The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Whole Basin Management strategy focuses on protecting Delaware's environment by managing it by drainage areas. Using the state's four major drainage basins as the main management units, the Department brings together the expertise from all divisions — Air and Waste Management, Fish and Wildlife, Parks and Recreation, Soil and Water Conservation, Office of the Secretary, and Water Resources — to better assess, monitor, and protect the health of Delaware's environment.

The basis for this integrated approach comes from the realization that virtually every activity that takes place in the environment impacts multiple resources or land-use activities. Thus, managing the complex natural world we call "the environment" requires us to examine the many resources from multiple perspectives.

This report focuses on the Delaware Bay and Estuary Basin, one of Delaware's four major drainage basins. The other three basins that have been assessed through the Department's Whole Basin Management Program include the Piedmont Basin in northern New Castle County, the Chesapeake Bay drainage in western New Castle, Kent, and Sussex counties, and the Inland Bays in southeastern Sussex County.

We encourage you to learn more about Delaware's environment and natural resources and share with us your ideas and concerns about the environmental issues in your watershed. We look forward to your input and cooperation as we work to improve and protect the health of Delaware's environment.

If you have any comments that you would like to share regarding this report, please contact DNREC's Public Affairs Office, (302) 739-9902. This publication is available on the Internet. Visit DNREC's web page at ***www.dnrec.state.de.us.***

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Easy Reference Phone Numbers

Environment Hotlines

Citizen Complaints (In State)	1-800-662-8802
Illegal Hunting/ Fishing Activities	1-800-523-3336

Office of the Secretary

Secretary's Office	739-9000
Coastal Zone Act Administration	739-9909
Land Use Planning	739-9909
Compliance Assistance	739-9909
Public Affairs Office	739-9902
Human Resources	739-9901
Whole Basin Management	739-9000
Ecological Restoration	739-9000

Division of Air & Waste Management

Director's Office	739-9400
Air Quality Management Section	739-9402
New Castle	323-4542
Solid & Hazardous Waste Branch	739-9403
Tank Management Branch	395-2500
Site Investigation & Restoration Branch	395-2600
Environmental Response Branch	739-9404
Environmental Protection Officers	739-9401

Division of Fish & Wildlife

Director's Office	739-9910
Fisheries Section	739-9914
Wildlife Section	739-9912
Enforcement Section	739-9913
Mosquito Control Section	739-9917

Division of Parks & Recreation

Director's Office	739-9200
Planning, Preservation & Development	739-9235
Operation and Maintenance	739-9220
Cultural and Recreational Services	739-9191

Division of Soil & Water Conservation

Director's Office	739-9921
Shoreline & Waterway Management Section	739-9921
Drainage Section	856-5488
Delaware Coastal Management Program	739-9283
Conservation District Operations	739-9921

Division of Water Resources

Director's Office	739-9950
Environmental Laboratory Section	739-9942
Surface Water Discharges Section	739-9946
Groundwater Discharges Section	739-9947
Water Supply Section	739-9945
Watershed Assessment Section	739-4590
Wetlands & Subaqueous Lands Section	739-9943

Other Resources

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary	1-800-445-4935
Delaware River and Bay Commission	1-609-883-9500

Delaware Bay and Estuary Environmental Profile

An Environmental Assessment of the Delaware Bay and Estuary Basin

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control