

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION II

**DATE:**

**SUBJECT:** New York Bight Monitoring Program Observations, 2005

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

**THRU:** John Kushwara, Chief  
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Attached for your information is the sixth update of the 2005 NY Bight Monitoring Program. This update covers the period from July 9 - July 15, 2005.

Attachment

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2MOS-MAB                      2MOS-MAB                      2MAB-DESA

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UPDATE OF NY BIGHT MONITORING PROGRAM FROM July 9 - July 15, 2005

**NY Bight Sampling has been as follows:**

July 09	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
July 11	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
July 12	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Long Island Beaches	Rockaway to Shinnecock Inlet
July 13	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	New Jersey Beaches	Sandy Hook to Longport
July 14	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Perpendiculars	Canceled due to sea fog
July 15	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Perpendiculars	Canceled due to sea fog

**Projected Activities for Next Week:**

July 16	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
July 18	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJ Nutrients	Sandy Hook Barnegat
July 19	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Long Island Beaches	Rockaway to Shinnecock Inlet
July 20	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	New Jersey Beaches	Sandy Hook to Cape May Point
July 21	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJ Nutrients	Barnegat to Delaware River
July 22	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Perpendiculars	JC61, JC69, JC75, JC85, JC90
July 23	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight

## **Floatables**

The New York/New Jersey Harbor Complex was monitored for floatables six times from July 9 - July 15. The Harbor Complex was clear of significant floatable debris all six days.

Outside of the Harbor Complex, scattered patches of wood debris were reported in the Passaic River, on July 9. The debris was reported to the Army Corps of Engineers and to the Passaic Valley Sewage Authority. Clean ups were conducted as necessary.

On July 12, an oil sheen was reported in the East River. The sheen appeared to be coming from a construction site. The US Coast Guard and NYSDEC were informed.

On July 14 an oil sheen was reported in the Arthur Kill. The sheen was approximately 1 ½ miles long by 100 yards wide. Pictures were taken of a possible source and sent to the US Coast Guard.

On July 15, an oil sheen, that extended for approximately 6 miles was observed from the Arthur Kill, to Newark Bay and extending into the Kill Van Kull. A possible source was not identified. The US Coast Guard was notified.

## **Bacteria**

On July 12, bacteriological samples were taken along the Long Island coast from Rockaway Point (LIC01) to Shinnecock Inlet East (LIC28). On July 13, samples were taken along the New Jersey coast from Sandy Hook (JC01A) to Longport (JC79). The Long Island samples were tested for fecal coliform (FC) and enterococcus bacteria. New Jersey samples were analyzed for enterococcus bacteria. The remaining New Jersey beaches were not sampled due to heavy sea fog and poor visibility.

On July 12, along the Long Island coast, the highest fecal coliform count, 20 FC/100ml, occurred at Long Beach (LIC09). The highest enterococcus count, 15 enterococci/100ml, occurred at Gilgo Beach (LIC15).

On July 13, along the New Jersey coast, the highest enterococcus count, 119 enterococci/100ml, occurred at Long Branch (JC14). This value exceeds the 104 enterococci/100 ml State water quality standard. State authorities were immediately informed of the elevated count.

## **Phytoplankton**

Phytoplankton samples were collected along the New Jersey coast, in Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook Bay, Barnegat Bay, and Great Bay on July 13. 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:

### Raritan/Sandy Hook Bay Area

The waters of Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay had sparse algal concentrations with a significant amount of detritus. No toxic species were detected.

### New Jersey Coastal Area

The ocean waters near Long Branch and Manasquan were experiencing a mild bloom of mixed diatoms. No toxic species were detected. The ocean waters off the coast of Ship Bottom had a low concentration of mixed diatoms. No toxic species were detected.

### Barnegat Bay Area

The waters of Barnegat Bay from Toms River to Manahawkin Bay had low concentrations of *Gyrodinium sp.* with a significant amount of detritus. No toxic species were detected.

The waters of Little Egg Harbor were generally clear with sparse algal concentrations. No toxic species were detected.

### Great Bay

The waters of Great Bay were generally clear with sparse algal concentrations. No toxic species were detected.