

# The Tidal Exchange

~E-news~

News and upcoming events in the harbor!

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## KING TIDE CAPTURED IN THE HARBOR ESTUARY!

**NY-NJ Harbor Estuarians take charge in documenting one of our highest high tides of the year.**

On October 26 and 27, residents of the harbor estuary braved cold and rainy conditions to document one of the highest tides of the year - roughly 1-2 feet higher than a "normal" high tide in the Harbor Estuary (not all areas will experience the same increase due to a number of factors, such as the shape of the basin of each water body). The King Tide is caused by a combination of the moon's closest orbit around the earth (perigee) coinciding with a spring tide - the alignment of the sun, moon, and earth during the new moon (or full moon) in a way that maximizes the gravitational pull on the earth's oceans. [Click here](#) for a more in-depth explanation of the tides.

As part of an effort across the country to raise awareness about sea level rise, the Harbor Estuary Program asked for photo documentation of the King Tide. The King is not caused by sea level rise, but it can give us an idea of what average high tides are likely to be in the future. [Scientists project](#) that sea level may rise 7-12 inches in the region by the 2050s and 1-4.5 feet by the 2080s. In other words, what we are seeing today as an unusual event, we are likely to see as a frequent, or even daily, high tide, in the next 40, 50, or 70 years. This a particularly important consideration as we think about the future of our coastal communities and habitats.

Thanks to all who braved the weather and made such a valiant effort in documenting this event! [Please take a look at a google map of the resulting photos](#) (note: work in progress) to see their hard work. We even got [some press](#) for the event!



Comparison tide and King tide at the  
Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club (credit: Boyd Adolfsson)

## COASTAL RESTORATION = JOBS + MONEY

### New Report Shows Big Returns from Coastal Habitat Restoration

Restore America's Estuaries released a report demonstrating that coasts and estuaries are not only essential to the economy, but that coastal habitat restoration produces jobs at higher rates than many other sectors, including oil and gas, road infrastructure, and green building projects.

The report, "[Jobs & Dollars: Big Returns from Coastal Habitat Restoration](#)," lays out a powerful case for government and private investment in the nation's coasts and estuaries, drawing on national and regional studies of coastal and estuarine restoration projects, and setting out its findings in restoration case studies. [Learn more...](#)



Aerial view of the Lincoln Park restoration project site in Jersey City from September 2011, following completion of supplemental planting. Image by NJ DEP Office of Natural Resource Restoration.

## DOLPHINS NEAR THE NY-NJ HARBOR!

Joe Reynolds is an environmental educator in the Monmouth County area. He recently saw a pod (a family group) of bottlenose dolphins during a morning walk in October in Sandy Hook. Although they may be difficult to spot from land, dolphins often come in or near Lower New York Bay



Dolphins off Sandy Hook. Image by Joe Reynolds

following fish. Other marine mammals to watch out for: seals are often seen in Sandy Hook, Hoffman and Swinburne Islands, and Jamaica Bay. And, whales can be found in the ocean, not far from the harbor.

Read [Joe's story](#) on his [blog](#).

## AN EELGRASS GROWS IN QUEENS

## Large Pilot Study in Jamaica Bay

Eelgrass is an aquatic grass that grows in shallow waters. It used to cover large expanses of our estuary, stabilizing bottom sediments, providing habitat and nursery grounds for numerous fish and shellfish, and food for fish and waterfowl.



Today no eelgrass remains in the estuary but scientists have conducted pilot

Eelgrass planting pilot test. May 2010.  
Picture provided by Chris Pickerell.

studies in Jamaica Bay to determine if self-sustaining beds are feasible. After a series of small-scale trials, 8,000 plants are being planted in Jamaica bay near Breezy Point. This is part of the city's efforts to improve the overall water quality and ecology of Jamaica Bay and is being done in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension. [Read more...](#)

## PASSAIC CLEANUP GETS STARTED

### Construction for First Phase of Toxics Removal Starts

Construction activities have begun on October 31 in the Passaic River, in front of the Diamond Alkali Superfund site. Steel walls will be installed in the river bed to confine the area that will be dredged and avoid spreading contaminated sediments. This first phase will allow cleaning up the most heavily contaminated sediments in the spring of 2012. [Learn more.](#)

## WEBSITE TO FIND TOXICS IN YOUR COMMUNITY-NOW AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

The EPA has launched a website in Spanish to find emissions of toxic chemicals to the air, water or soil in your community. For more information, visit <http://myrtk.epa.gov/info/>. (See version in Spanish, below).

## QUE SUSTANCIAS TOXICAS HAY EN SU COMUNIDAD?

Nueva Herramienta de la EPA Para Informarse Acerca de Sustancias Químicas Tóxicas en su Vecindario

La [Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos \(U.S. EPA\)](#) ha creado

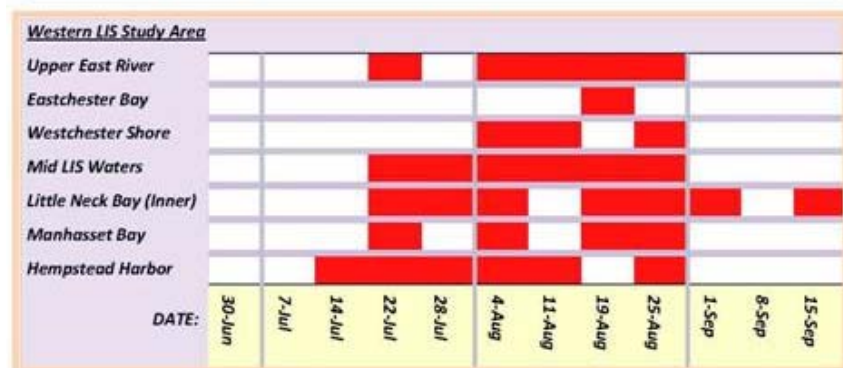


un nuevo sitio web en Español para encontrar información sobre sustancias tóxicas emitidas al aire, agua o suelo en cualquier lugar de los Estados Unidos. Para más información, visite <http://myrtek.epa.gov/info/>. (Vea la versión en Español arriba).

### HYPOXIA IN THE UPPER EAST RIVER AND WESTERN LONG ISLAND SOUND - HOW DID WE DO IN 2011?

The [Interstate Environmental Commission](#) released a new report: *Hypoxia in Western Long Island Sound and Upper East River - 2011*, summarizing the results of its 21th annual summer season monitoring, carried out in collaboration with other environmental agencies. Hypoxia (low levels of dissolved oxygen) was observed in 12% of the samples, mostly in bottom waters and during July and August. [Read the full report](#).

#### DURATION OF HYPOXIA



### GOOD NEWS FOR CLEAN WATER IN JAMAICA BAY

#### Bay Designated No Discharge Zone

A new agreement signed on October 27 between Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and New



York Mayor Michael Bloomberg established a partnership

Horseshoe crabs and red knots in Jamaica Bay. Image by Don Riepe

between the National Park Service and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to coordinate park management and connect urban communities, and especially young people, with the natural beauty and history of the region.

The Park Service and the city will collaborate in four areas:

- Effective management of park lands
- Science and restoration of Jamaica Bay
- Access and transportation to park lands around Jamaica Bay
- Engagement of New York City youth with hands-on science programs and fun public service projects to promote recreation, stewardship and "green" careers

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation also announced that Jamaica Bay is now a "no discharge zone," which means that boats are completely banned from discharging sewage into the water and must use pumpout facilities instead.

Learn more about the [agreement](#) and the [no-discharge zone](#) designation. Find pumpout stations in [New Jersey](#), [New York City](#), and [New York State](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

For more events, check out our [calendar](#). To post your Estuary-related event in our calendar, [please send us the details!](#)

### Save the dates:

- **Nov 10:** Howard Laboratory OneNOAA Seminar Series in Sandy Hook, New Jersey (conference call option available). *"Tales Tags Tell": 46 Years of Recreational Angler Fish Tagging with The American Littoral Society* by Jeff Dement, American Littoral Society. [Learn more.](#)

### [Hudson River Foundation Fall Seminars:](#)

Seminars are free and can be accessed via webinar. [RSVP needed.](#)

- **Nov 14:** *Tracking Mouse-Eating Taimen and Other Fishes in*

*Mongolia* by Dr. John Waldman, CUNY Queens College.  
- **Dec 7: Are Hudson River Fish Made of Trees? Understanding Terrestrial Support of the Hudson Food Web from Stable Isotopes** by Jonathan Cole, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies.

#### Funding opportunities:

- [New York State Consolidated funding application: new opportunities open](#) and workshops available.
- NOAA funding available for marine debris removal. **Deadline: November 21, 2011.** [Learn more.](#)
- National Urban and Community Forestry grants. **Deadline for Pre-Proposals: December 1, 2011.** [More information...](#)
- **Stream Barrier Removal Grants:** American Rivers and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are accepting applications for stream barrier removal projects under the Community-based Restoration Program. **Deadline for applications: December 9, 2011.** [Learn more.](#)

#### Public Comment Opportunities:

- The NY State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have modified the 2005 Consent Order that required the City to reduce combined sewer overflows from its sewer system and will accept comments until close of business on **November 18, 2011.** A public meeting will be held on **November 9, 2011.** [Learn more...](#)

#### Contest:

- "Document Your Environment" multimedia contest: Students ages 13 to 18 can create any type of graphic art, a short video, or a poem using a Documerica photo as a prompt. The grand prize will be \$500. Entries will be accepted from **November 1, 2011 to January 6, 2012.** [Learn more...](#)

#### Employment Opportunities:

- **Curriculum Specialist** for HabitatMap. **Deadline: November 7, 2011.** [More...](#)

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