

# National Estuary Program

## WELCOME

*Mobile Bay and the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta are two of Alabama's greatest natural resources. We are truly blessed to live in such close proximity to them and enjoy the benefits they provide. Our estuary is incredibly rich in its diversity of plant and animal life.*

*In 1995, Mobile Bay was deemed an estuary of national significance by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A management conference of diverse interests was convened to create the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (Mobile Bay NEP). The goal of the program is to promote the wise stewardship of the water quality and living resources of the estuary. An environmental plan was developed to promote this goal and was completed in 2002. Today, the many members of the Mobile Bay NEP work to accomplish the tasks outlined in the plan. All levels of government, environmental interests, business, researchers and citizens are working together.*

*We hope this insert helps introduce you to environmental stewardship and challenges within the Mobile estuary. We have included information on current and past initiatives that help protect our waters and living resources. Our topics are as diverse as the writers who contributed to this document. Indeed, a healthy Mobile estuary is dependent upon everyone.*

*Mobile Bay has a major impact on Alabama's economy. Some of us depend on it for our livelihood and others for recreation. All of us depend on the estuary for the quality of life and sense of place it provides. The water and living resources of the Mobile Bay and Delta are important to us all. These waters and living resources are part of our culture, but they do face environmental challenges and pressures.*

*It has been said we don't own the lands and waters but simply borrow them from future generations. We must act responsibly and as good stewards of these precious resources so our children and theirs benefit from the richness of nature we have known. I hope you enjoy this insert and you find it useful.*

*David Yeager, Director  
Mobile Bay National Estuary Program*

## Dauphin Island Sea Lab: An Experiment in Science Education

*In 2002, the Mobile Bay NEP was pleased to join the Coastal Policy Center of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL). A natural match, the Coastal Policy Center assists local, government and business interests with comprehensive coastal resource planning. Collaborative partnering efforts of the Mobile Bay NEP with the community, combined with the research and education of DISL, help to span the gaps between science, planning, and concrete projects.*

*DISL celebrated its 30th anniversary last year, a unique experiment in science education. The 17 founding colleges and universities of Alabama (now 22) established the DISL as an educational summer field program for biology and geology majors. The island location of the former Air Force base was a natural to house programs oriented towards the marine sciences. The summer program was well subscribed from the start, and has grown to accommodate as many as 130 undergraduate and graduate students in each of three sessions. With the addition of programs for K-12 and teacher-training, DISL has become the largest summer marine educational program in the nation. DISL's most visible teaching tool is the Estuarium, a public facility among Alabama's top twenty attractions.*

*Dr. George Crozier*



Lee Yokel



Randy Sims



Randy Sims



Lee Yokel



Lee Yokel  
Randy Sims

## FAST FACTS

- 1948 – Federal Water Pollution Control Act
- 1969 – National Environmental Policy Act passed by the U.S. Congress
- 1970 – Environmental Protection Agency created
- 1971 – Dauphin Island Sea Lab established
- 1972 – U.S. Congress passed the Clean Water Act and Coastal Zone Management Act
- 1973 – Endangered Species Act passed by U. S. Congress
- 1979 – Alabama Coastal Zone Management Act
- 1987 – Amendments to the Clean Water Act created National Estuary Program
- 1995 – Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (Mobile Bay NEP) established
- 2002 – Mobile Bay NEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan approved