

# ASSESSMENT OF NUTRIENT LOADING AND EUTROPHICATION IN BARNEGAT BAY-LITTLE EGG HARBOR, NEW JERSEY IN SUPPORT OF NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING (2010 - 2011)

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## PROJECT GOALS

1. Characterize - model land-use impacts, nutrient fluxes and bio responses to estuary.
2. Determine gradients of seasonal - interannual variability of nutrient loadings - biotic responses.
3. Calculate “eutrophic condition index” of estuary by integrating key water-quality and biotic indicators across estuarine segments.
4. Develop a eutrophication conceptual model to determine if there has been significant alteration of estuarine ecological structure and function.
5. Develop threshold levels of biotic decline and numeric nutrient loading criteria for the estuary.
6. Discuss how these threshold levels can be integrated into a management plan.

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