

# 2023 Delaware State Update

DNREC Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program  
Mark Biddle



# Restoration



DELAWARE  
LIVING  
SHORELINE  
COMMITTEE

[Delawarelivingshorelines.org](http://Delawarelivingshorelines.org)

- Continuing Delaware Restoration Work Group meetings 2x year
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Work Group is gaining momentum statewide



# Millsboro Beneficial Use

- Perimeter construction began Oct 9
- Exterior containment wall 1,300 ft long total
- Interior terrace wall 750ft
- Oyster shell bag toe lining
- Dredging starting soon
- Expecting to fill 35,000yd<sup>3</sup>





# Outreach & Education

- Continuing realtor education program. 1 hour and 3 hour continuing education sessions by county.
- Quarterly E-newsletter and blog posts; over 700 subscribers
- May family-oriented public event Water Family Fest & Native Plant Sale; 350 attendees and growing
- Translated our first wetland handout into Spanish

# Policy



- September 2022, DNREC produced a report, as directed, to evaluate options for a state freshwater wetland protection program.
- Following the *Sackett vs EPA* wetland case the Delaware Legislature passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 86 (SCR86) directing DNREC to re-evaluate federal wetland protection coverage in Delaware.
- DNREC used GIS to map and estimate how freshwater wetland protection would change in Delaware.
- The geospatial analysis results show that roughly 75,000 acres of nontidal wetlands are vulnerable, representing about 45% of Delaware's nontidal wetlands.



**10<sup>th</sup> Delaware**  
**WETLANDS**  
**Conference**  
February 6 and 7, 2024

Wilmington, DE

Registration is open! Early bird rates end Nov. 29

Accepting posters through Dec. 19

Accepting sponsors and exhibitors accepted through Dec. 10

Lunch meetings of The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association and the Society for Wetland Scientists Mid-Atlantic Chapter