

The Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve

Change on the Ground



2017

Connect



6,907 Visitors to our Education Exhibit

1,639 Outreach Events



Prepare

575 contact hours with educators

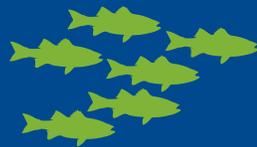
2,890 students reached

Engage



1,158 People Reached by Public Programs

613 volunteer hours in education



"We come back to the JC NERR homeschool programs year after year. Their programs are hands on and keep our students involved from beginning to end. The professional atmosphere and high quality lessons are just what we are looking for. We are grateful that these programs are offered in our community. Thank you."

"The JC NERR represents many things things to me. The site is an incredible place where, when personally invested, explorations abound will only lead to one amazing discovery after another."

Richard Costello
Visitor, Nature Enthusiast

Ghost Pots in Great Bay

Since 2012, the Jacques Cousteau Reserve, Stockton University, local watermen, and other partner organizations have been working together on mapping and removing abandoned crab traps. Removal and prevention of these "ghost pots" is important for a healthy marine habitat, the livelihood of crabbers, and safety for shore visitors.

In April 2017, close to 40 volunteers came together at Stockton University's Marine Field Station to help dispose of derelict crab pots found in nearby waterways. Volunteers for the day were made up of students, fishermen, JC NERR volunteers and members of the community. Tasks included recording the weight, measurements, and conditions for each of the 600+ traps. Traps in good condition were set aside for reuse while traps that were not reusable were broken down and prepped to be discarded properly.

This partnership project has been funded by the NOAA Marine Debris Program.

School Stewardship Project Promotes Marine Debris Awareness

After attending a marine debris workshop offered by the JC NERR, 6th grade teacher Cathy McBride (Long Beach Island Grade School), was determined to develop a marine debris stewardship program. With the stipend and resources, she gained from the workshop, Cathy developed a hands on student-driven project to promote awareness of marine debris during the NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries "Zero Waste Week".



After lessons on marine debris, all of her 29 students conducted week-long waste audits at home. Students were also challenged to reduce their waste per day. All classrooms within the school then contributed artwork made of plastics and displayed it in an area of their school for viewing by community members. Additionally, posters and PSA announcements were produced by Cathy's classroom. Announcements to the school were also conducted by Cathy's classroom as well. Their efforts were recognized by many members of the community and even got the attention of the local press.

"Overall, our students thoroughly enjoyed all of the components of this project. The daily trivia, posters and morning PSAs provided a fun yet engaging method for bringing awareness to this globally important issue... Thank you for providing the support for this memorable and meaningful project." Cathy McBride 6th grade teacher, Long Beach Island Grade School.

The Jacques Cousteau Reserve is one of 29 sites in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. Each site is a state federal partnership that combines research, monitoring, and education to advance the understanding and management of estuarine environments.



RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

National Estuarine Research Reserve Education Change on the Ground in 2017

Connects

People to Estuaries

**1 million+
ACRES**

of natural classrooms & living laboratories with



**28 INTERPRETIVE
CENTERS**



**650,340
VISITORS**

learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education



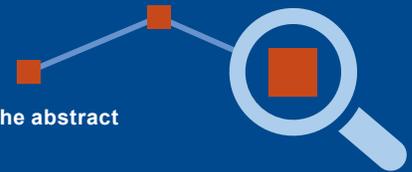
Aloha to our Hawai'i Reserve, designated in 2017!

Prepares

the Next Generation

**87,899
STUDENTS**

take learning out of the abstract & into the outdoors



**3,079
TEACHERS**

are trained in the estuary & supported in the classroom



SKILLS BUILT

- ✓ Observation
- ✓ Asking research questions
- ✓ Problem solving
- ✓ Data driven decision making

ESTUARY SCIENCE

LOCAL DATA

LAB WORK

FIELD INVESTIGATION

Improves

the Environment

**12,849
CITIZENS**

are trained & inspired to protect their coasts & estuaries



VOLUNTEER ACTIONS

- ✓ Protect wildlife
- ✓ Monitor water quality
- ✓ Plant native species
- ✓ Clean up the coasts

**28 RESEARCH RESERVE
EDUCATORS**

lead programs that foster coastal stewardship in communities in 23 states



Creating value through education
39,035 volunteer hours = \$942,305*