

## **Seventh update of the 2008 Helicopter Monitoring Program**

### **Floatables:**

The New York/New Jersey Harbor Complex was monitored for floatables four times from July 12 - 18. The helicopter was down for routine maintenance on July 12 and for poor weather on July 14.

On July 15, a slick, approximately 200 feet long by 100 feet wide, was reported in the Lower Harbor.

On July 16, a patch, approximately 100 feet long by 100 feet wide, was reported in the Upper Harbor.

On July 17, a small slick, approximately 150 feet long and 50 feet wide, was reported in Newark Bay. A slick, approximately 400 feet long by 20 feet wide, was reported in the Upper Harbor.

On July 18, two slicks, each approximately 100 feet long and 20 to 50 feet wide, were reported in the Upper Harbor. A slick, approximately 1000 feet long by 5 feet wide, was reported off Coney Island.

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

### **Sampling:**

Water quality samples were collected at 26 locations from Rockaway to Shinnecock Inlet, on July 15. Samples were given to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to conduct bacteriological analyses. These samples help fulfill NYSDEC's commitments to the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

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 July 16. 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 ocean waters off the coast of Long Branch are experiencing a mild bloom of *Skeletonema costatum*.

The waters of Delaware Bay near Dias Creek are experiencing a bloom of *Cylindrotheca closterium*.

The potentially toxic species *Psuedonitzschia seriata* associated with amnesic shellfish poisoning was detected below bloom or toxic levels in the ocean waters of the coast of Ship Bottom and Long Branch.

The 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>

No samples collected in the New Jersey Coastal Waters were found to contain the Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning species *Alexandrium spp.*