

national estuarine research reserve system

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System protects more than one million acres of estuarine habitat, conducts essential research and provides a variety of educational opportunities.

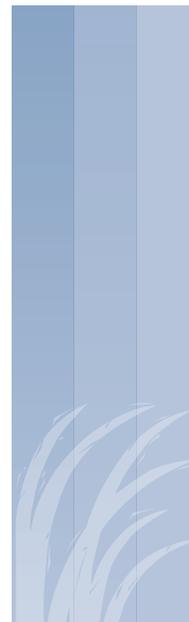
Estuaries: Where Rivers Meet the Sea

Estuaries are places where freshwater from rivers mix with salt water. An estuary can be a bay, lagoon or slough. These important coastal habitats are used as spawning grounds and nurseries for at least two-thirds of the nation's commercial fish and shellfish. The wetlands associated with estuaries buffer uplands from flooding. Estuaries also provide many recreational opportunities, such as swimming, boating, bird watching.

Protecting the Nation's Estuaries

The National Estuarine Research Reserves System is a network of 25 protected areas representing different biogeographic regions of the United States and providing long-term research, water-quality monitoring, education and coastal stewardship. Established by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, the reserve system is a partnership program between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the coastal states. NOAA provides funding and national guidance. Each reserve is managed on daily basis by a lead state agency or university, with input from local partners.

Reserve staff work with local communities and regional groups to address natural resource management issues, such as non-point source pollution, habitat restoration and invasive species. Through integrated research and education, the reserves help communities develop strategies to deal successfully with these coastal resource issues. Reserves provide adult audiences with training on estuarine issues of concern in their local communities. They offer field classes for K-12 students and target regional teachers through professional development programs in marine education. Reserves also provide long-term water quality monitoring as well as opportunities for both scientists and graduate students to conduct research in a "living laboratory."

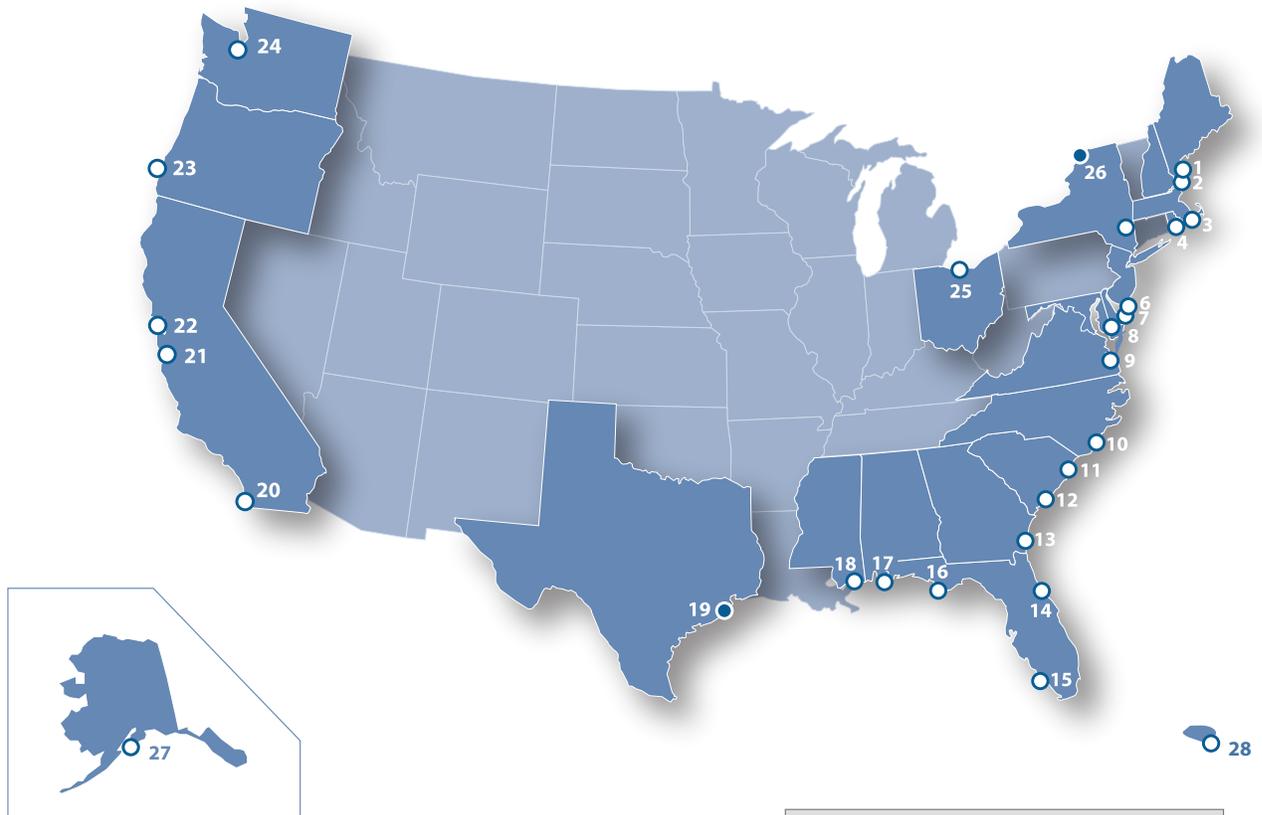


United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service, Office of Ocean & Coastal Resource Management

nerrs.noaa.gov



estuarine research reserves



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|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. Wells Reserve, Maine | 15. Rookery Bay Reserve, Florida |
| 2. Great Bay Reserve, New Hampshire | 16. Apalachicola Reserve, Florida |
| 3. Waquoit Bay Reserve, Massachusetts | 17. Weeks Bay Reserve, Alabama |
| 4. Narragansett Bay Reserve, Rhode Island | 18. Grand Bay Reserve, Mississippi |
| 5. Hudson River Reserve, New York | 19. Proposed Reserve—Texas |
| 6. Jacques Cousteau Reserve, New Jersey | 20. Tijuana River Reserve, California |
| 7. Delaware Reserve | 21. Elkhorn Slough Reserve, California |
| 8. Chesapeake Bay Reserve, Maryland | 22. San Francisco Bay, California |
| 9. Chesapeake Bay Reserve, Virginia | 23. South Slough Reserve, Oregon |
| 10. North Carolina Reserve | 24. Padilla Bay Reserve, Washington |
| 11. North Inlet-Winyah Bay Reserve, South Carolina | 25. Old Woman Creek, Ohio |
| 12. ACE Basin Reserve, South Carolina | 26. Proposed Reserve—St. Lawrence River |
| 13. Sapelo Island, Georgia | 27. Kachemak Bay Reserve, Alaska |
| 14. Guana Tolomato Matanzas Reserve, Florida | 28. Jobos Bay Reserve, Puerto Rico |

● designated ○ proposed