



**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program  
NUTRIENT WORK GROUP  
Meeting Summary  
March 8, 2001 @ 290 Broadway, NYC**

The Nutrient Work Group (NWG) met at the NYC EPA office on March 8, 2001. The work group discussed three major topics at the meeting: 1)The EPA Marine DO criteria and how NYS plans to use it; 2)The coordination of 303(d) methodologies and lists between New York and New Jersey; 3)A cost estimate and plan from HydroQual to identify major contributors to the DO and enrichment violations in the Harbor.

NYS DEC is planning to propose a new DO standard for Marine Waters. They are proposing an Aquatic Chronic value of 4.8 mg/l DO (with allowed temporal excursions), and an Aquatic Acute value (a never less than value) of 3.0 mg/l. The revised standard will apply to SA, SB and SC, and perhaps I waters. The SD standard will remain the same (never less than 3.0 mg/l.) The revised standard will apply to all portions of the water column. (Measurements of DO above and below the pycnocline cannot be averaged with each other.) The allowed temporal excursions will be determined by the formula proposed by EPA but the curve may be different than the curve EPA presented due to different DO increments.

As a result of our discussions on the Marine DO Criteria the Nutrient Work Group suggests that EPA host a regional meeting between the States of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut and the Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC) on the application of the Marine DO criteria. New York and Connecticut are proposing different standards based on the same criteria and New Jersey and IEC will eventually have to consider a change of their standards. It would make sense to have consistent standards throughout the region. A meeting to discuss the possibility of that is suggested.

Discussions of the 303(d) methodologies and list indicated the need for coordination but little more. New York's methodologies are under going internal review and New Jersey has not yet developed methodologies.

With the cost estimate and plan from HydroQual to identify major contributors to the DO and enrichment violations in the Harbor. The work group has been able to develop a work plan for this year. The following are the tasks the nutrient work group would like to accomplish in the next year and the funds required to do them.

Coordinate New York and New Jersey 303(d) list development - methodologies and listed water bodies. No Funds Required

Develop specific numeric DO targets for the Harbor/Bight (Review and consider the acceptance of EPA's guidance on DO Criteria for Marine Waters) No Funds Required

Utilizing the System-wide Eutrophication Model (SWEM), identify major contributors and problem areas in the Harbor responsible for nutrient problems and dissolved oxygen violations by January 2002. Funds Needed: \$79,000

Perform statistical analyses of Environmental parameters (river flow, rainfall, temperature etc.) affecting changes in dissolved oxygen concentrations and relate the effects of these parameters to the historical Harbor Survey data. Funds Needed: \$ 25,000

**The Nutrient Work Group also strongly recommends the development of a water quality survey in the New Jersey waters of the Harbor that is consistent NYC Harbor Water Quality Survey.**

The next meeting of the Nutrient Work Group is scheduled for April 19, 2001, Room 27D EPA's NYC offices.

Attendees:

Philip O'Brien	NYSDEC
Mick DeGraeve	GLEC/NJHDG
Veronica Hurst	PVSC
Nancy Immesberger	NJDEP
Morton Orentlicher	CAC
Zoe Kelman	USEPA
Steven Lubow	NJDEP
John Kashner	NJDEP
Joel Simpkins	NJDEP
Kevin Clarke	NYCDEP
Antony Tseng	USEPA
Peter L. Sattler	IEC
Bob Nyman	USEPA