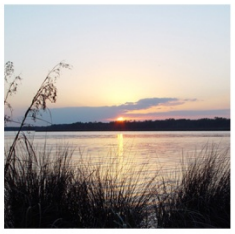
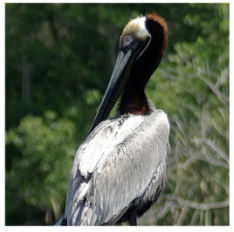
NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE SYSTEM

Take Action – 10 Ways to Protect Estuaries

#10 - Take action!

- Organize a stream or beach cleanup.
- Encourage your local newspaper to write a story, or ask an expert to speak at your community organization or local school.

Photo courtesy: CBNERRVA

#9 – Respect Habitat!

- Treat the homes of vital marine life with care.
- Habitat and survival go hand-in-hand. When habitat disappears, so do many plants and animals.

Photo courtesy: CBNERRVA

#8 – Use Native Plants!

- Garden and landscape with plants native to your area to reduce the need for watering and fertilizing.

Photo Courtesy: CBNERRVA

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#7 – Create Non-Toxic Pesticides!

- A bit of soap and water does the job and keeps harmful chemicals from ending up in nearby waterways.

Photo courtesy: http://www.naturalpureorganics.com

#6 – Fish Respectfully!

- Follow "catch and release" practices and keep more fish alive

Photo courtesy: CBNERRVA

#5- Think Before You Pour!

- Many hazardous products flow from household drains through sewage treatment plants and into coastal bodies of water.

Photo courtesy: http://www.hennepin.us/vgn

#4 – Adhere to No-Wake Zones!

- Follow safe boating practices. Waves destroy shorelines and increase erosion.

Photo courtesy: CBNERRVA

#3 – Pave Less!

- Hard surfaces hasten runoff and increase pollution and erosion.

Photo courtesy: CBNERRVA

#2 – Septic System Maintenance!

- Keep septic systems working properly. Pump your system every three years.

Photo courtesy: http://www.inspectapedia.com

#1 – Learn More About Estuaries!

- Visit the following website: www.estuaries.gov.

Photo courtesy: CBNERRVA