



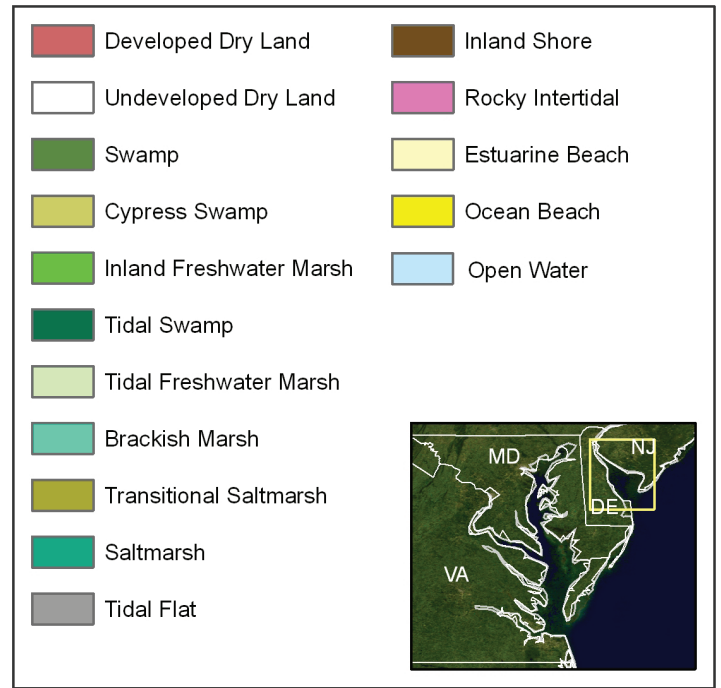
Initial Condition



Year 2050 (11.2 inches)



Year 2100 (27.2 inches)



Delaware Bay

As sea level rises, Delaware Bay's marshes, which provide valuable habitat for waterfowl and nursery ground for fish, will be inundated with greater frequency. This will convert brackish marsh to saltmarsh and ultimately open water. With 27.2 inches of sea-level rise, brackish marsh declines by 92 percent, saltmarsh expands nearly 3-fold, and open water expands by 13 percent. In some areas, the marshes are able to migrate inland, allowing continued viability of the habitat, but contributing to a loss of nearly 41,000 acres of undeveloped dry land. In total, 41 percent of marshes are predicted to

be lost across the region by 2100. In addition to supporting many waterfowl species, these coastal marshes are important nursery and spawning grounds for multiple fish species, including Atlantic menhaden, bluefish, flounder, spot, mullet, croaker, and rockfish.