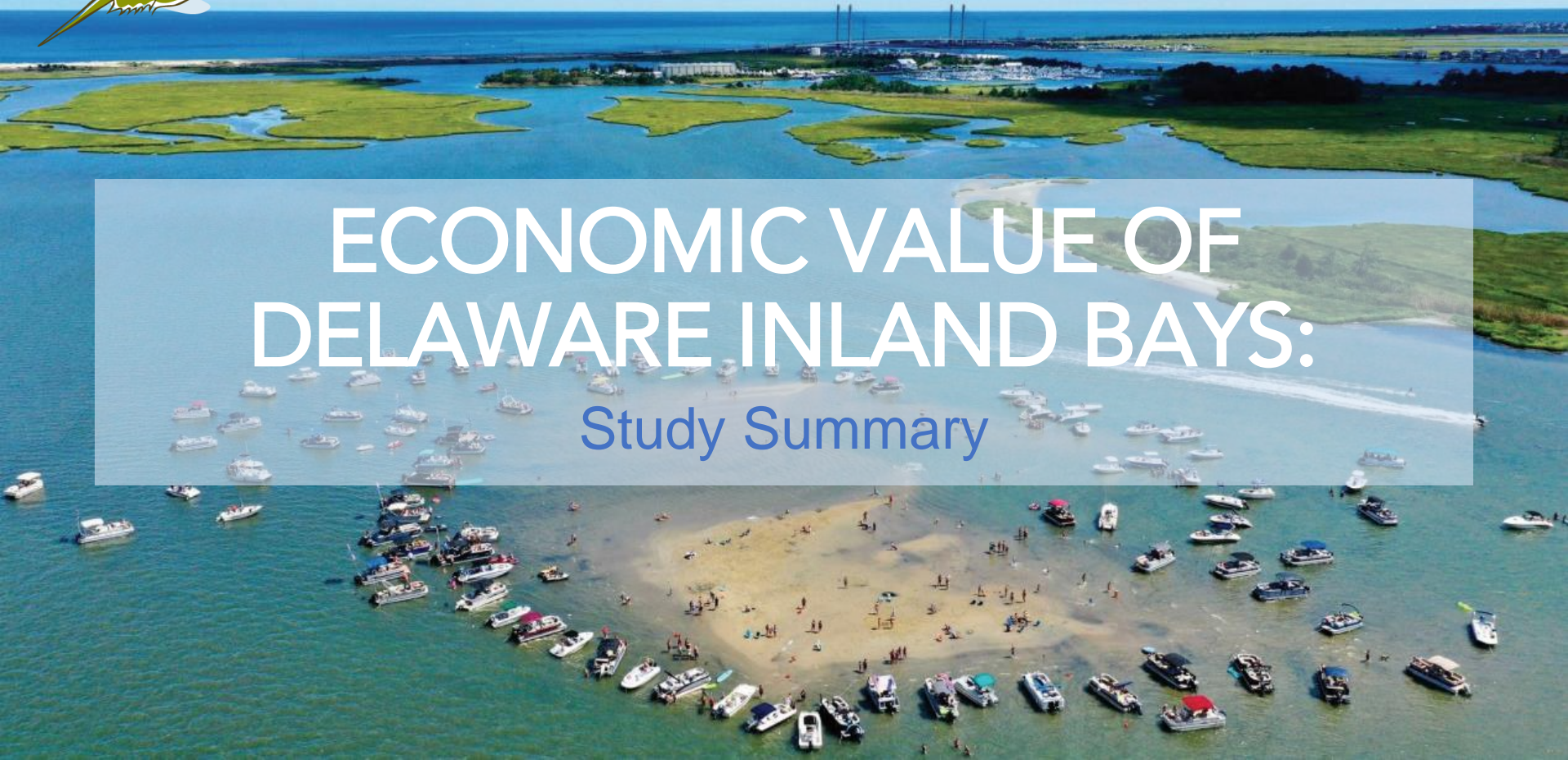




DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE
INLAND BAYS
Research. Educate. Restore.

ECONOMIC VALUE OF DELAWARE INLAND BAYS:

Study Summary





A Valuable Estuary for All

Ecological & environmental significance

- Habitat (e.g., 112 finfish & Diamondback terrapin)
- Stopover for migratory birds & horseshoe crab spawning
- Filter pollutants & stabilize shorelines
- Buffer - absorb flood waters & dissipate storm surge

Economic & cultural significance

- Native peoples established communities in proximity to the Bays. Following European colonization, the region supported large-scale fishing communities with agriculture to follow.
- Inland Bays support a diverse, multi-billion dollar economy today fueled by tourism, recreation, and, increasingly, residential development and associated service industries.

Study Overview

WHAT: First-ever assessment of the Economic Value of the Delaware Inland Bays

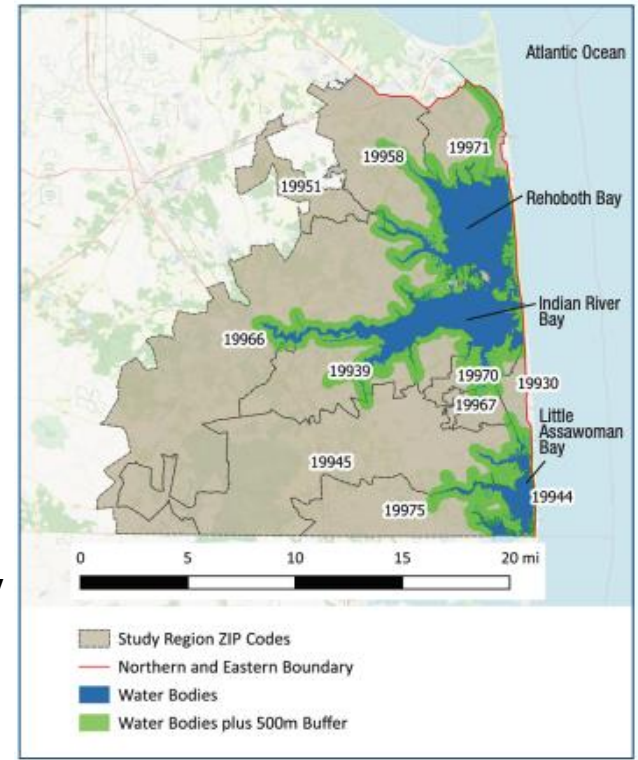
WHO: Authored by Christian Hauser, DESG & Chris Bason, former CIB. Data analysis performed by Key-Log Economics

WHY: Establish the value of the Bays and their contribution to the economy under existing conditions (considered impaired). Intended to provide context for discussions between the public, resource managers, and policy makers that can inform future action.



Methods

- Study region:
 - Defined as the land area in the eleven ZIP Codes surrounding the Bays (code areas adjacent to the Bays and coastal ocean were divided to separate economic activity derived from the ocean and Bays)
- Relevant industries selected from 3 categories:
 - Water-related (e.g., marinas)
 - Tourism & recreation (e.g., accommodations)
 - Those necessary to support residents, visitors, incoming people in proximity to Bays (e.g., infrastructure and services like health care)



Methods Continued

- Economic data (sales or revenue) for most industries, are publicly available through the U.S. Census Bureau's Economic Census. Data from 2017 were adjusted to 2020 dollars using the Consumer Price Index.
- Regional Input-Output Modeling: Approach used to quantify the economic contribution of Inland Bays' economic activity to the state (i.e., state multipliers used to forecast contributions based on existing sales and revenue data).
 - *"Multipliers" (state & county levels) quantify direct, indirect, and induced economic contributions of an industry & jobs provided based on existing economic data*
- Case studies presented to demonstrate potential economic gains that could be realized should water quality conditions improve.





Highlights

- IBs support \$4.5 billion in economic activity annually and 35,000+ jobs throughout DE.
 - Approximately 89% of contributions and 94% of the jobs occur within Sussex County
- Economic activity within the IBs provides tax revenue to federal, state, and county governments estimated at \$458 million.
- Improved water quality conditions have the potential to increase these economic contributions significantly:
 - Waterfront homes and those in close proximity to the water would collectively increase to \$10.7 billion — an increase of ~\$200 million.



“These contributions are dependent on the quality of the water within the Inland Bays and the associated services provided by a healthy coastal ecosystem, conditions which are subject to change based on human activity and resource management decisions. Should water quality conditions improve through implementation of the Inland Bays Pollution Control Strategy, economic contributions are anticipated to increase significantly.”



For full report, visit
inlandbays.org



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