



**WATER & SEDIMENT
QUALITY**



**HABITAT, FISH,
& WILDLIFE**



AQUATIC DEBRIS



**PUBLIC EDUCATION
& INVOLVEMENT**

COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION AND
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE
SAN JUAN BAY ESTUARY

VOLUME I

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This Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan reflects the hard work and dedication of the **San Juan Bay Estuary Management Conference**, a diverse group of stakeholders, convened in 1993. These stakeholders guided and instructed the Program Office in the development of this Management Plan; therefore, the Plan is a product of the Management Conference, and represents the goals for the estuary as articulated by the communities that make up the San Juan Bay Estuary system.

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Volume II - Monitoring Plan*
Volume III - Capital Improvement Plan*
Volume IV - Base Program Analysis*

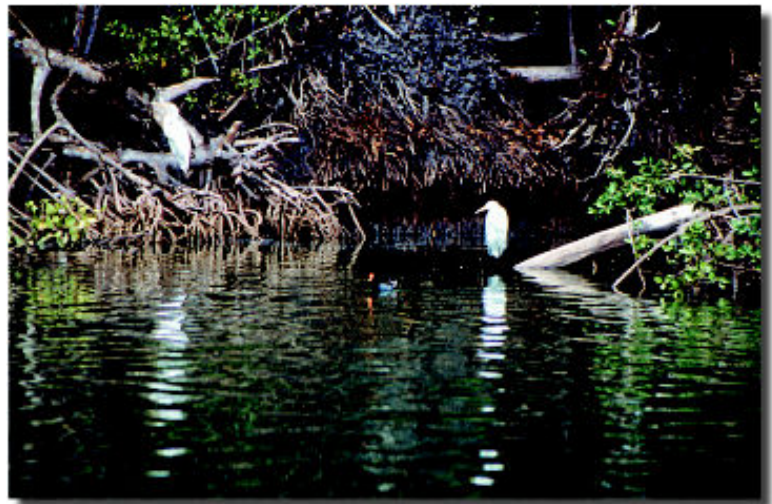
* Available from the SJBE Program Office

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HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

This **Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)** contains information about the overall health of the San Juan Bay Estuary (SJBE) as well as proposed solutions to identified problems. These solutions, or Action Plans, are the result of a more than 4-year process of consensus-building among agency representatives, scientists, citizens, business, and industry. As part of this process, a public opinion poll was conducted in 1995 by the SJBE Program to obtain information on the public's perception of environmental problems and priorities. A series of technical studies were conducted to collect environmental data and refine the existing knowledge base about estuary problems. Hundreds of meetings have been held within the formal structure of the program as well as in neighborhood gatherings.



Great Egrets (Casmerodius albus) and Common moorhen (Gallinula chloropus) in the SJBE.

In September 1999, a draft Management Plan was published and made available for public review and comment. During the comment period, the public was encouraged to obtain a copy of the draft Management Plan from the SJBE Program Office or at one of many libraries or municipal offices throughout the estuary. Public service announcements on radio and television and flyers, street banners, and public notices in the newspaper *El Nuevo Día* advertised the availability of the draft Plan and the schedule for public hearings and community meetings to discuss the Plan.

This final Management Plan reflects the comments received from the public as well as results of ongoing studies. Appendix J summarizes the comments received and the responses to those

comments. Significant revisions, including proposed new actions, were published for an additional public review prior to incorporation in this final Plan.

While this document is considered the final Management Plan for the estuary, it is still a work in progress. This Plan is meant to be a living document that can be modified as new information is obtained and changes or additions need to be made. The multi-step process for incorporating new information and actions into the Management Plan may include:

1. Receiving comments or additions to the Management Plan;
2. Submitting comments to a specialist for evaluation and response;
3. Establishing categories or priorities for attention;
 - Priority 1 items will be included as part of the document
 - Priority 2 items will be submitted to the appropriate state or federal government agency for consideration
4. Presenting priorities to the SJBE Partnership Board of Directors for consideration and reaction;
5. Publishing a public announcement about any amendments or new actions;
6. Sharing information on amendments or new actions through public meetings; and
7. Incorporating new material in the Management Plan on an errata sheet.

Monitoring activities will measure the effectiveness of action implementation and gauge changing estuary conditions. The results of these monitoring efforts will also be used to determine what, if any, additional actions may be needed.

This Management Plan has been organized into four volumes. Volume I contains eight chapters and a series of Appendices, as shown below. Volume II (the *Monitoring Plan*), Volume III (the *Capital Improvement Plan*), and Volume IV (the *Base Program Analysis*) are available under separate cover and can be obtained from the SJBE Program Office. The *Monitoring Plan* describes the strategy to measure progress toward CCMP implementation and obtain environmental improvements in the system. The *Capital Improvement Plan* analyzes the estimated financial impacts of CCMP implementation and reviews financial sources to implement the CCMP. The *Base Program Analysis* evaluates the existing institutional framework and coordination among agencies.

Introduction:

The Introduction provides an overview of the CCMP development process, including information on how the SJBE Program started, the structure of the Program, and the Program goals and objectives.

State of the Estuary: This chapter draws on the results of the many technical studies conducted to describe the estuary's flora, fauna, and habitats as well as water and sediment quality, aquatic debris, and public involvement. This chapter serves as a characterization report on the status and trends of priority issues and provides the rationale behind the action plans.

Action Plans: Chapters 3 through 6 contain four action plans: **Water and Sediment Quality; Habitat, Fish, and Wildlife; Aquatic Debris; and Public Education and Involvement**. These action plans contain 49 proposed solutions to address the estuary's priority problems and concerns. Each of the 49 specific actions identifies proposed implementing partners, costs associated with implementation, schedules for implementation, location of the action, how results will be monitored, and whether any regulatory changes are needed to implement the action.

Post-CCMP Implementation and Funding: **Chapters 7 and 8** provide information on implementation and funding, including a description of the post-CCMP management structure, a financing strategy, and federal consistency review.

Appendices: The Appendices include maps associated with certain actions, a list of acronyms and abbreviations, a glossary, a listing of text references, a list of the Management Conference members, tables related to diseases associated with sewage discharges to surface waters and toxics in the SJBE, action plan summary tables, a summary of the comments received on the draft Management Plan and other public involvement activities, and a list of sponsored studies and Action Plan Demonstration Projects.



Guachinanguita Island at San José Lagoon.

