

# New Jersey

## The Coastal State

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With 127 miles of coastline and 17 of 21 counties bordering on saltwater, New Jersey is truly the Coastal State. Touted as the most important recreation asset in the nation by the US Army Corps of Engineers in 1950, this statement is no less relevant today than it was over 50 years ago. New Jersey boasts some of the finest beaches in the nation and the Jersey Shore provides a recreational outlet for the nearly 30 million residents of the region who live within a two-hour drive of the coast.

There's more to this priceless resource than sunbathing and recreation; New Jersey's inshore waters underpin the State's nearly \$50 billion coastal economy, a vast economic engine that supports tourism, fisheries and aquaculture, and port commerce. One out of every six jobs in New Jersey is related, in

some fashion, to the coastal zone, making coastal revenues the State's largest economic sector.

### Port Commerce

The nation's ports and waterways handle more than 2 billion tons of cargo annually and account for 95% by weight of all U.S. overseas trade. By 2010, it is expected that our ports will handle 6 billion tons of cargo annually, reaching a value of \$5 trillion in constant dollars.



The Port of New York/New Jersey is the third largest container ship port on the East Coast and the largest automobile port in the United States.



Same day cargo delivery is provided to more than 18 million consumers by the Port of NY/NJ.



The Port of NY/NJ directly and indirectly supports 167,000 jobs in northern New Jersey.



Delaware River ports have a total import volume of \$17 billion, generate \$3.5 billion in revenues and support over 30,000 jobs.










## Coastal Tourism

One of the reasons for the great appeal of the New Jersey coast is the amazing diversity that can be found along the 127 miles of Atlantic Ocean shoreline and 157 miles of bay shore. Between Perth Amboy in Middlesex County and Oakwood Beach in Salem County, you will find vast natural areas of marshlands, uplands, sand spits, headlands, and barrier islands. The diversity doesn't end with the landscape. The coastal







region includes numerous boardwalks, amusement parks, museums, local heritage, zoos, horse tracks, casinos, historic lighthouses, fine dining, shopping, golfing, fishing, crabbing, birding, and much more.

-  It is estimated that 17.8 million trips are made to the Jersey Shore by visitors each year.
-  Coastal tourism comprises more than half of New Jersey's \$27.7 billion tourism industry.
-  Coastal Tourism supports nearly 500,000 jobs while indirectly generating \$16.6 billion in wages and \$5.5 billion in state tax revenue.
-  Sixty-one percent of New Jersey's 8.4 million citizens live within 25 miles of a shoreline.
-  Seventeen of New Jersey's 21 counties border on salt water.

## Fisheries and Aquaculture

New Jersey has nine commercial fishing ports located between the Raritan Bay and Cape May. The largest, Cape May, has ranked first in the region in value per pound of fish landed for more than 20 years. Recreational fishing is no less important to New Jersey as anglers pursue game fish from beaches, piers, docks and jetties, and a vast fleet of private boats and charter vessels. New Jersey is also a leader in aquaculture with established programs in hard clam and oyster seeding.



-  The port of Cape May generates about \$300 million in revenue annually.
-  The combined Port of Cape May-Wildwood consistently ranks among the top two to four largest ports on the east coast.
-  More than 400 commercial vessels operate in New Jersey coastal waters harvesting over 100 species of finfish and shellfish.
-  More than 81,000 private boats and more than 400 charter vessels and party boats operate in New Jersey waters.
-  800,000 recreational anglers fish in New Jersey, half of whom are from out of state.
-  The recreational fishing industry in New Jersey has a value of \$1.5 billion annually, ranking New Jersey third among the 14 east coast states.

## Sustaining the New Jersey Coast

The coastal economy of New Jersey is intimately dependent on the state's pristine beaches, coastal infrastructure, accommodations, water quality, fishery health, deep draft harbors, port facilities, and intermodal transportation systems. Many of these industries compete for the very coastal resources that sustain another part of the coastal economy. Balancing economic growth and coastal resource quality is a critical issue for the future of New Jersey's coastal communities, ports and fisheries.

*The New Jersey Sea Grant College Program* is prepared to apply its considerable expertise in coastal research to promote the sustainability and wise use of our coastal resources that provide the basis of a strong coastal economy by improving science literacy among all citizens, contributing solutions to coastal issues and by promoting balanced growth with environmental stewardship. For more information, contact:

Dr. Thomas Herrington,  
NJ Sea Grant Coastal Processes Specialist  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
Castle Point on Hudson  
Hoboken, New Jersey 07030  
Phone: (201) 216-5320  
Fax: (201) 216-8214  
therring@stevens-tech.edu  
Designed by Marsha Samuel

