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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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A NATURAL RESOURCES RESPONSE TO HURRICANE SANDY: IMPACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

HEP Convenes Partners, Launches Information Hub

On December 12, the New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program convened the Program's Management Committee and others to share impacts of the storm to natural resources, and discuss how we can pull together the participants in the Estuary Program in a path to resiliency that is beneficial to both the estuary and human safety. Presentations will be posted online on [a new page devoted to this issue](#), which complements our [existing page on climate change and sea level rise](#).



Carl Alderson (NOAA) gave an overview of the oil spills that occurred in the Arthur Kill

The discussion ranged from overviews of the EPA response by

Deputy Regional Administrator George Pavlou, the impacts of the oil spills in the Arthur Kill by Carl Alderson, to water quality monitoring and wastewater treatment impacts. In response to the washing of [Shore Rd](#) at Fort Tilden, Dave Avrin of the National Park Service stated: "we've been talking about adaptation, and, there is another aspect to how the National Park Service expects to respond, and that is retreat...we do not expect to rebuild this road."

We have posted the slides and video recording of all presentations on our [new web page](#), and will continue to update both pages as we move forward in understanding and addressing coastal storm and climate change issues.

The screenshot shows a website with a green navigation bar containing the following tabs: Home, About the Program, About the Estuary, Pubs & Media, and Get Involved. Below the navigation bar, there is a sidebar on the left with a list of links: HEP Home, About the Estuary, Overview, Geography, Fish & Wildlife, Working Harbor, Harbor Health, Boating & Fishing, Links, and Coastal Storms. The main content area is titled "Coastal Storms" and contains the following text:

Storms can cause significant impacts to our coasts, both to the built and natural environment. In an urban region like the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary, the impacts to the built environment can also exacerbate the level of impact incurred by our natural systems.

Hurricane Sandy was a hugely destructive force in our region, due to its intense surge and size. For more detailed information about why Sandy was such a powerful storm, see our November 14 e-newsletter (pdf)

In addition to Hurricane Sandy, our region has experienced other recent storms. In 2011 alone, the estuary was affected by both storms Irene and Lee, which dumped record-breaking amounts of rain on the Hudson River Watershed, the impacts of which were discussed at a 2012 conference at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies.

Photo 1: Hurricane Sandy on October 30 (NASA)

While these were record-breaking storm events, sea level rise and an increasing frequency of extreme storm events caused by climate change are only likely to worsen events like these, raising the baseline of pressures on the environmental resources we depend on. Therefore, we will be meeting with our partners on December 12, 2012 to discuss the important issues of 1) the environmental impacts of the storm and 2) how we should respond as a Program, partnership, and region in a way that benefits both human and

## SANDY UPDATES

### NJDEP Lifts Most Restrictions in Estuary Waters

Dec 7 - As waste water treatment facilities which had been damaged by Hurricane Sandy have now been restored, and water quality sampling has indicated that the waters meet the recreational water quality standards, NJDEP is lifting the public health advisory for recreational use of waters in the NY-NJ Harbor, except for Raritan River and Raritan Bay. Note that pre-Sandy advisories (such as those for [fish and shellfish consumption](#)) are in effect, and that recreational and commercial shellfishing is prohibited in these waters. [Read more...](#)

Also, as of December 8, shellfishing beds in the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers have been reopened, as water monitoring and tissue sampling found no issues with contamination from bacteria or viruses as a result of the storm. [More details...](#)

## Debris and Household Hazardous Waste Collection in NYC

NYC Dept. of Sanitation will continue special storm debris collections in neighborhoods hit hard by the storm until December 31, 2012. Pickups of bulky storm debris will be provided to Staten Island, south Queens and southern Brooklyn on the day preceding each of their regularly scheduled refuse collection days.



Credit: David Timmes

[More info...](#)

Through December 21, NYC residents may bring household hazardous waste, including solvents, paints, cleaners, oil, propane tanks, batteries, petroleum products, weed/bug killers, car batteries, bleach and ammonia, to a drop-off location at Jacob Riis Park: 14899 Beach Channel Drive, Rockaway Park, NY. Hours: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. [More details...](#)

THANK YOU, DORINA!

After four years of service, Dorina Frizzera is stepping down as co-chair of HEP's Public Access Work Group (PAWG). Formerly with NJ Dept of Environmental Protection's Coastal Zone Management, Dorina has been an advocate for public access to our waterways and waterfronts. During her leadership, the PAWG produced a NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Paddling Guide to human-powered access points on the harbor; increased a focus on public access-related research, and developed communication materials about how to increase access to and from the waters of the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary.

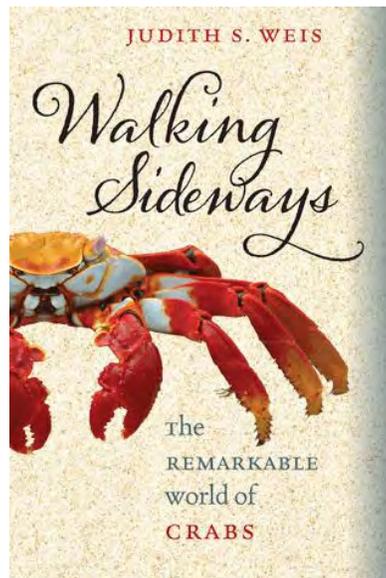


We want to thank Dorina for her dedication and wish her the best in her new role in NJDEP Office of Science.

SO MANY BOOKS, SO LITTLE TIME!

### The Fascinating Lives of Crabs

[Dr. Judith Weis](#) has just published her third book, [Walking Sideways: The Remarkable World of Crabs](#). Judith is Professor Emerita at Rutgers Dept. of Biological Sciences and has devoted most of her career to studying fish and crabs and shares her vast knowledge in an engaging and accessible way. The book explores crabs from many angles, from their unusual lives and migrations to their use in the kitchen. Judith, member of our Science and Technical Advisory Committee, has become a prolific writer, with two other engaging and informative books published in the past



few years: [Salt Marshes: A Natural and Unnatural History](#), co-written with Carol Butler, and [Do Fish Sleep?: Fascinating Answers to Questions about Fishes](#). We encourage you to check them out!

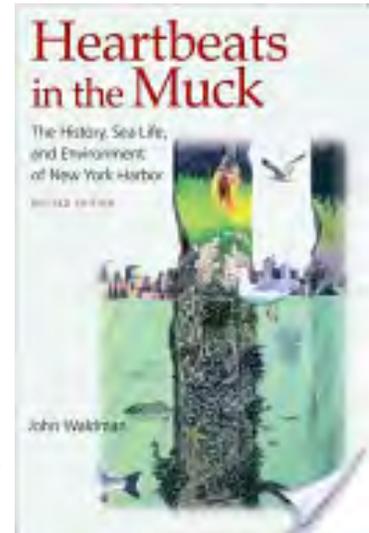
### Urban Nature in our Estuary

Two books by John Waldman have also been recently released. [Still the Same Hawk: Reflections on Nature in New York](#),

is a collection of essays by noted observers and

philosophers of urban nature such as Tony Hiss, William Kornblum, and Phillip Lopate, among others, edited by John Waldman. The second book is a revised, paperback edition of [Heartbeats in the Muck: The History, Sea Life, and Environment of New York Harbor](#). Originally published in 1999,

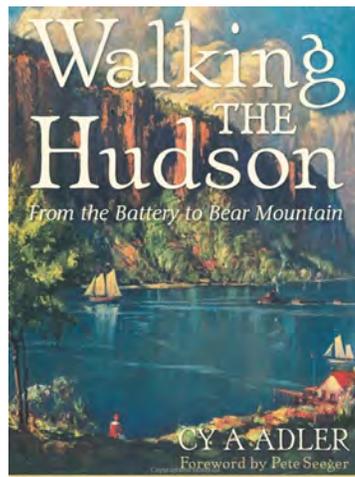
the new edition also includes an epilogue that extends the remarkable story of the environmental recovery of New York Harbor from 2000 to 2012. [Dr. Waldman](#), Biology Professor at CUNY, has done research on North American fishes and worked on understanding and managing New York Harbor and the Hudson River Estuary.



### Taking a long walk around the Estuary

[Walking the Hudson, from the Battery to Bear Mountain](#) was released in 2012 by Cy Adler, of the [Shorewalker's](#) famous event - the [Great Saunter](#), in which walkers join to traverse 32 miles of Manhattan's shoreline.

The guide should be interesting to "walkers, history buffs, and anyone who wants to experience this great area up close and under their own power"



## HUDSON RIVER KEEPS GETTING CLEANER

### PCBs Cleanup Progresses

The third dredging season ended on November 13. A total of about 650,000 cubic yards of sediment were dredged from a three-mile section of the river south of the village of Fort Edward, NY. Since the cleanup started in 2009, a total of more than 1.3 million cubic yards of sediment contaminated with PCBs have been removed from the [Hudson River](#).

In the coming months the EPA will determine what changes, if any, are needed for the next season of dredging, which is set to begin next spring. For more information, including a link to dredging data, read the [press release](#).



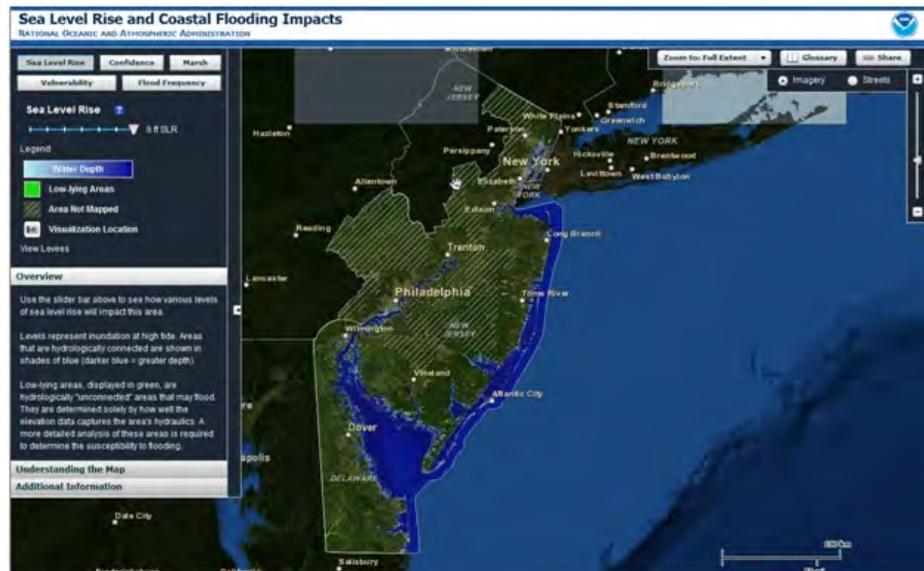
Credit: USEPA Region 2

## NOAA expands sea level rise mapping tool

### New Jersey Added to Sea Level Rise Viewer

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recently released the New Jersey portion of its [sea level rise viewer](#), in which anyone can view the approximate inundation caused by up to 6 feet of sea level rise.

Based on high-resolution elevation data, the tool is useful in getting a sense of long-term vulnerability to sea level rise, and will be released for most of the Nation's coast by the end of 2013. These maps were used recently in [HEP's Case Studies in Sea Level Rise Planning project](#) (stay tuned for an early 2013



presentation on that project).

## 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

December 17 - [A Conversation with U.S. EPA about Newtown Creek flooding during Hurricane Sandy](#) at the Visitor Center at Newtown Creek.

December 19 - American Littoral Society's [Hurricane Sandy Recovery and Rebuild Seminar](#) in Brick, NJ.

December 18 - Worldviews Network's [Earth, Migrations, and the Human Effect](#) at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

January 12 - The Municipal Art Society of New York and The New School will host [On the Road to Resilience: From the Ground Up](#), a conversation about resiliency post Hurricane Sandy.

January 16 - [Gowanus Canal Conservancy Urban Ecology Lecture Series](#). Restoration and Management of Woodlands in Prospect Park" by John Jordan.

May 14 & 15, 2013 - NEIWPC and Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation's [24th Annual Northeastern Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference](#) in Burlington, VT.

## FUNDING

U.S. EPA's [Environmental Justice Small Grants Program](#). Deadline: January 7, 2013.

NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection's [2013 Green](#)

[Infrastructure Grant Program](#). Up to \$6 million for green infrastructure projects on private property in the combined sewer areas of New York City. Workshops will be held in November and December. Application deadline: February 4, 2013 by 4:00 PM.

NFWF's [Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program](#) to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations. Deadline: February 7, 2013.

NOAA's [Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration](#) grants for projects that will aid in recovering listed species and rebuilding sustainable fish populations or their prey. Deadline: February 19, 2013.

[ioby](#) (in our backyards), a community funding platform, accepts applications for environmental projects across the nation on an ongoing basis.

City Parks Foundations' [Community Group Recovery and Capacity Fund Grants](#) Deadline: Rolling

#### AWARDS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

EPA's Campus RainWorks Design Challenge Competition for College Students to Develop Innovative Approaches to Stormwater Management. Deadline to submit projects: December 14. [Read more...](#)

Beneath The Sea offers various [Marine Careers Scholarships](#). Deadline: January 15.

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