



**MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY
URBAN COAST INSTITUTE**

Coastal Watershed Seminar Series

**THE FUTURE OF COASTAL LAKES
OF MONMOUTH AND OCEAN COUNTIES**

Monmouth and Ocean Counties have a number of lakes located in the coastal zone adjacent to estuaries and the ocean. Coastal lakes provide a variety of recreational opportunities and are important habitats for fish and wildlife. Unfortunately, these aquatic ecosystems can become disrupted or unhealthy from the introduction of pollutants from stormwater and runoff, modifications to shorelines and riparian areas, or invasions of harmful aquatic plants or animals. This is especially true in the case of coastal lakes in Monmouth and Ocean Counties because of intense surrounding development and the fact that they have historically been the terminal receiver of road and overland runoff from storm sewers.

The challenge facing local officials is to manage coastal lakes in a manner that provides for maintenance of their ecological integrity and accommodates active and passive recreational activities. While a variety of watershed and stormwater management plans have recently been developed, local communities have struggled to identify, fund and implement on-the-ground coastal lake restoration strategies.

The purpose the *Future of Coastal Lakes of Monmouth and Ocean Counties workshop* is to bring together natural resource managers, municipal officials, representatives of civic groups, community organizations, and local coastal and watershed management groups to develop a vision and strategy for implementing cost-effective strategies to restore, protect, and maintain coastal lake ecosystems in Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

The workshop, scheduled for June 19, 2008, is part of the Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute's Coastal Watershed Seminar Series. It is sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Fairleigh Dickinson, Jr. Foundation and being held in collaboration with a number of partners, including the American Littoral Society, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County, the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program, the New Jersey Corporate Wetlands Partnership, the Monmouth Coastal Watersheds Partnership, and the Manasquan River Watershed Association.