Healthy Estuaries Support a Healthy Economy

- 1 in 5 jobs in the **Tampa Bay** estuary watershed depends on a healthy Bay
- **Tampa Bay**’s estimated nitrogen removal rates are such that no new investment in sewage treatment plant is planned
- **Casco Bay** watershed is 4.4% of Maine’s land mass and supports 32% of its total employment
- Each visitor to the **Indian River Lagoon** spends about $162/day, and every 85 tourists = 1 job

- NEPs facilitate development & implementation of science-based, locally-driven plans to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the estuary

- NEPs bring together diverse stakeholders that identify and build shared goals and common visions. They include representatives from: Federal, state, & local governments, NGOs, academia, business sectors, and the public

- EPA has a fiduciary role, facilitates this unique public-private partnership, provides technical & program assistance, and engages in tech transfer to inform decision-making.
NEPs look broadly across their watershed and recognize the connection between upstream sources of pollution and downstream impacts.
Cornerstones of the NEP -- An Adaptable Model for Ecosystem Management

- Systematic approach to watershed protection and restoration
- Stakeholder-driven, Collaborative problem-solving
- Integration of good science with sound decision-making
- Public participation
- Proven on-the-ground results
- Strong buy-in and leveraging from States and locals
NEP Address Priority Challenges and CWA Mandates

- Habitat loss and degradation
- Declines in fish and wildlife resources
- Invasive species
- Alteration of natural flow regimes
- Nutrient overenrichment
- Pathogen contamination
- Toxics and emerging contaminants
- Harmful algal blooms
- Sea level rise, coastal flooding, and coastal erosion

NEPs engage in adaptive management approaches that allow them to tie monitoring to management actions and make corrections where necessary
Nutrient Management in the NEPs: FY17-19

Issues being addressed:

Nutrient Pathways (71)
- septic systems/sewer overflows
- stormwater/surface runoff (32)

Impairment (62)
- eutrophication
- hypoxia/HABs (12)
- pathogen/toxics (14)

Habitat Degradation (22)
- shellfish closure/contamination (8)
- seagrass/shoreline

CWA programs supported:

NPS (319)
NPDES/M54

Water Quality Monitoring (106b)
TMDL
Water Quality Standards

Types of work:

BMPs
- Green Infrastructure/LID
- Funding Support
- Technical Assistance
- Collaborations
- Research/Data Collection
- Models
- Publications (success stories, reports, etc.)
- Outreach/Education
- Restoration

Wetlands
Telling the NEP Story in an Engaging and Powerful Way

NEP StoryMap – A Compelling Method of Communication

- Highlight the value of this public-private partnership
- Feature CWA Section 320 results and accomplishments
- Demonstrate where are 28 NEPs are located
- Transfer lessons learned to other local communities
NEP Coastal Watersheds Cooperative Agreement

- Awarded to Restore America’s Estuaries, which will request sub-award proposals later this year.

- Funded projects will address urgent and challenging issues threatening the well-being of coastal and estuarine areas around NEPs.

- Sub-awards will likely range between $75,000 and $250,000.

- Proposals must address priorities in an NEP, State, or local watershed management plan.

- Eligible applicants include state and tribal entities, regional water pollution control agencies, state coastal zone management agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

**Urgent and Challenging Issues:** Habitat loss, HABs, marine mammal mortalities, invasive species, flooding, coastal erosion, nutrients, contaminants of emerging concern.