

## **Section 9: Summary**

### **Introduction**

The following chapter brings together many of the elements presented in this report as an Ecosystem Health Index. This index is a method of assessing the overall health of the Coastal Bays, as well as the individual bay segments. Overall ranking of the bay segments placed them in the following order from best to worst overall health: Sinepuxent Bay, Chincoteague Bay, Assawoman Bay, Isle of Wight Bay, Newport Bay, and the St. Martin River. Strengths and weaknesses of the Ecosystem Health Index are discussed as well.

### **Chapter 9.1 Coastal Bays Ecosystem Health Index: Bringing it all together**