

DELAWARE



Limulus polydemus

CENTER FOR THE INLAND BAYS

Rehoboth Indian River Little Assawoman

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The non profit, Center for the Inland Bays, was established in 1994 to promote the wise use and enhancement of the Inland Bays Watershed through habitat protection and restoration, science and research, education and outreach, and public policy.

Become a “Friend of the Bays” today—Visit www.inlandbays.org

Delaware Center for the Inland Bays

Restoring and protecting an estuary of national significance

SOUND
PUBLIC POLICY



RESTORATION



EDUCATION

RESEARCH

At a Crossroads

After years of unprecedented growth, the Inland Bays watershed is at a crossroads. Critical habitats continue to be lost or threatened...

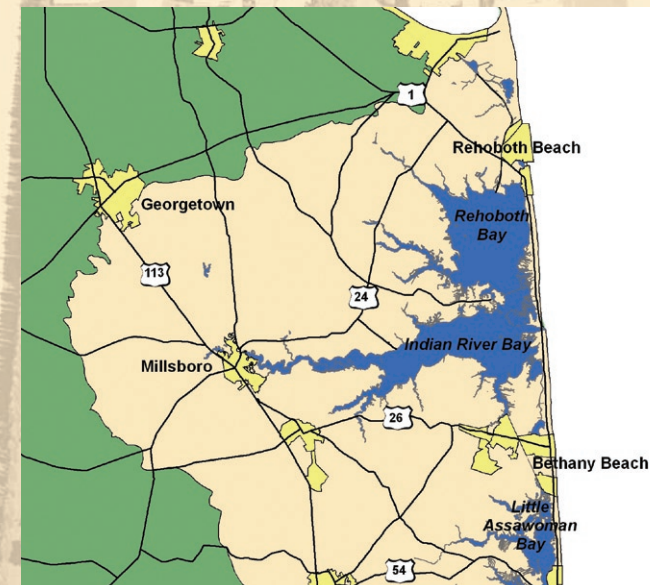
...the Bays are plagued by excessive contributions of nitrogen and phosphorous, which have caused harmful algal blooms, major fish kills, and other problems of concern for this “estuary of national significance.”

The Inland Bays watershed is the fastest growing region in Delaware. As thousands of new residents arrive each year and millions of visitors each summer, the watershed is experiencing a fundamental shift in land use as agricultural and forested lands are developed.

Progressive, visionary action is needed to meet this urgent challenge.

The greatest impact will be won or lost in the public policy arena on issues of land use, zoning, wastewater treatment, storm water management, and protection of wetlands and other environmentally sensitive habitats. It is the citizens of the watershed who will influence the creation and passage of good policy related to these concerns.

There is now a very important window of opportunity to establish sound public policy that is based on scientific research and an informed and activist citizenry. Inform yourself and then inform others on these critical issues.



The Inland Bays include three interconnected bodies of water: Rehoboth Bay (the northern bay, just south of Rehoboth Beach); Indian River Bay (the largest bay), and Little Assawoman Bay (the smallest bay). The Bays and their tributaries cover about 32 square miles and drain a landmass, called the watershed, of about 320 square miles.

In 1988, the Delaware Inland Bays was declared “an estuary of national significance” by the U.S. Congress and became one of the 28 members of the National Estuary Program.

...working for “fishable, swimmable” Inland Bays...What can *you* do to help?



Public Policy

Decisions that address land use and zoning, agricultural practices, sewage treatment and protection of critical areas significantly affect the condition of our waterways. The Center for the Inland Bays (CIB) is committed to informing citizens of the watershed, resource managers, and elected officials about the impact of these decisions—to help shape public policies that will limit pollution, preserve habitats and promote environmentally sensitive development.

The Bays need engaged, informed citizens to speak out and vote for good public policy that will restore and protect our Bays.



Research and Restoration

Scientific research is a critical element in the CIB's efforts to improve water quality and protect habitat. The Center conducts and supports research and has awarded more than \$1,000,000 to support practical research and demonstration projects that can be the basis of sound decision making and good public policy for the Inland Bays. *Water monitoring, field studies, and data collection and entry are opportunities for volunteer participation.*

For more than a decade, the CIB has been restoring native species at the 150 acre James Farm Ecological Preserve on Cedar Neck on Indian River Bay. The oyster reefs in Pasture Point Cove at James Farm are a part of a shellfish restoration project in cooperation with the University of Delaware College of Marine and Earth Studies.

More than 75 volunteers are oyster gardening from their docks on all three Bays, raising oysters for placement on our reef at James Farm. Help is always needed for tree planting, native garden maintenance, and other restoration projects.



Education and Outreach

Restored, protected Inland Bays will require educated, informed and active citizens. The Center publishes the Inland Bays Journal, conducts workshops, keeps Inland Bays issues in the media and oversees a volunteer corps to extend our reach in the watershed. The CIB runs an education program for middle school students at James Farm and is bringing a schoolyard habitat program to elementary schools in the watershed.

Volunteers take our message to the watershed at public events, through distribution of the Inland Bays Journal, through our schoolyard habitat schools, at programs in our libraries, and as representatives of the CIB at community meetings.



Things You Can Do to Help the Inland Bays and the Watershed

Get involved. Become a volunteer at the Center for the Inland Bays. Help with community outreach, restoration projects, water monitoring, schoolyard habitats and education programs.

Know your elected officials and become informed about issues that affect the watershed. Call, email or visit them to let them know your concerns. Show up and speak out at meetings where decisions are being made. Vote.

Begin with your own backyard. Create habitat for native species with native plants that provide food and shelter. Limit use of fertilizers. Refrain from using pesticides that add toxic chemicals to your soil and ground water. Control erosion.

Make your boat pollution-free. Use pump out stations, clean with environmentally safe cleaning products, avoid spilling gas, oil and other toxic substances into the Bays.

Discard fishing line and plastics properly; they can be deadly. Birds can get entangled in fishing line, and sea turtles and other marine animals can mistake plastic bags for jellyfish.

Scoop up pet wastes. When it rains, pet waste can wash into storm drains that flow into our Bays.

Remember that whatever you put on the ground can end up in the Bays; that includes trash, oil, pesticides, paint and paint thinners and fertilizer.

Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Limit what you put in our landfills, purchase products made with recycled materials and products that are recyclable.

Conserve water. Use low-flow faucets, shower heads and toilets, and plant native to limit the need for outdoor watering.

Conserve energy.