

# Excellence in Estuaries Education

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The [National Estuarine Research Reserve System \(NERRS\)](#) contracted with TERC to conduct a nationwide needs assessment of K-12 teachers to review science education standards and to develop a series of high school science curriculum modules related to estuaries.

The needs assessment, conducted in the spring of 2007, surveyed over 1000 teachers and other educators providing a wealth of information about how science content related to estuaries is currently taught and the sorts of supports and obstacles teachers are working with in teaching more about estuaries. Download a copy of the report, *The State of Estuarine Education: K-12 Needs Assessment*, [here](#).

The four modules focus on life sciences, earth sciences, and physical/chemical sciences, as well as an integrated module exploring a specific location — Chesapeake Bay. Activities use inquiry techniques and emphasize data exploration with a variety of online tools. *Estuaries 101* curriculum materials can be downloaded [here](#).

The project also reviewed state and national standards to see how they link to the teaching of estuarine-related content. That report, *How Learning about Estuaries meets State and National Science Education Standards*, can be downloaded [here](#).