Name	Climate Change and the Delaware Estuary
Description	The Delaware Estuary watershed and its natural resources will face a variety of challenges with climate change. Due to the many unique features of the Estuary, some aspects of changing climate may not be as severe here as in nearby watersheds and estuaries, whereas other changes may be more important. Since 2008, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary has engaged experts from throughout the region to conduct an assessment of the vulnerabilities and adaptation options for three key resources of the Delaware Estuary: tidal wetlands, drinking water, and bivalve shellfish. These provide three case studies – a habitat case study, a human/water use case study, and a living resource case study – for looking at climate change impacts and how best to adapt to them here in the Delaware Estuary. These case studies represent the very first step in an adaptation planning process, the goal of which is to ensure the resiliency of this vast and valuable system as climate changes. For all three case studies, the top concerns among experts are the vulnerabilities of key resources to sea level rise and salinity changes, and flooding and precipitation effects. Whereas, many estuaries around the world are concerned with sealevel rise, the vulnerability to salinity rise in the Delaware Estuary is somewhat unique, and especially notable because this system has the world's largest freshwater tidal prism. Adaptation actions are outlined for each resource as well.
Type	- PRODUCTS: Plans, Assessments, Studies - PRODUCTS: Engagement
Sector	- Infrastructure - Managed Ecosystems - Natural Ecosystems - Biota - Recreation and Tourism
Focus Area	- Coasts and Climate Resilience (including sea-level rise) - Climate Impacts on Water Resources - Conservation/ Restoration of Sensitive Species and Habitats
Region	- Regional Or State -- Mid-Atlantic
Lead Agencies	Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
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