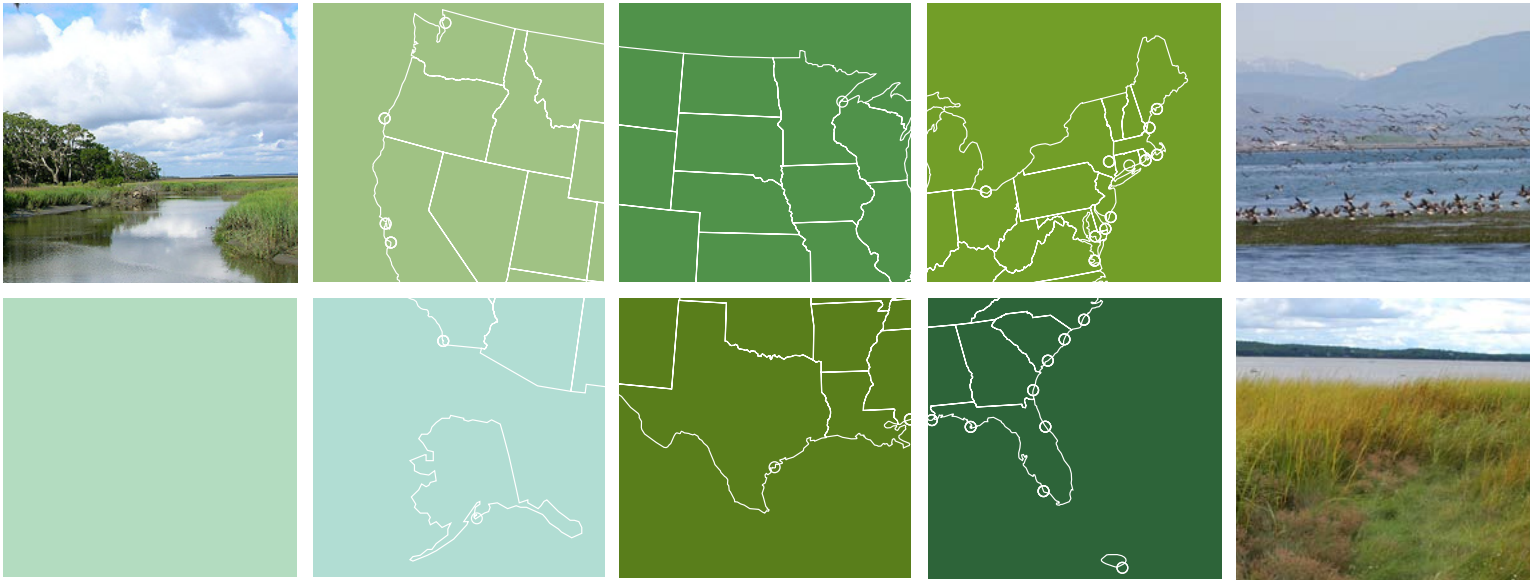




NATIONAL
ESTUARINE
RESEARCH
RESERVE
SYSTEM

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System protects more than 1.3 million acres of estuarine habitat for long-term research, monitoring, education and stewardship throughout the coastal United States.



National Estuarine Research Reserve System

Estuaries: Where Rivers Meet the Sea

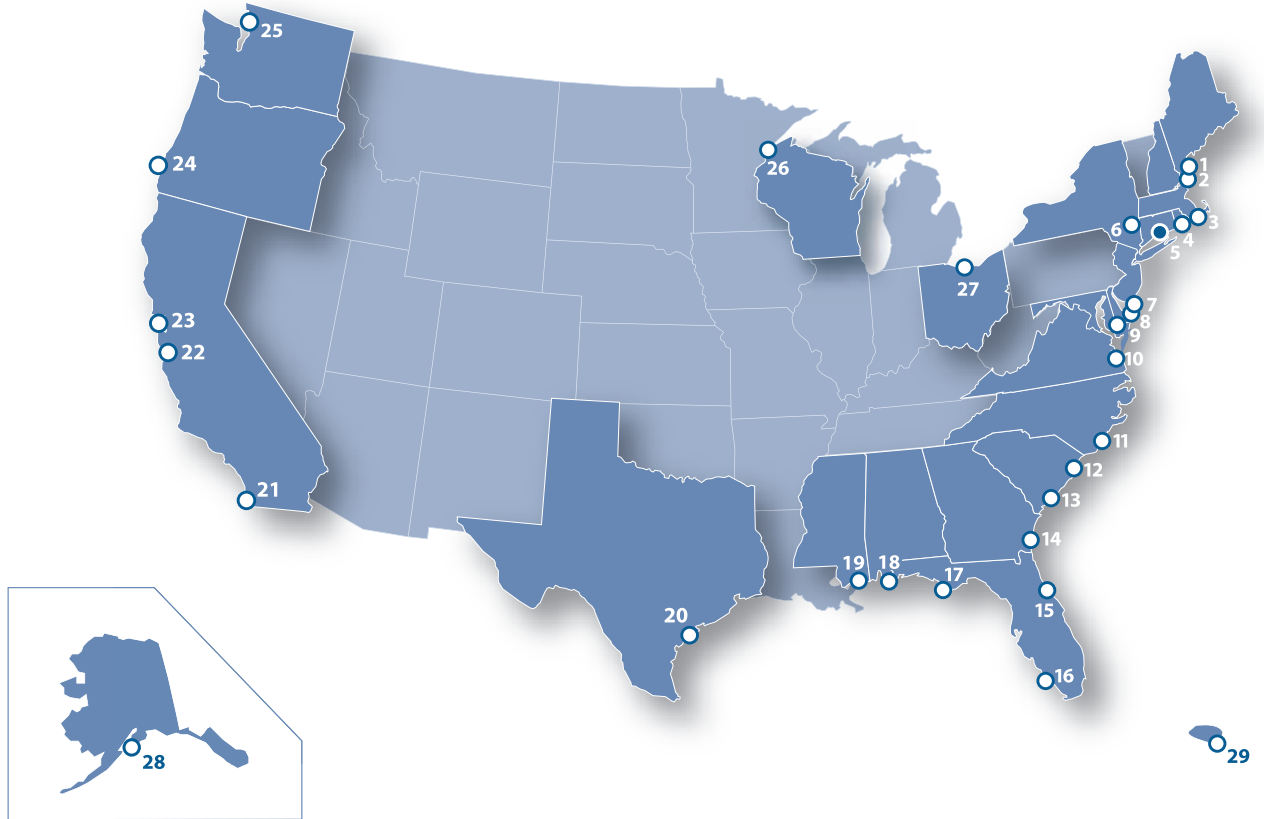
Estuaries are partially enclosed bodies of water, such as bays, lagoons and sloughs, where freshwater from rivers mixes with salt water. These important coastal habitats are spawning grounds and nurseries for at least two-thirds of the nation's commercial fish and shellfish. Wetlands associated with estuaries buffer uplands from flooding. Estuaries also provide many recreational opportunities, such as swimming, boating, fishing and bird watching.

Protecting the Nation's Estuaries

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of 28 protected areas representing different biogeographic regions of the United States. 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 a 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, education, and resource stewardship, the reserves help communities develop strategies to deal successfully with these coastal resource issues. Reserves provide adult professional audiences with training on estuarine issues of concern in their local communities. They offer field classes for K-12 students and target teachers through professional development programs in estuarine education. Reserves also provide long-term water quality and biological monitoring as well as opportunities for scientists and graduate students to conduct research in a "living laboratory."



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|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Wells, Maine | 16. Rookery Bay, Florida |
| 2. Great Bay, New Hampshire | 17. Apalachicola, Florida |
| 3. Waquoit Bay, Massachusetts | 18. Weeks Bay, Alabama |
| 4. Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island | 19. Grand Bay, Mississippi |
| 5. Connecticut * | 20. Mission-Aransas, Texas |
| 6. Hudson River, New York | 21. Tijuana River, California |
| 7. Jacques Cousteau, New Jersey | 22. Elkhorn Slough, California |
| 8. Delaware | 23. San Francisco Bay, California |
| 9. Chesapeake Bay, Maryland | 24. South Slough, Oregon |
| 10. Chesapeake Bay, Virginia | 25. Padilla Bay, Washington |
| 11. North Carolina | 26. Lake Superior, Wisconsin |
| 12. North Inlet-Winyah Bay, South Carolina | 27. Old Woman Creek, Ohio |
| 13. ACE Basin, South Carolina | 28. Kachemak Bay, Alaska |
| 14. Sapelo Island, Georgia | 29. Jobos Bay, Puerto Rico |
| 15. Guana Tolomato Matanzas, Florida | |

** Proposed Reserve*

● designated ○ proposed