

Fourth update of the 2008 Helicopter Monitoring Program

Floatables:

The New York/New Jersey Harbor Complex was monitored for floatables six times from June 7 -13. The Harbor Complex was clear of significant floatable debris on June 11, and 12.

On June 7, a slick, approximately 900 feet long, was reported in the Arthur Kill.

On June 9, in addition to a small slick approximately 600 feet long, scattered debris was reported throughout Gravesend Bay. A slick, approximately one half mile long by 5 feet wide, was reported in the Upper Harbor.

On June 10, a slick approximately one half mile long was reported in Gravesend Bay.

A small patch, approximately 600 feet by 50 feet, was reported in Gravesend Bay, on June 13.

All floatable debris slicks consisted of large wood, tires, 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 June 11. 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.

Results show a mild bloom of *Heterocapsa triquetra* and *Scrippsiella trachoides* in the Raritan Bay. The potentially toxic species *Pseudo-nitzschia seriata* was detected below bloom or toxic levels in the ocean off the coast of Long Branch. No samples collected in the New Jersey coastal waters were found to contain the Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning species *Alexandrium* spp.