

Hudson River Estuary Management Program



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

DEC's Hudson River Estuary Management Program includes the Hudson River Estuary Program, Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve, Hudson and Delaware Marine Fisheries Unit, and Region 3 Marine Habitat. Created in 1987 through the NYS Hudson River Estuary Management Act, the Program focuses on the tidal Hudson and its surrounding watershed from the federal Lock and Dam in Troy to the Verrazano Narrows to "protect, preserve and, where possible, restore and enhance the Hudson River estuarine district".

Hudson River Estuary Program



The Estuary Program works with partners to conserve and restore habitats and water resources and enhance access and enjoyment of the river. Staff provide outreach, training, and technical assistance to advance environmental planning, land and water conservation, and adaptation to climate change. The Hudson River Estuary Grants program offers funding for conservation and education initiatives to achieve the *Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda* outcomes. The program also funds research and restoration to improve habitats, water quality, and climate resilience of shorelines and tributary corridors.

Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve



on wetlands restoration, nature-based shoreline protection, water quality, and habitat function.

The Research Reserve is a joint program between DEC and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that protects and manages a system of four reserve sites along the Hudson River: Piermont Marsh and Iona Island (Rockland County), the Tivoli Bays (Dutchess County), and Stockport Flats (Columbia County). In addition, the Research Reserve improves estuarine habitats through integrated stewardship, restoration, research, monitoring, education, and training programs. Staff manage the Norrie Point Environmental Education Center and engage students and people of all ages in education programs and community science. Research focuses

Hudson and Delaware Marine Fisheries Unit



The Marine Fisheries Unit conducts monitoring and research projects, primarily on diadromous fish in the tidal Hudson River as well as in the nontidal portion of the Delaware River. Staff collect data on target species including Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon, striped bass, river herring (alewife and blueback herring), American shad, American eel, blue crabs, and emerging nonnative species such as round goby, grass carp, and northern snakehead. Monitoring data and analysis inform compliance reporting for interstate regulatory agreements, species stock assessments, Interstate Fishery Management plans, and management decisions (e.g. commercial and recreational fishing regulations and regulatory species protection measures).

Marine Habitat, Region 3



The Region 3 Marine Habitat Program assesses impacts of proposed projects within the Hudson River estuary and its tidal tributaries, as well as Long Island Sound in Westchester County. Staff work with applicants to ensure proposed projects meet the permit issuance standards required by the Environmental Conservation Law, including the Protection of Waters Act (Article 15), Freshwater Wetlands Act (Article 24), and/or Tidal Wetlands Act (Article 25). Staff use research from other Hudson River programs to inform project proposal reviews and provide regulatory input to those programs as needed. Staff also work with DEC Regions 2 and 4 to ensure consistency in review relating to tidal Hudson River resources.

The Hudson River Estuary Management Program assists New York State meet federal and state management goals and much of the work is guided by the **Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda**, a conservation and restoration blueprint developed with significant input from partners that sets New York State's goals and policies for the tidal Hudson and its watershed. *Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda 2021-2025* goals include:

A Vital Estuary Ecosystem

- Sustainable Estuarine Fisheries
- Robust River Habitats
- Clean Hudson River Water

A Thriving and Resilient Watershed

- Healthy Tributaries
- Climate-Adaptive Communities
- Conserved Natural Areas

People Living Well with Nature

- An Informed and Engaged Public
- An Accessible Hudson River for People of All Ages and Abilities



Implementation of the *Action Agenda* relies on partnerships with federal and state agencies, municipalities, nonprofits, academic and scientific institutions, the private sector, landowners, and volunteers. The Hudson River Estuary Management Advisory Committee represents municipal, academic, recreational, commercial, and environmental stakeholders and provides guidance to the Program and DEC policy.

The Hudson River Estuary Management Program is delivered in collaboration with other DEC Divisions and Offices, Cornell University, and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC). The New York State Environmental Protection Fund, including Ocean and Great lakes, NOAA, and federal grants are essential for the success of the program.

For More Information:

- Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda 2021 – 2025: <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/oceans-estuaries/hudson-river-estuary-program/action-agenda>
- 2023 Hudson River Estuary Coordinator's Report: <https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/2023%20Hudson%20River%20Estuary%20Coordinator%27s%20Report.pdf>
- State of the Hudson River Estuary 2025, in partnership with [NYNJ Harbor and Estuary Program: hudsonriver.org/ccmp/soe](https://www.nynjharborandestuaryprogram.org/ccmp/soe)
- Website: <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/oceans-estuaries/hudson-river-estuary-program>

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