conduct a Reconnaissance Study and prepare a FCSA (Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement). The remaining \$50,000 would be used to initiate the Feasibility Study.

FINANCIAL

DATA (\$000)	Fed	Non-Fed	Total
Reconnaissance	150	0	150
Feasibility	50	0	50

BUDGET

DATA (\$000)		Comments
FY11	TBD	

Official Project Name, Location, ST *(continued)*

SPONSOR: Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC),
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)

COMMENTS: The Reconnaissance Phase will not require cost sharing.

CRITICAL ISSUES: None

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