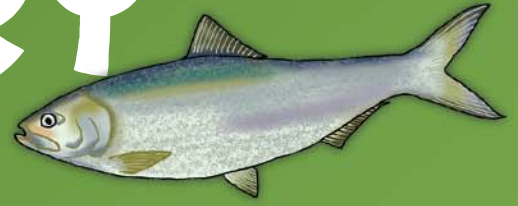


# TEN WAYS TO PROTECT THE ESTUARY



**1** Learn more about estuaries!  
Visit [www.estuaries.gov](http://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.

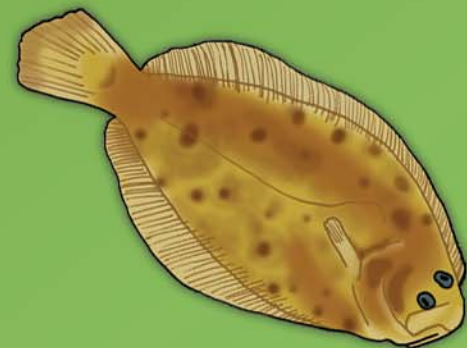


**6** Fish respectfully.  
Follow "catch and release" practices and keep more fish alive.

**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.

