

## Estuary History

**Circa 11000 BC** – Paleo Indians begin inhabiting the Delaware Estuary region

**1609** – Henry Hudson anchors in the Delaware Bay for the first time, giving the Dutch first claim to land in the Delaware Estuary.

**1631** – Attracted by whale hunting, Dutch settlers establish the first permanent settlement in Delaware in on Cape Henlopen

**1739** – Benjamin Franklin petitions the Pennsylvania Assembly to stop waste dumping and to remove tanneries due to foul smells, low property values, and disease.

**1802** – E. I. du Pont opens first facility on the banks of the Brandywine to produce gunpowder

**1819** – Construction begins on Fairmount Waterworks in Philadelphia to bring freshwater into the city

**1825-1928** – Lackawaxen Dam built in northern PA blocks shad runs (only true dam ever built on the Delaware; lasted through early 20<sup>th</sup> century)

**1829** – The Chesapeake and Delaware Canal first opens

**1866** – Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is formed, with the primary focus of shad restoration

**1880** – Many of Philadelphia's streams are converted into sewers as part of the city plan

**1890** – Shad increase due to construction of a fishway on the Lackawaxen Dam and artificial propagation efforts

**1913** – Pennsylvania passes Act 375, prohibiting discharge of anthracite coal, culm, or refuse into streams

**1930** – Citizens petition President Theodore Roosevelt about the affects of the Estuary's pollution on the health of women and children

**1936** – New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania create the Interstate Commission of the Delaware River Basin (INCodel) to establish water quality standards and take measures to meet them

**1957** – Oysters begin to die from MSX parasite (90% of New Jersey oysters die by 1959)



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## **Estuary History** continued

**1960** – 1970's Wetlands are filled for highway projects in Camden, Philadelphia, and Wilmington

**1961** – Delaware River Basin Compact is signed, creating the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC); marks first time federal government and states joined together in a river basin planning, development, and regulatory agency.

**1985** – Creation of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network links the Estuary to a hemisphere-wide chain of shorebird protection sites

**1994** – 2006 PSEG Estuary Enhancement Program restores more than 20,000 acres of salt marsh and adjacent uplands

**1999** – Governors of the four basin states sign the “Resolution on the Protection of the Delaware River Basin” and call for development of the new comprehensive water resources plan for the basin

**2004** – Partnership for the Delaware Estuary merges with the Delaware Estuary Program to become the chief administrator of the USEPA Delaware Estuary Program

**2006** – Clear into the Future is launched by DuPont



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