

**A**n Estuary is the mixing of fresh and salt water. It is a place of transition where rivers meet the sea. The rivers flowing through Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas meet the water of the Gulf of Mexico, forming the National Estuaries of the Gulf Coast.

**E**stuaries create an important ecosystem for an abundance of wildlife and habitats. Many depend on the estuary for their work and play. The water and living resources that an estuary provides are important to our future.

**T**he National Estuary Program, (NEP), was established by the Clean Water Act of 1987. This program is responsible for creating an environmental plan that will help clean up the waters and prevent future pollution, development, and over usage. It is important that we all take a part in preserving our National Estuaries.

For more information visit [www.epa.gov/nep/](http://www.epa.gov/nep/).

