The National Estuary Program was reauthorized in 2016 with unanimous, bipartisan congressional support!

ANEP is a 501(c)3 that works with and provides a unified voice for the 28 individual NEPs. Information herein has not undergone USEPA review and may not reflect agency views.
Invest in the future of America’s coastal communities

Supply nursery and other key habitats for over 75% of our nation’s commercial fish catch and 80-90% of the recreational fish catch worth billions of dollars;

Provide 40% of U.S. employment and support more than 69 million jobs;

Generate half the nation’s GDP and protect almost $2 trillion in trade annually;

Employ 13.5 million people in the tourism industry in over 750,000 business establishments, earning combined wages exceeding $266 billion, and generating total economic value of roughly $531 billion.

Protect our coasts, protect our future

Over the past 30 years, an increasing percentage of Americans have moved to the coast. Today, more than 52 percent of the nation’s population lives along the coast. This population shift is likely to continue and further increase the stressors on coastal watersheds and the vulnerability of coastal communities. NEPs provide locally-driven and science-based forums to help address demands on coastal resources, develop innovative management approaches, and leverage institutional capacities of partners to cost effectively improve conditions and increase community resilience.

Invest in the future of America’s coastal communities

NEPs develop Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans based on community consensus and the best available science to ensure the quality of life in coastal communities. These plans outline specific actions and on-the-ground projects that ensure local engagement and promote public support for states and communities working together to protect open space, update critical coastal infrastructure, and respond to dramatic changes along our coasts. NEPs have collectively restored and protected more than 2,000,000 acres of vital habitats since 2000 alone. Consistent Congressional funding of the National Estuary Programs (NEPs) is essential - resulting in clean water, healthy estuaries, and strong coastal communities. This investment in our national estuaries will help strengthen America’s economy and support thousands of jobs, and will secure the future of our coastal communities.