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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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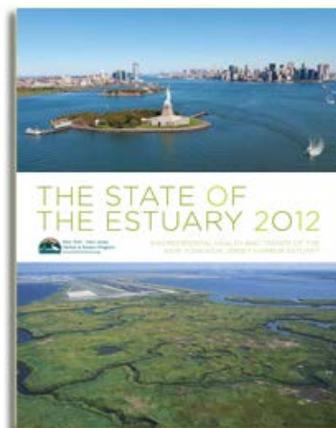
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TAKING THE PULSE OF THE ESTUARY

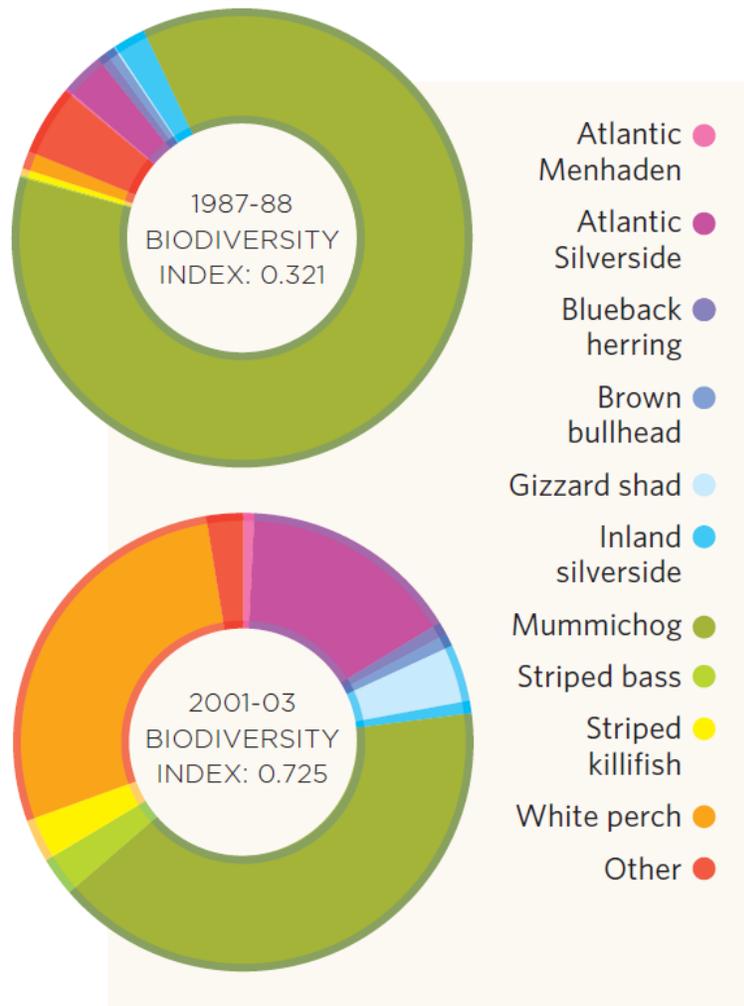
We are proud to announce that the [State of the Estuary 2012](#) has been published! The report explores indicators of the estuary's environmental health, looking at current status and trends. This publication also emphasizes how we all benefit from a healthy estuary and how we can help maintain and improve the conditions of our shared resources.



How is the Health of the Estuary?

So how is the estuary doing? Are conditions improving, worsening, or stable? Here are a few highlights from the report:

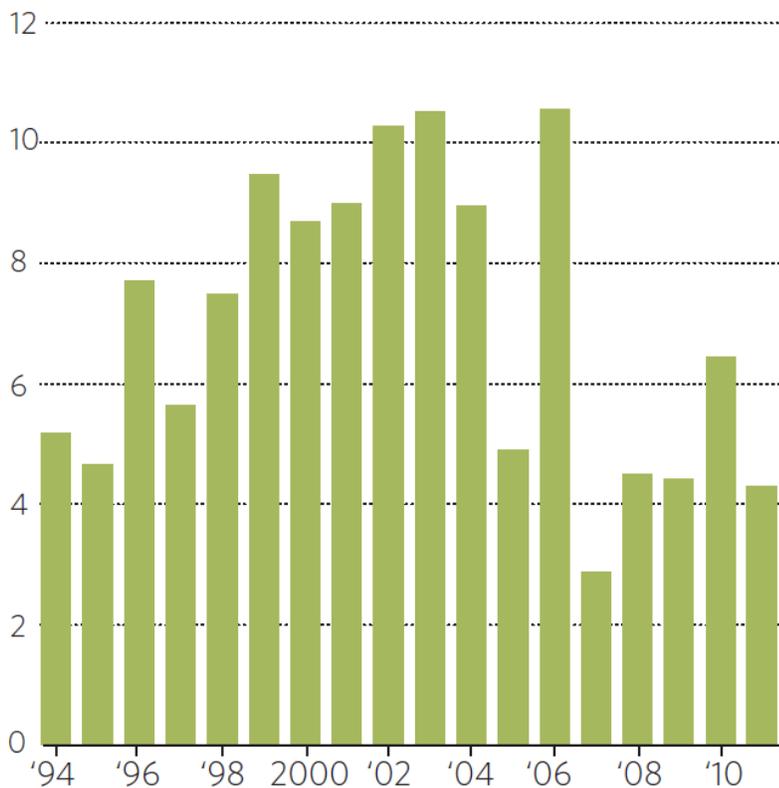
Increased fish biodiversity in the Hackensack River



Fish biodiversity in the Hackensack River has increased. Although pollution and other problems continue to affect this river, a marked improvement was observed after a number of environmental stressors were addressed, such as closure and cleanup of landfills and decreased use of river water for industrial cooling processes.

Possible decrease in floatable debris pollution

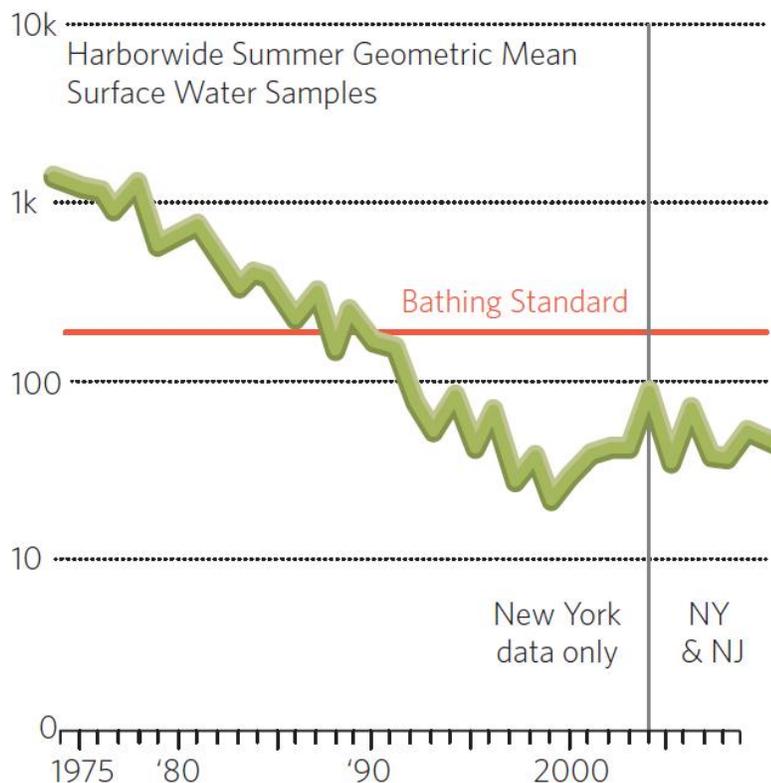
DEBRIS COLLECTED BY INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP IN 8 NY COUNTIES (Pounds per Mile, Hundreds)



The amount of floatable debris appears to be declining slightly, although more years of data are needed to confirm this apparent trend. The good news is that it is up to us to make a difference - beverage bottles, food-related trash, and cigarette butts make a large proportion of the debris found in our shorelines.

Pathogen pollution has been more or less stable in the past 10 years

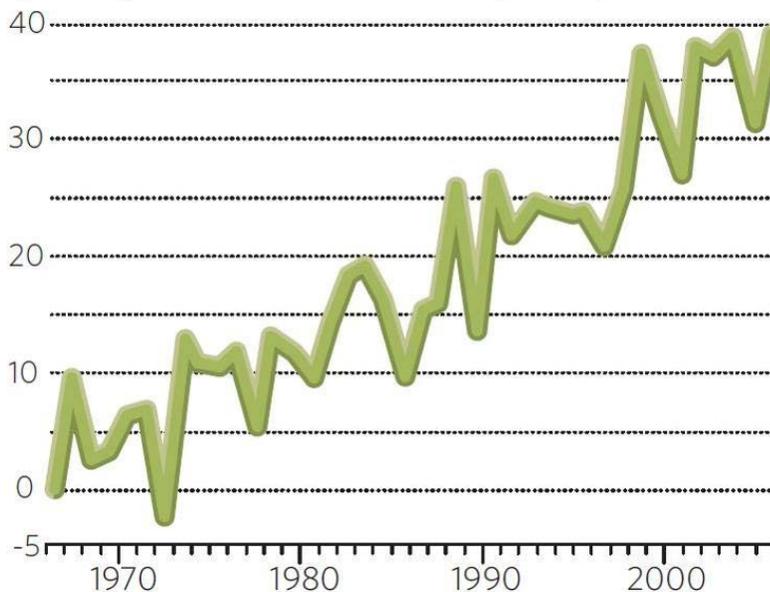
FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA (Bacteria per 100mL)



Our waters are much cleaner today than decades ago but average conditions have not changed much in the past ten years. However there have been improvements in individual water bodies and further progress is expected to follow the many ongoing efforts to improve wastewater treatment plants and to widely implement green infrastructure.

Climate change is affecting our estuary directly and indirectly

SHIFT IN BIRD MIGRATIONS IN N. AMERICA (Average distance moved north, miles)



Climate change can intensify existing problems in the estuary (such as water pollution) and create new ones (for example, impaired ability of shellfish to grow their shells). One of the direct effects is the displacement of species northward, escaping warmer temperatures. Action on many fronts is needed to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

What Can We Do to Help the Estuary?

There are many things all of us can do to help. Most of them are easy and can even save us money and benefit our health. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Use less energy and conserve water.
- Reduce your garbage: choose reusable items, recycle, and do not litter.
- Participate in community efforts such as cleanups, restoration, and citizen science events.
- Avoid products that contain hazardous materials and properly dispose of any household hazardous wastes.



Volunteers work with Hackensack Riverkeeper to cleanup the shoreline.

In addition, HEP partners are implementing many large-scale initiatives to preserve and improve our estuary, such as habitat restoration and protection, sewer and stormwater infrastructure upgrades, and toxic pollution cleanups.

Read the Full Report

For more details and to order hard copies (free of charge), go to <http://www.harborestuary.org/aboutestuary-health.htm>.

Acknowledgements

A big THANK YOU to all HEP partners and friends that have made this report possible by providing data, insights, images, and other support. A special recognition goes to our Science and Technical Advisory Committee, Judy Weis and Dennis Suszkowski, for working closely with us to produce this report.

CELEBRATE THE ESTUARY THIS SATURDAY!

Participate in an Estuary Day Event Near You

The [National Estuaries Day](#) is celebrated each year on the last Saturday in September. Join a local event to connect with our estuary and help promote its importance and the need to protect it!



Photo by Battery Park City Parks Conservancy

Saturday, September 29 events:

- Volunteer cleanup at Liberty State Park to remove trash from the Richard J. Sullivan Natural Area. [More info...](#)
- Hudson River Park: Environmental educators will engage you in catch and release fishing and kid-friendly experiments to learn about the estuary and the animals that call it home. [More info...](#)
- Little Neck Bay Festival: Canoe and boat rides, nature walks and more, organized by Alley Pond Environmental Center. [More info...](#)

Coming up on Friday, October 12:

- Estuary Day at the Peterstown Community Center in Elizabeth, NJ, organized by [Future City, Inc](#) will feature touch tanks, hands-on activities and demonstrations.

Note: Please check the links provided for details. Some events require pre-registration and/or instructions for adequate attire or preparation.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

Please check out our new Facebook page to get up-to-the minute news about estuary-related events, research, and more.

Like us on Facebook 



PADDLING TO RESTORE OUR RIVERS

Capital to Capitol by Canoe - Meet the Paddlers this Weekend

The [Capital to Capitol](#) Canoe Expedition is paddling down the Hudson right now, on their 1000+ mile journey from Ottawa, Canada to Washington, DC, to draw attention to the need to restore our rivers.

They'll stop and speak at Beczak Environmental Education Center on Saturday, Sept. 29, at 7 PM. [For more info...](#)

You will also be able to meet them on Sunday at North Brooklyn Boat Club's Water Quality event with the opportunity to paddle Newtown Creek in the expedition canoe from 3 to 5 PM. [More details...](#)



Students visit Capital to Capitol canoe during a stop in the Ottawa River

LEARNING FROM STORMS IRENE AND LEE

Conference Sheds Light on Storm Impacts

Millbrook, NY - On September 19, the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies held a [conference](#) on the double-whammy storm events of 2011. Quick-acting scientists were able to get a sense of what actually happened during the storm, so that we can better understand the impacts associated with the extreme precipitation and sediment transport associated with large storms like these.

Some key findings presented at the conference included:

- The heavy influx of fresh water from the watershed caused [salinity to drop to zero](#) as far as the Battery.
- An [enormous amount of sediment](#) was released, including an estimated 1.75 million tons trapped behind the Green Island Dam.
- Predictive models for rainfall were [relatively accurate](#) for predicting the extremes of Irene and Lee.
- Between the two storms, [over 20 inches of rain](#) were recorded in some areas.



Sediment from heavy rains in the Schoharie basin is transported downstream (Gary Wall, USGS)

A [Keynote by researcher Hans Paerl](#) also highlighted the potential concerns over increasing storm intensity and frequency, and potential water quality repercussions. Understanding the impacts of storms like these is also important for understanding the potential impacts of climate change, as we are likely to experience an [increased frequency of heavy downpours](#) in the Northeast.

INVITATION TO JOIN CONFERENCE SESSION ON URBAN ESTUARIES

New York Sea Grant is organizing a special session on Long Island Sound and other urban estuaries for the February 2013 Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) in New Orleans. For further information, please contact [Cornelia Schlenk](#), New York Sea Grant, Stony Brook University. Information about the conference can be found at <http://aslo.org/meetings/neworleans2013/>

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...](#)

Sept 29 - National Estuaries Day Events

- Liberty State Park Cleanup. [Details...](#)
- Alley Pond Environmental Center festival in Little Neck Bay.

[Details...](#)

- Hudson River Park: Catch-and-release fishing and children-friendly activities. [Details...](#)

Sept 29 - National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. Find a collection site near you:
http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html

Sept 30 - Water Quality. An afternoon of advocacy, ecology and an 1800 km canoe journey at North Brooklyn Boat Club. [Details...](#)

October 2 - NYC Outdoors! An Environmental Education Exposition 4:30 to 7:00 PM.

October 4 - Community Planning Meeting at Manhattan Community Board 3 to discuss the master plan to redevelop Pier 42 as parkland.

October 9-10 - Stream School Techniques workshop in Stockton, NJ. Register by Oct 3.

October 12 - Estuary Day at Peterstown Community Center in Elizabeth, NJ. Organized by [Future City, Inc.](#)

October 15-20 - Harlem River Festival at Roberto Clemente State Park.

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

October 20 - Beyond the Sea Festival at Kaiser Park, Coney Island. Touch tank, activities, demos, exhibitors, and more for divers, non-divers, beach lovers, and stewards of our coast.

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).

FUNDING

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

AWARDS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Gateway National Recreation Area: Public comment period for General Management Plan **through October 5th.** [More info...](#)

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