



Photo courtesy of Riverkeeper

# New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act (H.R. 4677)

A watershed moment for 15 million people — and all Americans

## **BENEFITS + IMPACTS:**

- Direct the Secretary of the Interior to **enhance collaboration and coordinate restoration activities** at all levels of government.
- Establish a program to **coordinate restoration and award grants** to help fund approved plans and restoration projects in local communities.
- Ensure that restoration efforts utilize **science-based principles** to protect fish and wildlife habitats, improve water quality, increase public access to the estuary, mitigate flood risks, and develop public outreach and educational activities.
- **Authorize \$50 million annually** through fiscal year 2026 to accomplish these goals.

The NY-NJ Harbor and the watersheds of New York and New Jersey that flow into this national resource provide enormous economic and environmental benefits not just to the region but the entire nation.

Along with supplying the country's most densely populated region with **clean water**, they host some of the **busiest U.S. ports**, provide opportunities for **tourism** and **outdoor recreation** that attract people from around the world and improve **public health**, sustain **significant fisheries and critical wildlife habitat**, and protect **businesses and vital infrastructure** from flooding and rising sea levels.

These waterways **play a critical role in enhancing Americans' quality of life, health and prosperity**, and in restoring communities disproportionately impacted by climate change. Local partnerships are strong and regional priorities have been established through several science-based and consensus-driven plans to manage these natural resources. Federal leadership and resources will strengthen these partnerships and deliver on-the-ground public benefits across local jurisdictions.

The **New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act** also would make the federal government a stronger partner in protecting and restoring the watersheds that flow into New York-New Jersey Harbor (including the Hudson, Mohawk, Raritan, Passaic, Hackensack and Bronx River watersheds), investing in on-the-ground projects that will improve **accessibility, habitat, climate resiliency** and **economic opportunity** for the 15 million Americans living near them—and for all Americans.

**It's time to turn the tide** and rebuild this valuable and ecologically vital system of watersheds, ensuring it can serve as a resource to local communities — and the entire nation — for many years to come.

The New York-New Jersey Watershed Act is supported by:



*This document was prepared by Scenic Hudson for groups supporting the NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act.*