

# DELAWARE ESTUARY REGIONAL SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT WORKGROUP

*The Delaware Estuary is a valuable resource to both recreational and commercial interests. It is an environmentally sensitive ecosystem in need of protection, restoration, and management.*

## **Objectives**

- To develop a Delaware Estuary Regional Sediment Management Plan (RSMP)
- To have various agencies, special interest groups, and the public participate in the process
- To create a “systems-based approach”
- To design solutions that fit within the context of a regional strategy
- To improve sediment quality, quantity and sediment management while considering the ecosystem interactions



## **Goals**

- Define the applicable boundaries of the Delaware Estuary for the purpose of developing an RSMP that incorporates the various competing demands for its resources, such as wetland protection, coastal development, fisheries management, and port management
- Inventory ongoing sediment management activities and implement a strategy to integrate research and technology developments in support of improving sediment management practices
- Develop regional data sharing capability and analytical tools to evaluate future sediment conditions under alternative management scenarios
- Create a Regional Sediment Management Plan by 2011
- Garner multi-agency support for RSMP implementation

# DELAWARE ESTUARY REGIONAL SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT WORKGROUP

Covering an area that is home to 6.4 million people, the Delaware Estuary is the second largest estuary in the U.S. and the largest freshwater port in the world. An RSMP for the Delaware Estuary is essential.

Managers from more than twenty resource agencies and environmental groups meet monthly to develop a Regional Sediment Management Plan (RSMP) for the Delaware Estuary. Several RSMPs have been developed in watersheds throughout the United States since 1999 for the purpose of building partnerships to cooperatively share data, improve business practices, and preserve natural resources.

This is a significant undertaking to develop best management practices for the Philadelphia District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, private corporate entities, and other Federal, state, and local agencies within the Delaware Estuary with a shared vision of watershed planning.



## Regional Management Components:

- Sediment Quality
- Sediment Quantity
- Sediment Dynamics
- Dredged Material Management
- Beneficial Use of Dredged Material
- Habitat Restoration
- Creation of a Sediment Budget

## Point of Contact

**J. Bailey Smith**  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
215-656-6579

