



New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

News and upcoming events in the harbor!

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In This Issue

[CRP Comment Period Closing!](#)

[Urban Omnibus: the urban oyster](#)

[EPA proposes dumping ban](#)

[NJ blue crab ban](#)

[Jamaica Bay in the news](#)

[N River Plant back online](#)

[Passaic cleanup updates](#)

[Occidental liable for Passaic cleanup](#)

[Jersey City to upgrade sewer system](#)

[More Events](#)

**Comprehensive Restoration Plan comment period closing:
August 31!**



Submit your comments and suggestions!

After two years of reaching out to the *Waters We Share* Stakeholders regarding the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan (CRP), the comment period is nearing a close. This plan is a strategy guide to ecosystem restoration throughout the estuary, and is intended to be used by all stakeholders. Following a recommendation of the Harbor Estuary Program's (HEP) Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (1996) and ensuing congressional authorization in 1999, The US Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and HEP, developed a strategy for restoration as part of the the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Feasibility Study. This process ultimately engaged many stakeholders and scientists. The CRP includes 2015 and 2050 goals for restoration, and will be updated as projects are implemented. For more information or to **submit comments by August 31**, go to the [Waters We Share website](#) or e-mail HRE-PLAN-Comments@usace.army.mil or Lisa Baron: Lisa.A.baron@usace.army.mil

FIRST OF THREE RARITAN RIVER DAMS REMOVED!



The first of the Raritan dams to be removed. Photo: NJDEP

Habitat will open up in the Raritan

The removal of the first of three dams from the Raritan River in Somerset County has begun, and will open up a 10-mile stretch of the middle and upper portions of the river to fish migrating upstream for the first time in more than a century. [Read more...](#)

Urban Omnibus Reports on the Urban Oyster



ORRP Partners walk out to an experimental oyster reef

Oyster Restoration Research Partnership gets some press

This summer, the ORRP has begun monitoring its six experimental oyster reefs, (designed to mimic natural reefs) placed in New York waters. The project is intended to determine whether or not healthy

oyster populations could once again thrive in the harbor, providing important habitat and water quality benefits. Oysters in the area can no longer be eaten as they once were, due to contamination concerns, but provide many benefits to our estuarine inhabitants. [Alicia Rouault reports for Urban Omnibus](#). Additional information about the ORRP can be found [here](#).

EPA Announces Public Comment Period on Proposal to Ban Sewage Dumping in Jamaica Bay



Sunset on Jamaica Bay. Photo: Don Reipe/Jamaica Bay Guardian

(New York, N.Y. - Aug. 3, 2011) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has tentatively determined that there are adequate facilities near Jamaica Bay for boats to pump out their sewage, allowing the establishment of a "no discharge zone" for an approximately 20,000-acre area, as proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. A no-discharge zone means that boats are completely banned from discharging sewage into the water. Boaters must instead dispose of their sewage at specially-designated pump-out stations. This action is part of a joint EPA/New York State strategy to eliminate the discharge of sewage from boats into the state's waterways. Discharges of sewage from boats can contain harmful levels of pathogens and chemicals such as formaldehyde, phenols and chlorine, which have a negative impact on water quality, pose a risk to people's health and impair marine life. EPA is encouraging public comment on its proposed approval

until September 2, 2011. [Read the full article...](#)

New Jersey Blue Crab Ban Reminder



New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection issues reminder about ban on blue crab harvesting.

TRENTON - The Department of Environmental Protection is reminding State residents that harvesting blue claw crabs from the waters of the Lower Passaic River and Newark Bay is prohibited, as scientists have found that crabs from those waters continue to show harmful levels of cancer-causing dioxin and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), as well as other contaminants, including mercury. [Read the full press release...](#)

Jamaica Bay: Wilderness on the Edge

The New York Times Explores Jamaica Bay with Don Riepe, the Jamaica Bay Guardian
[Take a look at the full article.](#)



Don Riepe shows a crab to Rockaway Waterfront Alliance's Aqua 101 students at Dubos Point. Photo by RWA.

North River Wastewater Treatment Plant back online after July 20 fire and sewage discharge

On July 20, following a four-alarm fire in the engine room that started at approximately 11:45 am, The North River Wastewater Treatment Plant was taken offline that afternoon. At approximately 5:15 pm Wednesday, untreated wastewater started to be directly discharged into the Hudson River. The North River plant treats an average of 120 million gallons of wastewater a day from Manhattan's west side from Bank Street through northern Manhattan. Between the evening of July 22 and the morning of the 23, DEP made progress in restoring power at the facility, stopping untreated dry weather discharges by 3:30 Saturday. Beach pollution advisories were issued due to potential health risks associated with the discharge, and were lifted on July 28. Please note that during rainy conditions, advisories may also be issued for swimming and bathing beaches based [upon these guidelines](#), due to the potential for [combined sewer overflows](#). [Read the full article for information about the event, status, and impacts...](#)

PASSAIC CLEANUP STARTS MOVING FORWARD



Sediment dredging pilot in the Passaic River.

Construction Begins for the First Phase of the Passaic River Cleanup

Tierra Solutions, Inc. began site preparation activities at the Diamond Alkali site for the Phase 1 Removal Action on July 12, 2011. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers will oversee the work which will take place in 2011 and 2012 at two locations. About 40,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment will be removed from within a sheet pile enclosure adjacent to the Diamond Alkali site, piped to an upland processing facility one quarter mile downstream on Blanchard Street, dewatered, and loaded in sealed containers for transport off-site for disposal. For more information, see the [Phase I Removal Action fact sheet](#) and visit www.ourpassaic.org and the [EPA superfund website](#).

Occidental Chemical held accountable for cleanup

A Superior Court ruling held Occidental Chemical Corp. liable for cleanup costs associated with the Diamond Alkali Superfund site in the Lower Passaic River. In the 1980s Occidental had acquired and merged into Diamond Alkali/Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Corp., the company that operated a pesticide and herbicide manufacturing plant on Lister Avenue from 1951 to 1969, polluting the river with dioxins that resulted from the production of the Vietnam War-era defoliant Agent Orange, as well as DDT and other chemicals. [Read the press release...](#)

Jersey City to Upgrade and Repair Sewer System

A settlement between the United States and the Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority (JCMUA) will resolve Clean Water Act violations that included releases of untreated sewage into NY-NJ Harbor Estuary waters in the Hackensack River, Hudson River, Newark Bay and Penhorn Creek by JCMUA.

JCMUA will invest more than \$52 million in repairs and upgrades to its existing infrastructure and pay a civil penalty of \$375,000.

For more information, read the [press release](#).

The consent decree is subject to a 30-day public comment period and final court approval. A copy of the consent decree is available on the [Department of Justice web site](#).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Not sure what to do over the weekend? Check out our [calendar of events](#)!

Would you like to post your Estuary-related event in our calendar? [Please send us the details!](#)

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