The scales of these processes are diverse, ranging from dynamics in rivers and harbors, to Chesapeake Bay, to the coastal and global oceans. However, much of the effort is focused on issues of interest to Chesapeake Bay, ranging from basic science to applied restoration programs.

Faculty members in this group focus their efforts primarily in the discipline of physical oceanography and coastal engineering. However, the laboratory’s strength lies in the interdisciplinary linkages formed among biologists, chemists, geologists, geographers and fluid dynamicists both at HPL and UMCES, and across the United States and globe.

1.2 Education & Service

Graduate education and undergraduate student internships are the laboratory’s primary educational programs. Undergraduates are recruited from Maryland and throughout the nation to participate in a summer internship program in which students design and conduct research under the guidance of the HPL faculty.

The Horn Point Laboratory Environmental Education Center (EEC) is the premier Eastern Shore resource for environmental education that enriches and informs the connection between its citizens and their natural environment. The Center uses the unique resources of the laboratory’s marine and estuarine scientific research to further this vision.

A comprehensive residential educational and meeting facility was built in 1992 on 80 acres at HPL to support youth environmental education programs held at the laboratory.

Today the center offers programs such as:

- K-12 environmental science, environmental literacy, stewardship education and Science, Technology, and Math (STEM) education enhancement programs that include outdoor activities and experiences;

- Adult environmental education and activities on a variety of topics including those related to the Laboratory’s research, as well as recreational and outdoor experiences;
- Meeting and conference space for the non-profit and business community.

Another important goal is the laboratory’s dedication to expanding and improving environmental education by involving science teachers in research and creating access to data on the environment for teaching purposes via the internet. HPL is also working with science teachers and coordinators on the Eastern Shore to develop programs that will enable the schools to improve their science curricula and meet state testing requirements. Enhancements of existing support services are critical to the successful achievement of goals in each of these areas of research, education, and outreach.
Illustration 1.2
Horn Point Laboratory Aerial Photograph