



TAKING ACTION

LEVEL IVC-

ADOPTING YOUR ESTUARY

With the completion of this unit, students have come “full circle” through the Adopt An Estuary curriculum and have an appreciation for Wisconsin’s freshwater estuaries and the need to protect them.

GOAL

By adopting an estuary, students will take greater “ownership” and interest in protecting Wisconsin estuaries.

OBJECTIVES, students will:

1. Work together to compile baseline information they have gathered through activities in Levels I-IV into an **ESTUARY FIELD GUIDE** about their estuary that can be shared with others.
2. Complete the Adopt An Estuary certification requirements and file their application with Wisconsin Coastal Management to formally adopt their estuary.

SETTING

Classroom

MATERIALS

Documentation of completion of Activities in Levels I-IV

Master Estuary Map

Estuary Stewardship Report

Letter of application

BACKGROUND

The goal of the Wisconsin Coastal Management’s “Adopt An Estuary” program is to recognize exceptional coastal wetland protection efforts by schools and youth groups across Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Coastal Management will send an *Adopt An Estuary Certificate* to every class or group that qualifies through the Adopt An Estuary Program. This certificate recognizes the dedication and hard work put forth by students to improve their environment. It acknowledges that their efforts are important and appreciated by environmental protection professionals. The student’s work becomes part of the information WCM is gathering about the importance of Wisconsin’s freshwater estuaries.

Wisconsin Coastal Management is also interested in helping teachers share their classroom and field experiences with each other. Please summarize any ideas or experiences you would like to share with other teachers in your certificate application. These “wetland teaching tips” will be compiled on the Wisconsin Coastal Management’s Adopt an Estuary webpage.

ACTIVITIES:

To formally “Adopt An Estuary”, the class needs to submit the following documents to WCM that will become part of the public record about this estuary:

1. A **letter**, addressed to Wisconsin Coastal Management, requesting that the class/group be formally recognized as adopting the estuary.
2. A copy of the **Estuary Field Guide** in paper format. The field guide is documentation that activities in Levels I-IV have been completed (Note: In Level II, teachers/students may substitute Activity A- Exploration for Activities B & C).
3. Send this information to:

WI Coastal Management
101 E. Wilson St., 6th Floor
PO Box 7868
Madison, WI 53707-7868
Attn: Adopt an Estuary Program

Contents of the Estuary Field Guide

All forms that should be included in the Field Guide are marked with this symbol. They include:



1. Estuary Profile (Level I-B)
2. Master Estuary Map (Level I-C)
3. Estuary Exploration Survey (Level II-A)
OR
Water Quality Sampling Results (Level II-B)
Wildlife/Plant Survey Results (Level II-C)
4. Estuary Issue Results (Level III-A)
5. Public Involvement Action Plan (Level III-C)
6. Estuary Stewardship Project Report (Level IV-A)
7. Adopt An Estuary Certificate Application & Evaluation (Level IV-B)

What Happens Next?

Wisconsin Coastal Management will review your application. Formal recognition that your group has officially adopted the estuary could take up to four weeks, depending on the number of applications received.

The Wisconsin Coastal Management Program will send your class/group an “Adopt An Estuary Certificate” and letter formally recognizing that they have adopted the estuary and acknowledging their work to protect it. WCM will send a coastal wetland protection kit with education, fun materials to help your class stay involved in estuary and coastal wetland protection.

Recognition of your adoption, with a brief description of the student’s work, will be posted on the WCM’s website at <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/dhir/boir/coastal/>. Copies of the student’s Estuary Field Guide and Estuary Map will be made available for others wanting to know more about Wisconsin’s estuaries. If the class has developed a webpage about their estuary, WCM will also provide a link from their Adopt An Estuary website to their estuary webpage.

If you have any questions please contact WI Coastal Management at (608) 266-3687.

Thank you for your participation in the Adopt An Estuary program. You are helping to protect one of Wisconsin’s most unique aquatic environments—its freshwater estuaries!

Wisconsin Coastal Management
Adopt An Estuary Program



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THE WISCONSIN COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, part of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and overseen by the **WISCONSIN COASTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**, was established in 1978 to preserve, protect and manage the resources of the Lake Michigan and Lake Superior coastline for this and future generations.