

# Report for 2005DE53B: Delaware River Basin State of the Basin Report Card

## Publications

- Water Resources Research Institute Reports:
  - Kauffman, Gerald, and Christi DeSisto, 2006, Delaware River State of the Basin Report 2006 Development of Environmental Indicators, Delaware Water Resources Center, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, 18 pages.
- Other Publications:
  - Boyd, Amy, ed., 2005, Delaware Water Resources Center WATER NEWS Vol. 6 Issue 1 "DWRC Announces New Undergraduate Interns for 2005 – 2006", <http://ag.udel.edu/dwrc/newsletters/Summer2005.pdf>, p. 4-5.
  - Boyd, Amy, ed., 2006, Delaware Water Resources Center WATER NEWS Vol. 6 Issue 2 "2005-2006 DWRC Undergraduate Internships News: Spotlight on Three Projects: Spring Internship Winners", <http://ag.udel.edu/dwrc/newsletters/Fall 2005 - Winter 2006.pdf>, p. 5.

## Report Follows

## **Undergraduate Internship Project #1 of 17 for FY05**

*Christi DeSisto* researched measurable environmental indicators for a new “*Delaware River Basin State of the Basin Report Card*” in collaboration with researchers at water resources institutes at Cornell, Rutgers, and Penn State. She is shown at the installed wetland at the *University of Delaware* Institute for Public Administration Water Resources Agency (*WRA*), where she worked with her advisor Gerald Kauffman. The project was co-sponsored by *DWRC* and the *WRA*.

*“This internship has given me the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge to real-world applications. As a Civil Engineering student, I believe this project has opened my eyes to the importance of environmental engineering in today’s society.” – Christi DeSisto*



### **Abstract**

The Delaware Basin is a large basin with many contrasting uses and functions. It covers 13,000 square miles in Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania and extends 300 miles from its headwaters in the Catskills to its mouth at Cape Henlopen.

Since its creation by the President, Congress, and the four state governors in 1961, the Delaware River Basin Commission (*DRBC*) has sought to balance the interests of economics and the environment for the river with the interests of the public and federal government.

In September 2004, the governors of the four states and the federal representative from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved the Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin, which recommended developing a set of indicators to assess baseline conditions and measure progress toward objectives. The purpose of this report is to describe the condition of water resources and water-related resources throughout the Delaware River Basin to the general public and policy makers. The overall goal is to establish baseline environmental conditions in the basin, and assemble and assess information that would characterize status and trends, and establish environmental-quality indicators in a watershed framework. A draft of the State of the Basin Report is scheduled for submission to *DRBC* by September 2006.

-Excerpt from *Water Matters February 2006* by Jerry Kauffman.