

# estuaries

where rivers meet the sea

## Ten Ways to Protect Estuaries

**1** **Learn more about estuaries!**  
Visit [www.estuaries.gov](http://www.estuaries.gov).

**7** **Create non-toxic pesticides.**  
A bit of soap and water does the job and keeps harmful chemicals from ending up in nearby waterways.

**2** **Keep septic systems working properly.**  
Pump your system every three years.

**3** **Pave less.** Hard surfaces hasten runoff and increase pollution and erosion.

**8** **Use native plants.** Garden and landscape with plants native to your area to reduce the need for watering and fertilizing.

**4** **Adhere to “no-wake” zones when on your boat.**  
Waves destroy shorelines and increase erosion.



**9** **Respect habitat.** Treat the homes of vital marine life with care. Habitat and survival go hand-in-hand. When habitat disappears, so do many plants and animals.

**5** **Think before your pour.** Many hazardous products flow from household drains through sewage treatment plants and into coastal bodies of water.

**10** **Take action!** Organize a stream or beach cleanup. Encourage your local newspaper to write a story, or ask an expert to speak at your community organization or local school.

**6** **Fish respectfully.** Follow “catch and release” practices and keep more fish alive.

