



Delaware Ocean and Bay Plan

Public interests and priorities

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) is developing an Ocean and Bay Plan to protect Delaware's marine resources, ecological functions and ocean and bay uses. Developing the plan includes public input to help identify priority marine resources and uses. Three public listening sessions were held in June and July 2023 along with a 60 day public comment period.

Popular Water-based Activities

Swimming



Shore Use (sunbathing, beachcombing, etc.)



Wildlife Observation and Photography



Kayaking / Canoeing



Water Sports (water and jet skiing, skim boarding, etc.)



Shore-based fishing



Topics of Importance to Participants



Conservation, health and sustainability of living marine resources and habitats, and the natural environment



Impacts of offshore wind development and transmission cables to marine life, tourism, property values and the viewshed



Visual and natural beauty of our coast and marine resources and the value of tourism in Delaware



Water quality and cleanliness

68%

Identified living marine resources and their habitats as treasured assets



42%

Concerned about loss of property values and tourism rates caused by offshore wind energy



Responses indicate a **desire to know more** about wind energy impacts, living marine resources, water quality and strategies to improve the environment and sea floor.

Moving Forward

To continue engaging in the planning process and decisions impacting our shared marine resources and uses, participants requested:

Public seminars, forums and discussions with advanced notice of opportunity to provide input



Unbiased information and research about both positive and negative impacts of offshore activities

Join the Ocean and Bay Plan mailing list: email kristi.lieske@delaware.gov