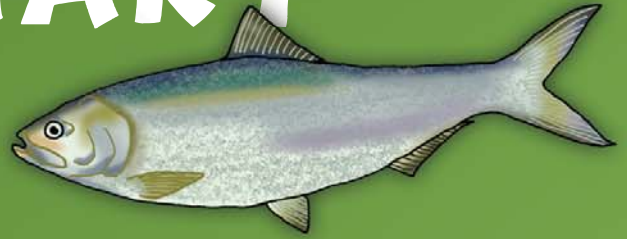


TEN WAYS TO PROTECT THE ESTUARY



1 **Learn more about estuaries!**
Visit www.estuaries.gov

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

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

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

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

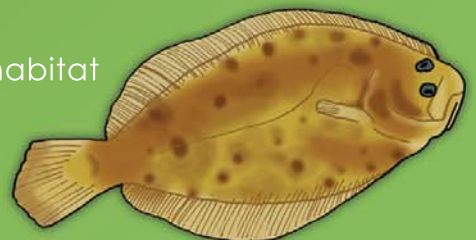


6 **Fish respectfully.**
Follow “catch and release” practices and keep more fish alive.

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

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

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.



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.