

Coastal Wetlands Plan

for the York River, Piankatank River, and Mobjack Bay

Why Do We Care?

Coastal wetlands along the York River, Piankatank River, and the Mobjack Bay of the Middle Peninsula are home to a diverse array of fish, wildlife, and plants. These habitats also buffer our coastal communities from storms and trap pollutants to improve water quality. However, our coastal wetlands face a variety of threats, which is why we are leveraging the power of regional partnerships to conserve our wetlands.



There are 27,000 acres of tidal marshes and more than 195,000 acres of nontidal wetlands in this region

The Value of Wetlands



Diamondback terrapins spend their entire life in salt marshes

- Reduce shoreline erosion, enhance water quality, provide long-term carbon storage, and hold significant cultural, economic and social value among local communities.
- Act as a habitat for more than one-third of the threatened and endangered species in the United States, and are used by nearly half of them during their lifetime.
- Support local commercial and recreational fishing and hunting.
- A flourishing wetland ecosystem also supports ecotourism and many recreational activities, including educational experiences, birding, kayaking, and hiking.

Threats to Wetlands

- Sea level rise brought on by climate change
- Development and land use change
- Erosion from wave energy and storms
- Invasive species and stormwater runoff that degrade their quality

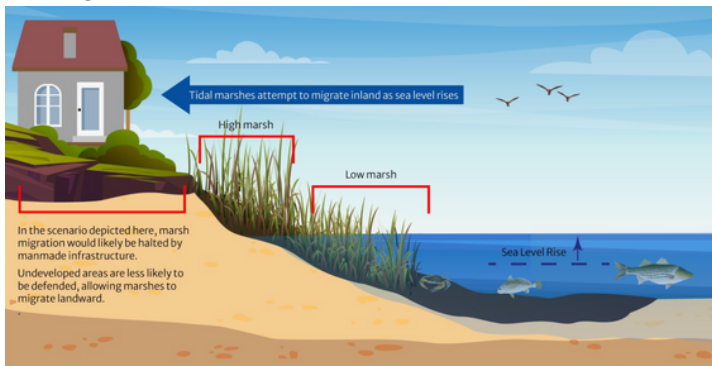


Illustration of marsh migration as sea level rises

What Can We Do?

The Roundtable has identified the following strategies to address these threats.

- 1 Conserve, restore, create, and enhance coastal wetland areas in the face of changing conditions.
- 2 Conserve tidal wetlands migration corridors.
- 3 Improve coordination among partners on regional coastal wetlands efforts.
- 4 Increase community members' knowledge and appreciation of the role wetlands play in protecting coastal communities and ecosystems.
- 5 Prioritize partnership building and projects with underserved communities impacted by wetlands losses.
- 6 Support research and development of guidance to close knowledge gaps for wetlands management and restoration.