

A PROPOSAL TO CREATE A UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMP SERIES:

AMERICA'S ESTUARIES

Respectfully Submitted to the
Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee
Washington, DC

by

The Association of National Estuary Programs, and
The National Estuarine Research Reserve Association
in cooperation with
The Long Island Sound Study Citizens Advisory Committee

- Proposal In Brief:** Creation of a postage stamp series entitled: *America's Estuaries*. This postage stamp series would illustrate the most prominent or significant flora, fauna, fish, wildlife, or natural, man-made, or geophysical attribute most representative of each of the Nation's 28 Estuaries of National Significance and 25 National Estuarine Research Reserves.
- Background:** Congress created both the NEP and NERR programs through amendments to the Clean Water Act in 1987, and by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. The combined mission of these national environmental programs is to study, reserve, protect, and restore the health and productivity of nationally significant estuaries. The NEP and NERR programs are administered by EPA and NOAA respectively. To date, these Federal agencies, in partnership with state Governors, have designated 28 estuaries and 25 reserves of national significance to America.
- Vision:** This postage stamp series would educate and inform our citizens and children to the natural beauty of America's estuaries, call attention to the diversity of living creatures, their habitats, the unique ecosystems, and the threats to those systems, and provide a platform to promote the study, preservation, and conservation of these valuable, and fragile national resources.
- Rationale:** Millions of Americans live in, near, or annually visit the Nation's estuaries and estuarine reserves, creating a natural and ready national market for these stamps. There is significant artistic and educational potential for this stamp series, given the history of wildlife art produced on past stamps, and the wide scope and variety of potential subjects for the estuary stamps.
- Educational Value:** A national contest conducted through the secondary school system to nominate and select the most appropriate subjects representing each estuary and reserve would promote and raise public awareness of the estuary program. Regional competitions and selection panels would narrow the entries, and original student artwork could be reviewed by the stamp design coordinators for consistency with reproduction requirements.
- Stamp Criteria:** An *America's Estuaries* postage stamp series is consistent with the twelve criteria established by the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee:
- IS an American/American-related subject;
 - IS a theme of widespread national appeal;

Stamp Criteria (cont'd)

- NOT representative of a living person;
- NOT honoring any individual;
- NOT an anniversary or historical commemorative;
- NOT a commercial enterprise/product;
- NOT honoring a locale, organization, or institution;
- NOT a statehood anniversary;
- NOT a religious institution/individual;
- NOT a university/educational institution anniversary;
- NOT an added value or fund-raising vehicle; and
- NO similar stamp subject issued in past 10 years.

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