

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II

DATE:

SUBJECT: New York Bight Monitoring Program Observations, 2003

FROM: Helen Grebe, Regional Coastal Monitoring Coordinator
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TO: Barbara A. Finazzo, Director
Division of Environmental Science and Assessment (DESA)

THRU: Randy Braun, Chief
Monitoring and Assessment Branch (DESA-MAB)

Attached for your information is the second update of the 2003 NY Bight Monitoring Program. This update covers the period from June 21- 27, 2003.

Attachment

cc: Jane Kenny, 2RA, via LAN
William Muszynski, 2DRA, via LAN
Patrick Durack, 2DECA, via LAN
Walter Mugdan, 2DEPP, via LAN
Bonnie Bellow, 2CD, via LAN
Herbert Barrack, 2OPM, via LAN
Eric Schaaf, 2ORC, via LAN
Paul Molinari, 2DEPP, via LAN
Deb Szaro, 2DESA, via LAN
Peter Brandt, 2CD, via LAN
Mario Del Vicario, 2DEPP, via LAN
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Dr. Robert Howarth, Cornell, via EMAIL
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2MOS-MAB 2MOS-MAB 2MAB-DESA

Grebe Glogower Braun

UPDATE OF NY BIGHT MONITORING PROGRAM FROM June 21 - June 27, 2003

NY Bight Sampling has been as follows:

| | | |
|---------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| June 21 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| June 23 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| | NJDEP 200 station | 20 DO samples |
| June 24 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| | LI Beaches | Rockaway to Shinnecock Inlet |
| June 25 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| | NJ Beaches | Sandy Hook to Cape May |
| | Phytoplankton | NJ Coast and Back Bays |
| June 26 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| June 27 | Perpendiculars | NYB20's, JC14, JC27 |

Projected Activities for Next Week:

| | | |
|---------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| June 30 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| | NJDEP 200 station network | Atlantic City to Cape May |
| July 1 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| | LI Beaches | Rockaway to Shinnecock Inlet |
| July 2 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| | NJ Beaches | Sandy Hook to Cape May |
| July 3 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| | Perpendiculars | 25 DO samples |
| July 4 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |

Floatables

The New York/New Jersey Harbor Complex was monitored for floatables a total of five times from June 21 - June 27, 2003.

The harbor complex was clear of significant floatables on the following days: June 21, 23, and 26. Table 1 presents the significant floatables observed on all other days.

Table 1: Significant Floatable Debris Observations from June 21 - June 27, 2003

| Date | Area | Approximate Size | Contents |
|---------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| June 24 | Gravesend Bay | 300 yards by 10 feet | wood, plastic, balloons |
| June 25 | Coney Island | 30 ft x 5 ft | moderate debris, wood, plastic |

All slicks were reported to Corps of Engineers. Cleanup was conducted as necessary.

Bacteria

Bacteriological samples were collected from Rockaway Point (LIC01) to Shinnecock Inlet (LIC28) on June 24 and Sandy Hook (JC01A) to Cape May (JC99) on June 25. The samples were tested for fecal coliform (FC) and enterococcus bacteria.

Tables 2 and 3 present the highest bacteria counts for the period. The highest enterococcus count, 8 enterococci/100ml, occurring on June 25 in Belmar and Spring Lake. All fecal coliform counts were well below the 200FC/100ml state standard.

Table 2: Highest Bacteria Counts, New Jersey Beaches

| New Jersey Beaches - Highest Bacteria Counts per Run | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Date | Station | FC/100ml | Station | Enterococcus/100ml |
| 6/25 | Monmouth Beach | 31 | Belmar and Spring Lake | 8 |

Table 3: Highest Bacteria Counts, Long Island Beaches

| Long Island Beaches - Highest Bacteria Counts per Run | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Date | Station | FC/100ml | Station | Enterococcus/100ml |
| 6/24 | Rockaway Point and Long Beach | 3 | Great South Beach | 7 |

Phytoplankton

Phytoplankton samples were collected along the New Jersey coast, in Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook Bay, Barnegat Bay, Great Bay, Great Egg Harbor, and in Delaware Bay, on June 25. Samples were given to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring’s Leeds Point Laboratory for analysis. The results, reported by NJDEP are as follows:

The northernmost stations in New Jersey, excluding the Raritan Bay, are experiencing mild blooms of mixed diatoms. Skelotonema is the dominant species. All other stations contained sparse algal concentrations. No toxic species were discovered in any of the sixteen stations.

NJDEP NEPPS

As part of our Performance Partnership Agreement with NJDEP, surface water samples were collected at 20 out of 41 stations from Sandy Hook to Barnegat on June 23. The samples will be analyzed by NJDEP for chlorophyll, salinity, nitrate, nitrite, ortho-phosphate, ammonia, total nitrogen, and total suspended solids. Samples were also collected for temperature and dissolved oxygen analysis, which were completed in the field and by our Edison Laboratory, respectively. The remaining stations from Barnegat to Delaware Bay will be sampled next week. These 41 stations are part of NJDEP’s 200 Station Network.