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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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REMINDER: APPLY FOR A HEP GRANT!

Deadline: April 3rd at 5 PM EST

HEP, in partnership with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC), is requesting proposals for projects promoting stewardship of the Estuary and/or public access to/from our waterfront and waterways, under the theme "Adopt your Shoreline".

Approximately \$74,000 is available for local communities to "adopt" a waterfront site or stretch of shoreline and conduct a variety of projects and/or events to enjoy, promote access to, improve, and/or learn about this segment of shoreline in the community in the context of the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary, and while showcasing HEP as a partner.



Students learn about the estuary aboard the historic schooner Pioneer as part of the South Street Seaport Museum's Gone Fishing program.

Download the request for proposals and supporting materials at [www.neiwpcc.org/nynjhep.asp](http://www.neiwpcc.org/nynjhep.asp). Applications accepted through April 3rd at 5 PM EST.

## WORLD WATER MONITORING CHALLENGE

### Get Involved and Represent your Community

Concerned about the health of the waterbodies around you? The World Water Monitoring Challenge, which grew out of "World Water Monitoring Day" (September 18), is a global "challenge to encourage people everywhere to test the quality of their waterways, share their findings, and protect our most precious resource."

The Challenge runs from March 22 (the United Nations [World Water Day](#)) until December 31. All data entered by the end of the year is included in an annual report but data can be uploaded and accessed online at [www.monitorwater.org](http://www.monitorwater.org) year-round, creating a great resource for data sharing and coordination as well as education and outreach. Participants can add events to the calendar and are encouraged to share their stories and photos.



Students measure water quality for the world-wide challenge (<http://www.monitorwater.org/>)

To learn more and to register a site near you, visit [www.monitorwater.org/GetInvolved.aspx](http://www.monitorwater.org/GetInvolved.aspx)

## SPRING HAS SPRUNG: OSPREY RETURNS TO QUEENS

### Osprey Returns from his Winter in Colombia after a 15-Day Journey

For those of you that have been tracking Coley the osprey's journey along with [these scientists](#), you may have been wondering things like "will he make it?" "will his mate wait for him, despite his delayed start?" Well, you can all slide back from the edges of your seats. He has returned to Jamaica Bay and is reunited with his mate. Coley and his mate are also not alone in the harbor. In Jamaica Bay alone, there are a [number of other known osprey nests.](#)



Coley the osprey and his mate reunite in Jamaica Bay (photo: Don Riepe/American Littoral Society)

For a more in -depth interview about the project, see [this article](#) from March 22.

## MORE IMPROVEMENTS TO HARBOR WATER QUALITY

### Recent Upgrades Will Reduce Nutrient and Debris Pollution

The New York City Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP) has recently completed upgrades at two of its wastewater treatment plants discharging into the East River. Thanks to the implementation of advanced treatment technologies at [Wards Island](#) and [Hunts Point](#) wastewater treatment plants, nitrogen discharges into harbor waters will be reduced roughly by half.



Wards Island wastewater treatment plant (Photo: NYCDEP)

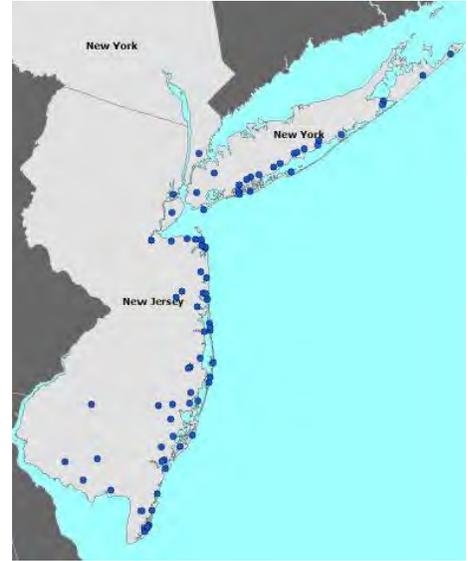
DEP has also installed [trash-trapping devices](#) at four combined sewer outfalls in the Bronx River. These devices will capture street litter that is carried by stormwater and would otherwise end up in the river. This is the first time this type of technology is being used in New York City and a similar facility is planned for the Gowanus Canal.

To learn more about the effect of nutrients, litter, and other pollutants, as well as ongoing efforts to make Estuary waters cleaner, and how you can contribute your part, check out the [State of the Estuary report](#).

## ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF SANDY ON NJ AND NY FISHING SECTORS

### New NOAA Report

On March 15, NOAA Fisheries released the 60-day [Regional Impact Evaluation](#) of Sandy as required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (which is up for [reauthorization](#)). The report is the preliminary assessment of impacts from Sandy to fishing communities in New York and New Jersey—two of the hardest hit states. It provides information specific to the fishing industry in each state to help the governors assess the damage caused by this storm, and it will supplement ongoing work the states are doing to assess similar damages.



Coastal communities interviewed for the report.

## GATEWAY WATER QUALITY REPORT RELEASED

The National Park Service has just released the [2011 Water Quality Monitoring Report](#) for Gateway National Recreation Area.

Although some samples showed elevated bacteria counts, there were no bathing beach closures. Elevated bacteria reported during August may have been a consequence of the wastewater discharge into the Hudson River, stemming from a fire which damaged the North River WPCP in July 2011. Coliform bacteria counts in Jamaica Bay tributaries were consistently elevated.



## SETTLEMENT REACHED FOR TAPPAN ZEE CONSTRUCTION

### New York agrees to permit conditions to reduce potential environmental impacts

March 27 - Governor Cuomo announced that New York State reached an [agreement](#) with Riverkeeper and Scenic Hudson regarding the conditions of a permit for construction of the new Tappan Zee Bridge. The agreement includes a reduced amount of dredging and the use of smaller pilings to reduce the overall environmental impact. In addition, the permit contains \$11.5 million of mitigation and restoration funding to minimize the environmental impacts from construction.



The permit for the Tappan Zee reconstruction will require \$11.5 million in mitigation and restoration funding (photo: Riverkeeper)

## NATIONAL WATER TRAILS SYSTEM

### Join a Network of Exemplary Water Trails

The National Water Trails System (NWTs) is an effort to connect people to waterways and strengthen the conservation and restoration of these waterways. The NWTs is an interagency collaborative effort administered by the National Park Service through the [Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program](#) and the [National Trails System](#).



Kayakers paddle on the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail.

There are currently two water trails in our region recognized in this network: the [Bronx River Blueway](#) and the [Hudson River Greenway Water Trail](#). Benefits of being designated as a National Water Trail include opportunities to obtain technical assistance and funding for planning and implementing water trail project. Managers of water trails interested in [applying](#) are encouraged to explore the National Water Trails System website <http://www.nps.gov/WaterTrails/>.

## MAPPING THE HARBOR RING

### Recreation and Transportation with Harbor Views

The Harbor Ring is a collection of linked paths encircling the Harbor in New Jersey and New York. It is meant to allow people to walk, bike, run, or skate

around the harbor.

### [Transportation Alternatives](#)

is putting together a map of the 50-mile Harbor Ring, which integrates more than 28 miles of existing shared use paths, including the [Brooklyn Greenway](#), a section of the [East Coast Greenway](#), Ft. Wadsworth, the Bayonne Bridge pathway, the [Hudson River Walkway](#), the Hudson River



Hudson River Waterfront Walkway (photo: Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance)

Greenway, and the East River Esplanade. The route also includes more than 20 miles of bicycle-friendly streets. The missing link is a Verrazano Bridge path. [Learn more...](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

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

### SAVE THE DATES

April to May: Lower East Side Ecology Center e-waste recycling events. Click [here](#) for dates and details.

April 1: [When It Rains, It Pours: Climate Change and Coastal Water Quality](#). Talk by Dr. Nancy Rabalais at Rutgers Newark.

April 4: NJ Invasive Species Strike Team's [Invasive Species Conference](#). Registration deadline: March 29.

April 24: [2013 Hudson River Science Symposium: The State of Hudson River Science](#), organized by the Hudson River Environmental Society.

April 27: Clean Ocean Action's [Waves of Action](#). Volunteer to help communities affected by superstorm Sandy.

May 11: [Hudson River Fishermen's Association's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Hooked on the Hudson](#) at the Palisades Interstate Park.

May 11: Second annual [Riverkeeper Sweep](#), a day of service to cleanup and care for our shorelines. Register to organize a project in your community or volunteer to help out.

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

Spring (dates TBD): American Littoral Society's 2013 [Spring](#)

[Marsh Planting](#) in Jamaica Bay.

[Eco-Cruises aboard the Capt. John](#), organized by NY/NJ

Baykeeper:

- July 21: New York Harbor Lighthouse Tour

- August 18: Boat & Bridge Tour Around Staten Island

Jun 29, July 28, Aug 13 & 17, Sept 7: [NY/NJ Baykeeper's Kayak Ecotours](#).

## FUNDING

HEP and NEIWPC: [2013 Stewardship and Public Access Small Grants](#). Deadline: April 3.

NYSDEC Office of Environmental Justice: [Environmental Justice Community Impact Grants and Green Gems Grants](#). Deadline: April 5.

EPA: [Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants](#). Deadline: April 9.

NJDEP: [Conserve Wildlife Matching Grant Program](#). Deadline: April 11.

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

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

## EMPLOYMENT/ INTERNSHIPS

The Natural Areas Conservancy is looking for an [Ecological Assessment Field Coordinator](#) (apply by April 5) and six [Ecological Assessment Seasonal Field Biologists](#) (deadline: April 12).

The Lower East Side Ecology Center is looking for an [E-waste Program Associate and interns](#).

The Gowanus Canal Conservancy is looking for [summer interns](#).

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Hudson River Valley Environmental Education Institute's [Fishing the Hudson Spring Break Camp](#).

## PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[Gowanus Canal Superfund site proposed plan](#). Deadline for comments: April 7.

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