

12th Update of the 2008 Helicopter Monitoring Program

Floatables:

The New York/New Jersey Harbor Complex was monitored for floatables three times from August 16 - 22. The Harbor was clear of significant floatables on August 20. Floatable flights were not conducted on August 19, 21 and 22 due to maintenance.

On August 16, a slick, approximately 100 feet long by 20 feet wide, was reported in the Hudson River.

On August 18, a slick, approximately 2,000 feet long by 25 feet wide, was reported in the Upper Harbor.

All floatable debris slicks consisted of large wood, paper and plastics and were reported to Army Corps of Engineers. The Army Corps of Engineers conducted clean-ups as necessary.

Sampling:

Phytoplankton samples were collected along the New Jersey coast, in Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook Bay, Barnegat Bay, Great Bay, Great Egg Harbor and Delaware Bay, on August 20. Samples were given to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring Leeds Point Laboratory for analysis. These samples help fulfill NJDEP's commitments to the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

The waters of Raritan Bay are experiencing a bloom of mixed diatoms dominated by *Skeletonema costatum*. The waters of Sandy Hook Bay are experiencing a bloom of *Chaetoceros* sp. The waters of Delaware Bay near Dias Creek are experiencing a large bloom of *Cylindrotheca closterium*.

NJDEP has implemented an aircraft remote sensing program for estimating chlorophyll levels in NJ's coastal waters. This program provides a valuable perspective on algal conditions and trends. To view these maps please visit the website, <http://www.nj.gov/dep/bmw/remotesensing.htm>