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The Tidal Exchange

~E-news~
Of the



New York-New Jersey
Harbor & Estuary Program

News and upcoming events in the harbor!

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The NY-NJ Harbor Estuary gets social!

"Like" our page to get up-to-the-minute estuary news

Realizing that there is a LOT going on in our estuary right now, we decided to join social media via facebook. We're happy to announce that we are now able to quickly share news about events, local research, restoration, conservation, water quality, and more. We will continue to produce e-news, but now we can also share info in real time - great for issues that need quick attention (or just for interesting recent articles). Most recent posts included subjects such as water quality testing and reporting efforts, Superfund sites in the Passaic, the Sewage Right to Know Act, and public meeting updates. Check us out! by clicking this icon:



Click the "like" button on our page to get estuary news in your feed. Have an upcoming paddling event? Or heard about something we haven't? Post it to our wall! We hope to use it as a community resource.



The NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program's new facebook page

SEWAGE POLLUTION *RIGHT TO KNOW ACT* SIGNED

Governor Cuomo signs bill into law

August 9, - On the same day that a leak was causing partly-treated sewage to spill into the Hudson (note: it was since repaired on Aug 10), Governor Cuomo signed the *Sewage Pollution Right to Know Act* into law.

The bill calls for increased notification to local health departments, media, and residents after sewage discharges, including the time and location of the discharge, as well as any measures taken to clean up or reduce the impact of the discharge.

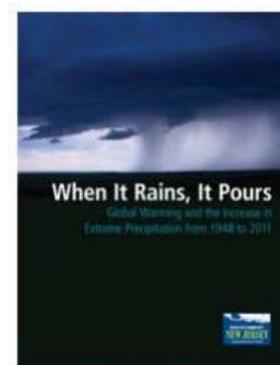


Increased notification of sewage discharge is included in the Act. (Photo: Kate Boicourt)

NEW REPORT LINKS TRENDS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Extreme downpours and snowstorms up 33% in New Jersey

Just days after a series of severe storms ripped through Central Jersey, leading to severe rains and flooding that devastated the town of Freehold, a new Environment New Jersey report confirms that extreme rainstorms and snowstorms are happening 33 percent more frequently in New Jersey since 1948. The Central Jersey storm followed a June 29th storm that brought high winds and rain to Southern Jersey, now considered one of the most destructive and severe thunderstorms in the region's



New report shows

history. 206,000 people in Atlantic, Cumberland, and Salem counties lost power following the June 29th storm. connections between recent trends and climate change

"As the old saying goes, when it rains, it pours-especially in recent years as bigger storms have hit New Jersey more often," said Matt Elliott, Clean Energy Advocate for Environment New Jersey. "We need to heed scientists' warnings that this dangerous trend is linked to global warming, and do everything we can to cut carbon pollution today." [Read more...](#)

ESTUARY WATER QUALITY GETS INTERACTIVE

Two free new apps for water quality - Swim Guide adds NYC beaches and oil spill app enables you to report spills

This past month, New York City Beaches were added to a [smartphone app that depicts recreational safety](#) status for beaches.

New Jersey beaches have not yet been added to the app. For more information about water quality status for New Jersey, [click here](#).



New app shows recent status of beaches

In addition to the Swim Guide app, **Marine Defenders** has developed an **app for you to report potential oil spills** and marine debris while you are out on the water. Reports are sent to the National Response Center, a federal agency responsible for receiving spill reports. [Read more...](#)

New York City Water Trail Association's Citizen Water Quality Testing initiative becomes available online

The New York City Water Trail Association launched an effort this past year to measure water quality conditions at over 20 current or prospective boat launches. Volunteers collect water samples from each of these sites approximately weekly, testing bacteria levels (*Enterococcus*) to help establish a baseline. Ultimately, this baseline is intended to be used by boaters at the sites to better inform their decisions about the potential exposure risk based upon the conditions and type of boating. [Check out their project here!](#)

TWO DOWN, ONE TO GO IN THE RARITAN

Removal of Roberts Street Dam begins

The second of three dams to be removed in the Raritan River began demolition at the end of July. The removal of all three dams is targeted to open up ten miles of previously segmented fish habitat. The removal should be a boon for fish such as American shad, American Eel, herring, and striped bass, as well as recreational paddlers, for whom the dams presented an obstacle. Still awaiting removal is the Nevius Street dam, which is targeted to be removed in 2013. [Read more...](#)



The Roberts Street dam begins demolition (Robert Sciarrino/The Star Ledger)

ESTUARY READING: RED KNOTS AND HORSESHOE CRABS

Life Along the Delaware Bay describes red knots and the ancient keystone species upon which they depend

Each spring, hundreds of thousands of horseshoe crabs spawn on the shores of estuaries along the Atlantic coast. The production of these eggs has a cascade effect in the food chain, feeding ruddy turnstones, sanderlings, sandpipers, and the impressive red knot - a bird which migrates from South America to the Canadian Arctic (over 7,000 miles). The dependency of these birds upon the horseshoe crab is significant, raising concerns about dropping populations. In 2008, New Jersey banned the harvest of horseshoe crabs from its beaches and waters, to ensure an abundance of these eggs for food, though other states which comprise the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council have not taken such stringent measures.



Red knots and horseshoe crabs in Jamaica Bay (Don Riepe)

A recently released book, [Life Along the Delaware Bay](#), explores these relationships, particularly in Delaware Bay, though relevant to

our estuary, as the same activity occurs yearly in our own waters. [Click here for a recent photo essay](#) on the migration in the Delaware.

GERRITSEN CREEK RESTORATION COMPLETED

Restoration celebrated in Marine Park

Brooklyn, NYC -Partners joined together last week to celebrate the Gerritsen Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project in Brooklyn's Marine Park. The \$8.3 million project was designed to ameliorate the adverse impacts of past filling activities and to create an improved ecosystem where plants and animals can thrive, and residents can better learn about their natural surroundings.



Restoration in Gerritsen Creek was celebrated last week (Len Houston)

"Gerritsen Creek is one of the original "fingers" of the great "hand" of Jamaica Bay, and over the last century it has been the victim of human intrusions that have damaged its ecological functioning," said Parks Commissioner Benepe. "Over the last two decades, we've made it our goal to clean up the creek, so that it can sustain the myriad of plants, wildlife, and organisms that call it home.

[More..](#)

POLLUTION AFFECTS FISH AND CRABS IN HACKENSACK

Research in areas with contaminated sediment exhibits impaired ability to catch prey

Though on the whole, the Hackensack River may be improving, levels of PCBs and mercury are still very high and as research from the past decade suggests, affect the ability of river inhabitants to thrive.

Researchers found that blue crabs had so much difficulty catching mobile prey that they turned to eating primarily the sediment itself, along with other detritus. Baby bluefish, typically voracious eaters, were smaller and often found with empty stomachs. Judy Weis, a Rutgers professor who has studied the area for decades, stated "The lesson from this - and what people often don't quite understand - is that pollution doesn't have to kill things to be a problem" [Read more...](#)

Is there hope that these chemicals will be reduced in presence in the future? Increased preventive measures since the passage of Clean Water Act of 1972 have helped, though there is still much work to do to address legacy contamination. Ongoing and planned nearby clean-up efforts such as the [Diamond Alkali Superfund](#) site in the Lower Passaic and Newark Bay give hope for regional reductions, but these efforts take time. In the meantime, State advisories for human consumption of fish and crab species in the Hackensack are likely to remain.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

For more events, check out our [calendar](#). To post your Estuary-related event in our calendar, [please send us the details!](#)

SAVE THE DATES

July through September - Lower East Side Ecology Center offers [Fishing Clinics](#) and [e-waste recycling events](#). Click links for full schedules.

September 8-9, 15-16, 22-23 & 29-30 - 13th Hudson River Ramble. Celebrate the history, culture and natural resources of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area while hiking, paddling, biking, or walking. [For more info and to submit your event...](#)

September 15 - International Coastal Cleanup. NJ: Contact [NJ Clean Communities](#); NY: Contact the [American Littoral Society](#).

September 19 - Impacts of Tropical Storms Irene and Lee on the Hudson River. Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
Millbrook, New York

October 19 - Fifth Passaic River Symposium at Montclair University. **Deadline to submit abstracts: August 17.** Early registration by Sept 17.

November 28 & 29 - NJDEP's [9th NJ Water Monitoring Summit](#) at Rutgers' EcoComplex, Columbus NJ. Optional training session on the development of Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs).

AWARDS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

EPA's [Clean Water Act 40th Anniversary Video Project](#): Tell Us Why "Water is Worth It" to You. Deadline: September 14.

Marine sciences project awards competition for high schools, colleges and academies. Deadline: September 15 [Read more...](#)

EPA Competition for College Students to Develop Innovative Approaches to Stormwater Management. **Registration: Sept 4 - Oct 5.** Deadline to submit projects: December 14. [Read more...](#)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Lower East Side Ecology Center is looking for a [Reuse Coordinator](#) for their E-waste Warehouse.

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