

# ACES: Alliance for Comprehensive Ecosystem Solutions

*Building Consensus on Priorities for the Delaware Estuary*



**Priscilla Cole**  
Science & Policy Fellow  
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

# Regional Restoration Initiative – 3 Components

## *Science Track*

- Ecological Matrices
- Decision support tools
- Natural Capital Values

## *Consensus Track*

- ACES – synthesize, coordinate, support/promote regional priorities
- Reach out to restoration decision makers and funders

## *Project Registry*

- Clearinghouse for restoration projects across the estuary

# ACES Consensus Track – Multi-stakeholder WHO???

- Agency
- Non-profit
- Funders
- Corporate



## Objectives

- Establish a priority listing of projects
- Capitalize on public and private funding mechanisms
- Facilitate implementation



# ACES: Alliance for Comprehensive Ecosystem Solutions

## *Goal*

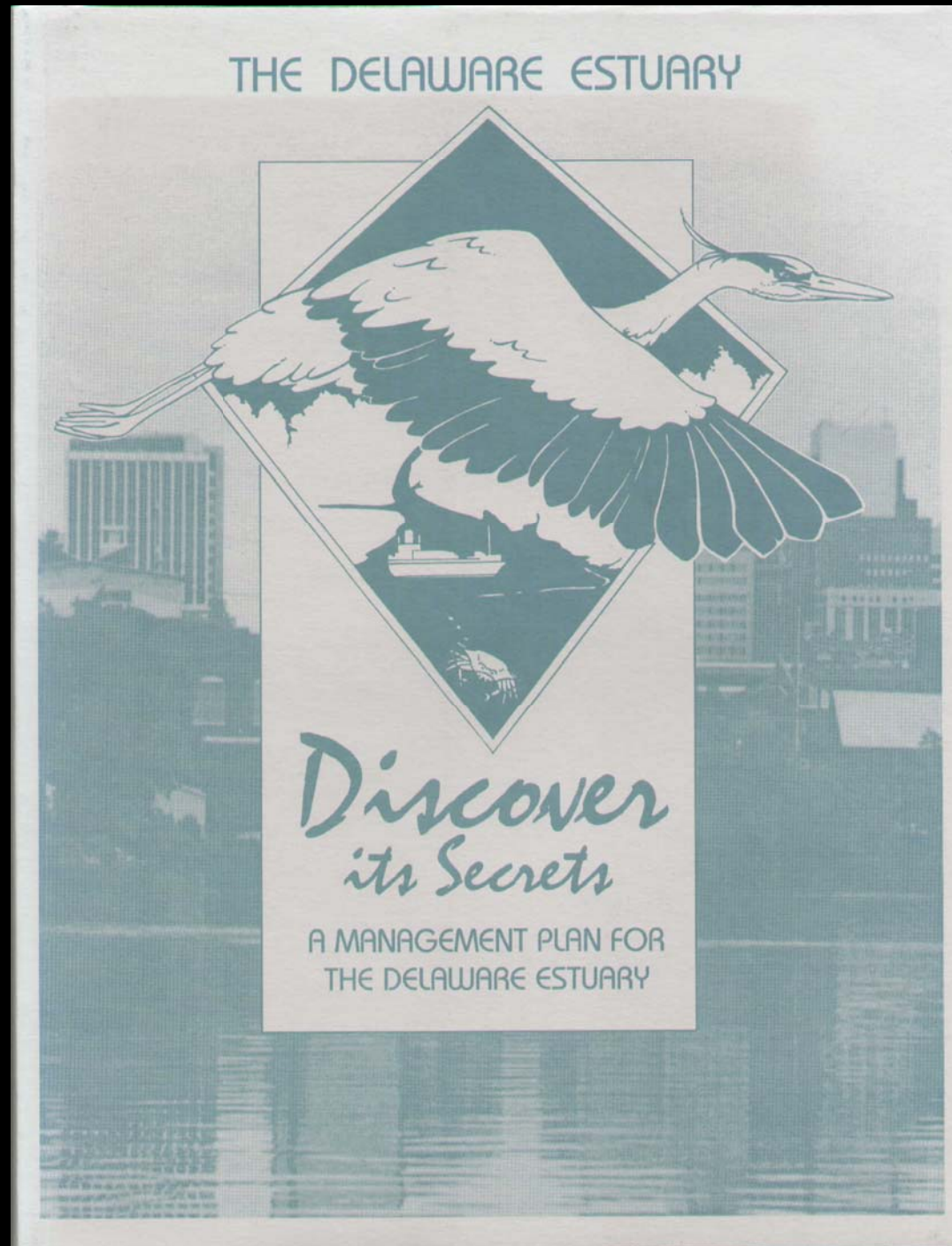
To create an alliance of major interests in restoration, enhancement and protection in the Delaware Estuary and its watershed and an operating plan/process for identifying and gaining support for shared priorities based on sound science and consensus among group members.

## *Purpose Statement*

ACES aims to place new emphasis on broadening stakeholder involvement and support for setting priorities for restoration, enhancement and protection projects in the estuary. The foundation of this approach establishes consensus-based identification and evaluation of restoration, enhancement and protection priorities based on research, sound science and criteria developed to assess and rank potential projects. This collaborative effort is designed to develop strategies for implementing meaningful improvements.



# Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)



# *2006 White Paper Technical Needs*

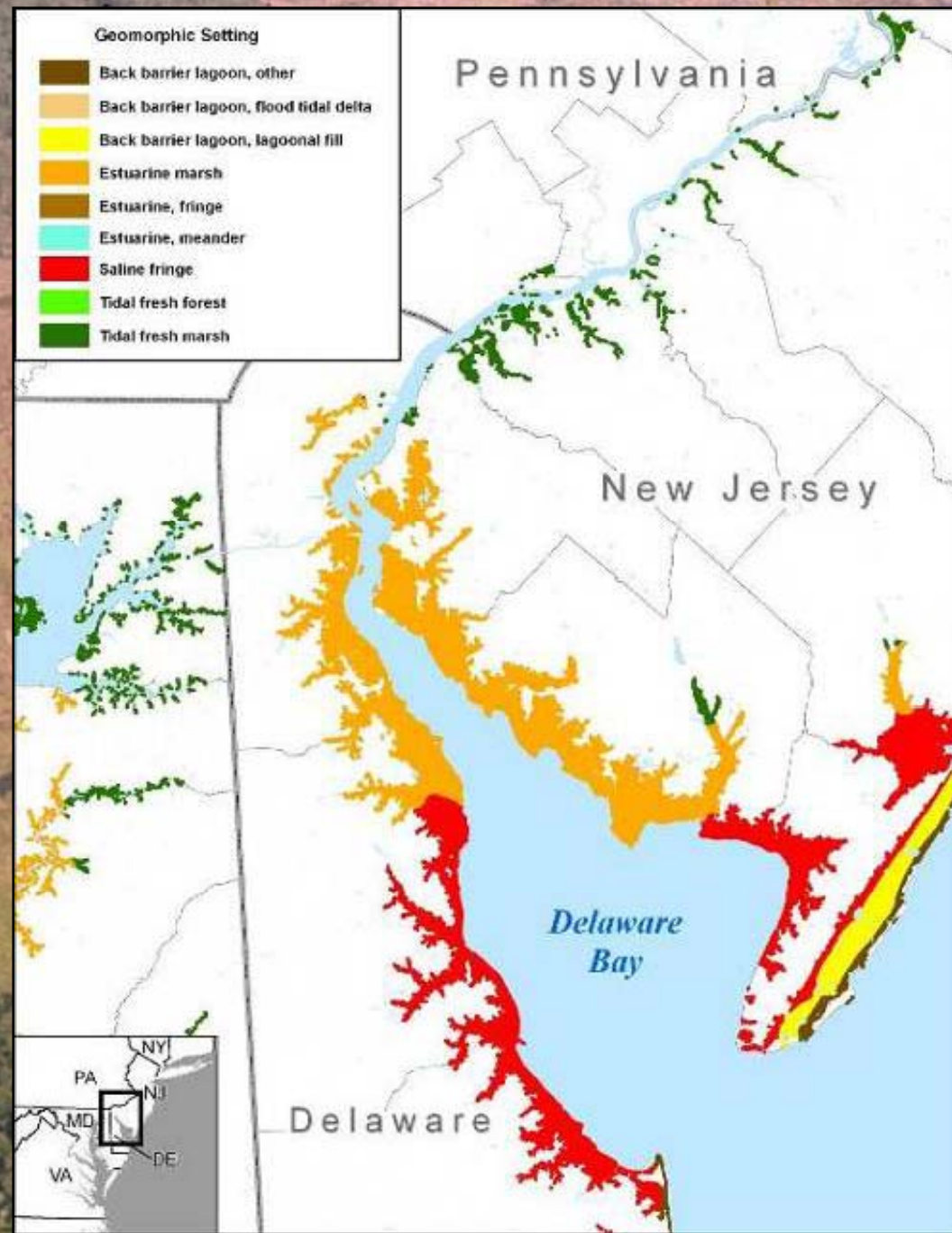


1. **Contaminants** (forms, sources, fates & effects for different classes)
2. **Tidal Wetlands** (status, trends and relative importance of different types)
3. **Ecologically Significant Species & Critical Habitats** (shellfish, horseshoe crabs)
4. **Ecological Flows** (effects of flow changes on salt balance & biota)
5. **Physical-Chemical-Biological Linkages** (e.g., sediment budgets, toxics & biota)
6. **Food Web Dynamics** (key trophic connections among functional dominant biota)
7. **Nutrients** (forms, concentrations and balance of macro- and micronutrients)
8. **Ecosystem Functions** (assessment and economic valuation of ecosystem services)
9. **Habitat Restoration and Enhancement** (science & policy)
10. **Invasive Species** (monitoring, management & control)

# Tidal Wetlands:

## Signature Habitat

## #2 Technical Need



# Live Polling Tonight!



**Dinner 6:30**

**Polling 7:15**

What should today's number one priority be?

1. Inclusivity
2. Increasing our numbers
3. Increasing our numbers
4. Global social action
5. Greater service
6. Raising the quality of
7. Strengthening the
8. Environmental awareness and activism



# *Challenge Questions*

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