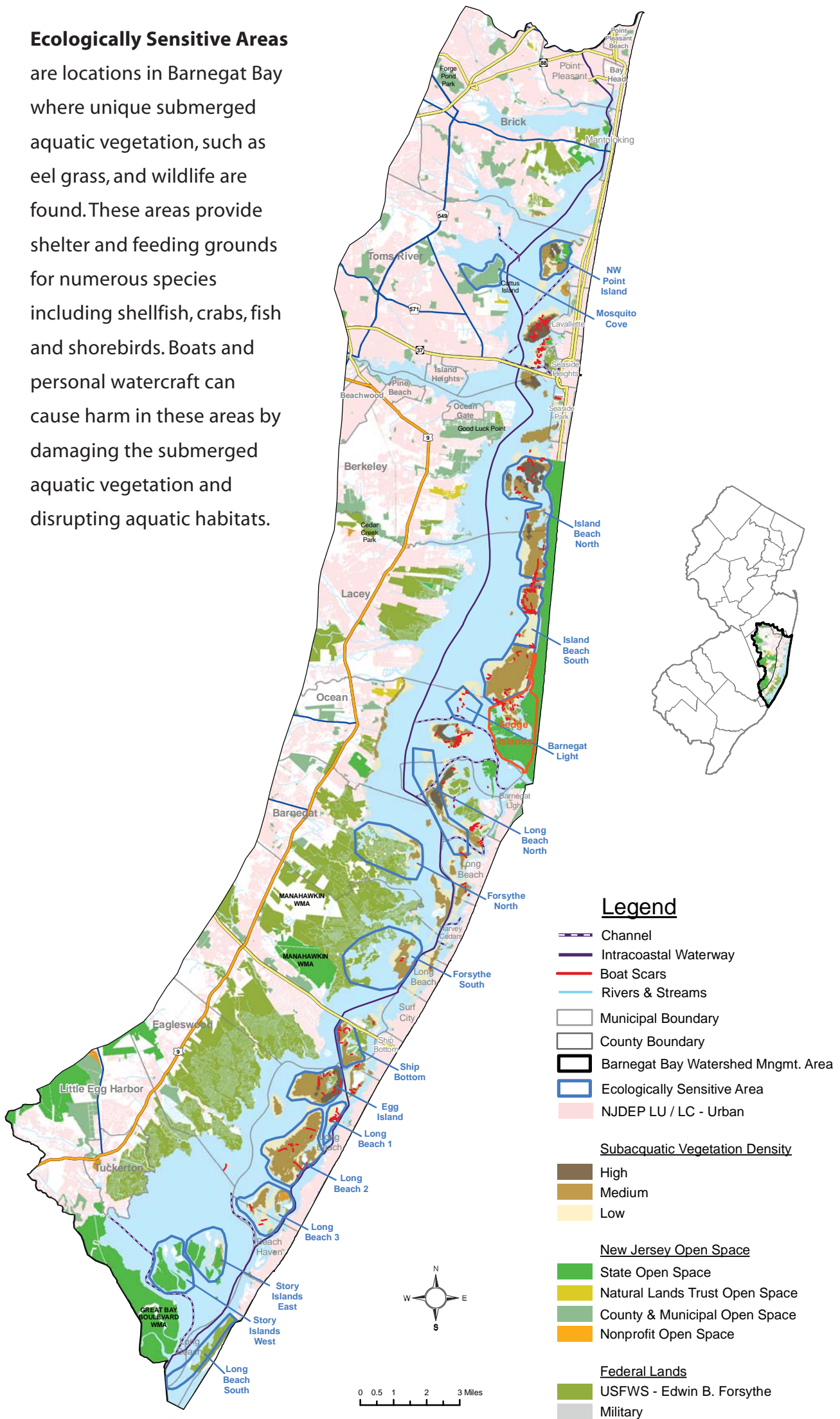


# Barnegat Bay Ecologically Sensitive Areas

## Ecologically Sensitive Areas

are locations in Barnegat Bay where unique submerged aquatic vegetation, such as eel grass, and wildlife are found. These areas provide shelter and feeding grounds for numerous species including shellfish, crabs, fish and shorebirds. Boats and personal watercraft can cause harm in these areas by damaging the submerged aquatic vegetation and disrupting aquatic habitats.



This map was designed for informational purposes only and should not be used for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.

# Tips for Clean and Green Boating in Barnegat Bay

Barnegat Bay is a home for plants, fish, crustaceans, shellfish, birds, other types of wildlife and people. Salt marshes and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), such as eelgrass, provide nurseries, shelter and feeding grounds for wildlife. This shallow tidal water system is also a playground for recreational activities, such as boating. Motorboat propellers crossing through SAV beds can cut SAV leaves, scar SAV beds, and harm marine life. Also, turbulence caused by propeller wash can erode shorelines and disturb nesting shorebirds.

To help keep the Bay vibrant and healthy for all of its residents, please take these actions when you are on the water using a boat (motorized or un-motorized) or personal watercraft.

- Stay out of restricted areas set aside for wildlife. Do not harass nesting birds and other animals.
- Buoy mooring chains and lines to prevent them from scraping on the Bay bottom and harming submerged aquatic vegetation and animals.
- Use pump-out boats and facilities. Do not discharge wastewater holding tanks into open water.
- Maintain 100' distance (about the length of six cars) from natural shorelines, Bay islands and sensitive ecological areas, and use marked navigational channels for travel.
- Minimize wakes in all shallow areas to help reduce erosion and harm to aquatic plants and animals.
- Appreciate wildlife from a distance.
- Help reduce air pollution by cutting the engine and not idling in open water.
- Keep trash, recyclables, hooks and lures in secure containers and dispose of them properly on land. Recycle used monofilament fishing lines instead of throwing them away.
- Avoid giving invasive aquatic plants and animals a ride. Thoroughly clean boats, personal watercraft and equipment when transferring them from one water body to another.
- Keep the engine leak-free and well-tuned in order to minimize the discharge of fuel and oil into the water. Use a pillow or oil absorbent pad in the bilge to absorb any spilled oil.

**To learn more about the Governor's Action Plan for Barnegat Bay go to:  
[www.barnegatbay.nj.gov](http://www.barnegatbay.nj.gov)**

