

Protecting and Restoring Natural Resources in Delaware

Issues

- Elevated levels of persistent contaminants from current and ongoing sources, including waste sites, impact freshwater wetlands, salt marshes, historically important rivers, and fisheries (recreational and commercial) in Delaware.
- Multiple health advisories in effect in Delaware limit harvesting and consumption of fish and shellfish.
- The Delaware River is the largest oil port in the mid-Atlantic, and contains five of the largest East Coast refineries. Ship and barge traffic to ports in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey creates a significant potential for oil spills. The Chesapeake and Delaware Canal is part of the intracoastal waterway and many vessels transit this route up the eastern seaboard.

What we do

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) acts as a trustee for natural resources on behalf of the public. DARRP collaborates with federal, state, and tribal entities and also works with cleanup agencies (such as EPA), local organizations, the public, and those responsible for the incident to:

- protect coastal and marine natural resources;
- respond to discharges of oil and hazardous substances;
- assess risks and injuries to natural resources; and
- restore injured natural resources and related socioeconomic benefits.

How we do it

DARRP acts as a trustee for natural resources to:

- work cooperatively with those responsible for the incident;
- develop innovative approaches and techniques for remediation and restoration;
- work with the public to select restoration options to compensate for injuries to natural resources; and
- design and implement or oversee natural resource restoration projects and monitor their success.



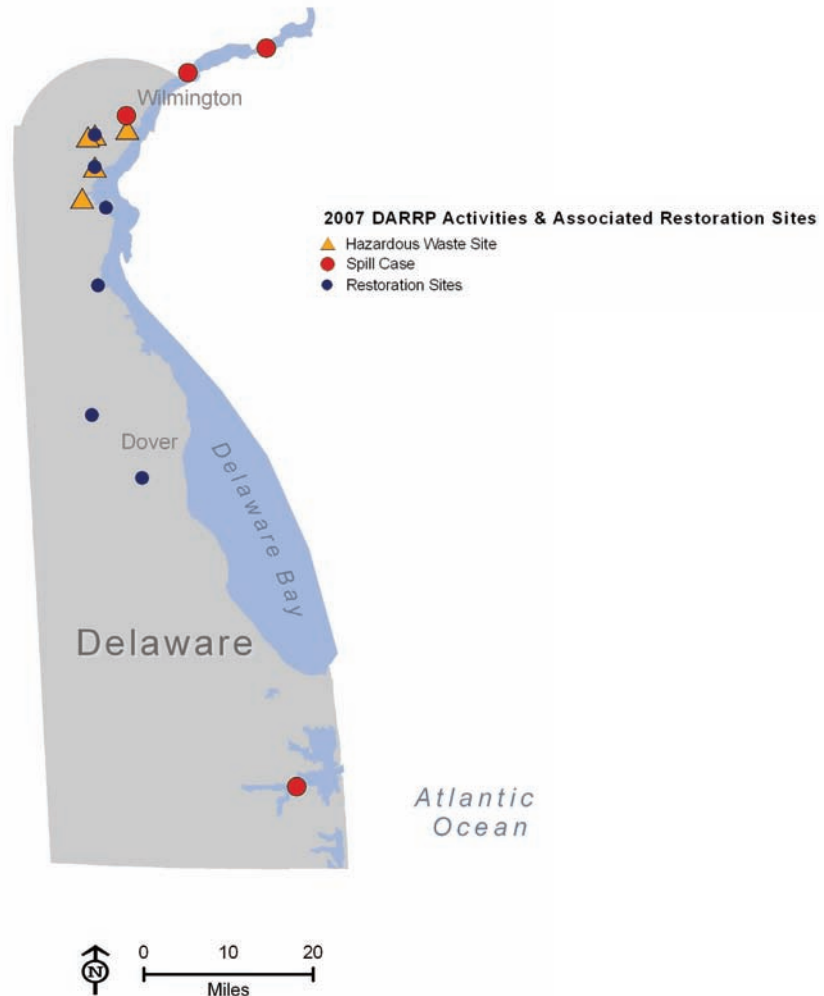
M/T Athos I Oil Spill, DE, PA, NJ - see case highlights.

DARRP Accomplishments

- Restoration and/or protection of 530 acres of marine habitats in Delaware (completed and planned activities).
- Settlements have resulted in 7 protection and restoration projects in Delaware.
- Cleanup actions promote recovery of coastal resources and communities at 16 hazardous waste sites.



DuPont Newport Superfund Site - see case highlights.



Historic and ongoing case highlights

- DuPont Newport Superfund Site – Evaluated ecological risk and achieved a protective cleanup, mitigation for wetlands adjacent to the site, and remedial action monitoring. With other natural resource trustees, obtained an agreement that protected a 56-acre property located along the Mispillion River. The agreement also provided settlement funds for reducing erosion, stabilizing over 2,200 feet of shoreline, and restoring native vegetation at the 56 acre site (*bottom photo on page 1*).
- Army Creek Landfill – Conducted an ecological risk assessment and achieved protective cleanup, wetland mitigation, and monitoring of recovery of impacted resources. Completed feasibility study and conceptual design for the restoration of emergent tidal wetlands in a 200 acre tide-gated impoundment located at the Augustine Wildlife Management Area.
- Upper Delaware Estuary – Created a watershed database and mapping project for the Upper Delaware Estuary to facilitate future natural resource restoration efforts in the urbanized portion of the Delaware River.
- M/T *Athos I* Oil Spill, DE, PA, NJ – Assessed natural resource losses and planning compensatory restoration. Natural resources over 115 miles of the River (280 miles of shoreline) and six tributaries were exposed to Athos oil, including shorelines, aquatic organisms, birds and other wildlife, and recreational areas. Preferred restoration projects include restoring approximately 300 acres of oyster, marsh, shoreline, wet meadow, and grassland habitat; three recreation projects; and a dam removal and habitat restoration project.
- Koppers Newport – Participating in an injury assessment for this site on the Christina River, where wood preservatives contaminated a 317 acre industrial site.

For further information about DARRP, please visit
<http://www.darrp.noaa.gov>

