Natural Resources

AT RISK TO SEA LEVEL RISE

Wetlands & Impoundments • Beaches & Dunes
Habitats of Concern • Protected Lands

Up to 99% of our tidal wetlands and coastal impoundments could be turned into open water by sea level rise. Loss of wetlands will reduce water quality and flood protection as well as decrease wildlife habitat.

Credit: Delaware Coastal Programs

Credit: Chris Bennett

Delaware's beaches are an important ecological resource and tourism draw. Sea level rise can increase erosion and damage dunes making coastal habitats and communities more at risk from storm damage and waves.

Up to 44% of Delaware's state parks, wildlife areas, refuges and conservation areas could be lost to sea level rise. These areas have been set aside for future generations and are important for wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation and clean water.

Credit: Danielle Quigley, Univ. of DE