



# Hands on Habitat

## State of New Jersey

### What Are the Problems?

- **Coastal wetlands** Roughly 25% have been lost or altered as a consequence of development.
- **Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) beds** These beds have declined by 25% in Barnegat Bay alone.
- **Native oyster population** Only about 2% remain due to disease, harvesting, habitat destruction, and eutrophication (an excess of nutrients that favors algae and plants over wildlife).

### Background

New Jersey contains thousands of acres of estuaries, coastal bays, rivers, and streams that provide productive and diverse habitats for finfish, shellfish, and other wildlife. These habitats are being destroyed at an alarming rate, making the need for habitat restoration in New Jersey as important as ever.

### What We Do

- Restore tidal wetlands
- Remove invasive species and re-establish native vegetation
- Construct fish ladders and remove dams
- Modify culverts to increase tidal flushing in coastal wetlands
- Restore native shellfish populations
- Restore SAV at strategic locations
- Educate communities about the value of habitat and restoration

### How We Do It

NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) achieves science-based habitat restoration through community involvement and stewardship. We build powerful partnerships among New Jersey's public, private, and non-profit organizations. Our projects continually demonstrate the effectiveness and benefits of locally based habitat conservation in New Jersey.



### Our Accomplishments

Since 1998, we have:

- Awarded more than \$915,000 and leveraged nearly \$2.8 million
- Funded 23 projects
- Completed 10 projects
- Restored more than 20 acres of habitat
- Engaged roughly 3,500 volunteers for almost 30,000 service hours through partner-led activities

### Our Partners

NOAA works with 41 local, private, and public partners in New Jersey, including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Restore America's Estuaries, Baykeeper, the American Littoral Society, and American Rivers.

### Our Focus

**Counteract impacts from urban runoff and industrial contamination, which threaten the productive estuaries and coastal bays of New Jersey**

### Contact

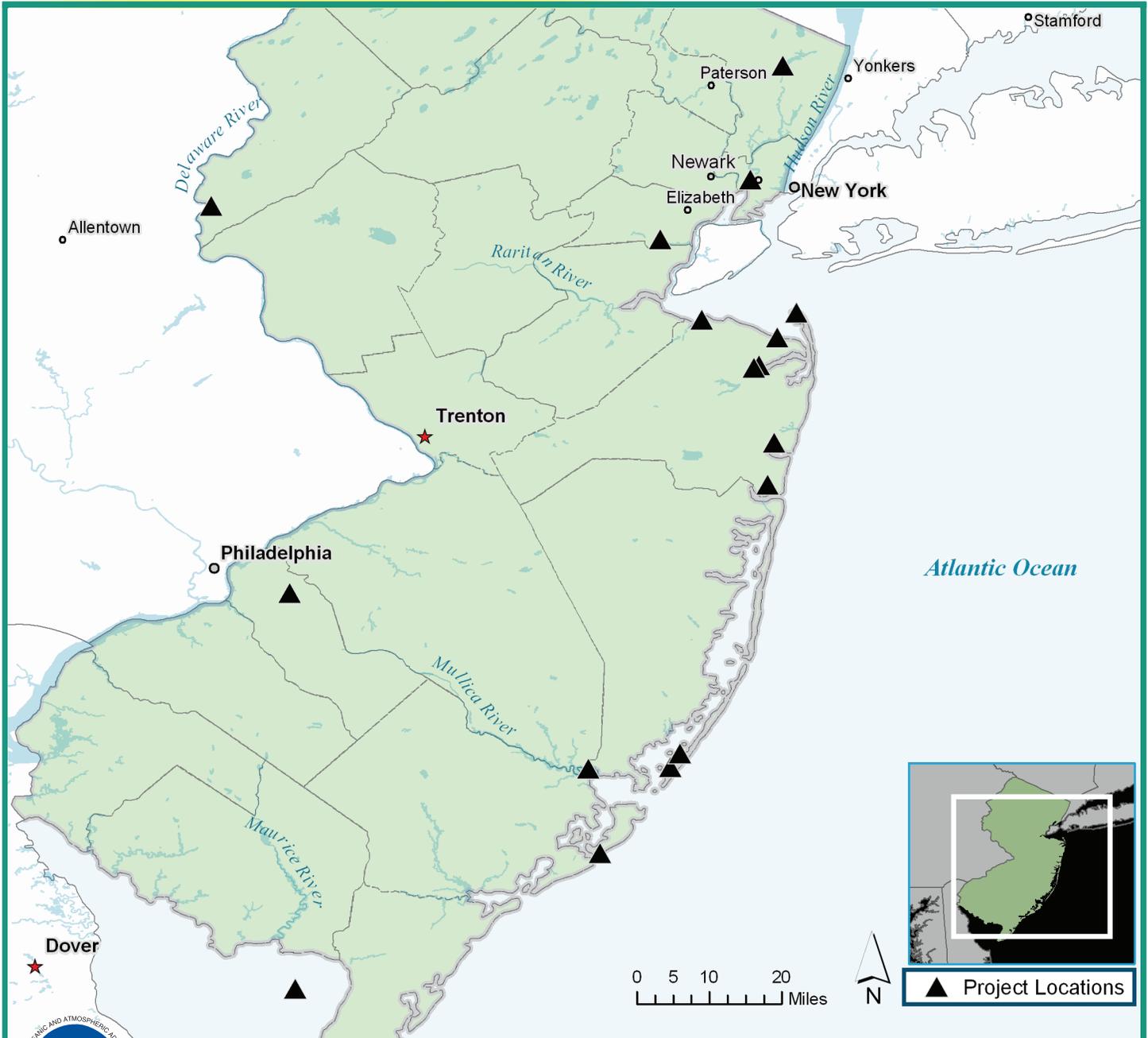
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# NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP)

State of New Jersey



## SELECT COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROJECTS:

**Batsto River Fish Passage Restoration, Washington Township**

**Cooper River Fishway Restoration, Cherry Hill**

**Harry Pursel Dam Breach, Phillipsburg**

**Hudson-Raritan Keyport Oyster Reef Restoration, Red Bank**

**Little Egg Harbor Eelgrass Restoration, Tuckerton**

**Many Mind Creek Restoration Planning, Atlantic Highlands**

**Mid-Atlantic Coast Restoration Feasibility Study, Highlands**

**Navesink River Riparian Restoration, Red Bank**

**Oradell Dam Fish Passage Feasibility Study, Oradell**

**Rahway River Flood Plain Restoration Project, Rahway**