

Estuary Protection Act

Agencies: U.S. Department of the Interior, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Citation: [16 U.S.C. §§ 1221 et seq.](#)

Enacted as: “An Act – To authorize the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the States, to conduct an inventory and study of the Nation’s estuaries and their natural resources, and for other purposes”, on August 3, 1968.

Summary:

The [Estuary Protection Act \(the Act\)](#) is administered by the Department of the Interior and provides a means to protect, conserve, and restore estuaries in a manner that maintains balance between the need for natural resource protection and conservation and the need to develop estuarine areas to promote national growth. The Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to work with the states and other Federal agencies in undertaking studies and inventories of the Nation’s estuaries. These studies and inventories shall include the assessment of the wildlife and recreation potential of estuaries, their ecology, their value to the marine, anadromous and shell fisheries, and their aesthetic value; their importance to navigation and flood control and their mineral value their value for more intensive economic development.

Presently, the Act requires all Federal agencies to give consideration to estuaries, their natural resources and their importance for commercial and industrial developments in planning for the use or development of water and land resources.

Source: [16 U.S.C. §§ 1221 et seq.](#)

Information last updated: September 20, 2012