



August 20, 2010

To: The New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission

From: Coney Island Brighton Beach Open Water Swimmers (CIBBOWS)

Re: Final Report -- Estuary and Water Access Event Day Grants

1) **Project Title:** Sixth Annual Grimaldo's Mile and the Second Annual Aquarium 1M and Coney Island 5K Open Water Swimming Race at Coney Island and Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, NY.

2) Contact Information:

CIBBOWS is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to being a community resource for open water swimmers of all abilities. This includes providing regular group swims at Coney Island and Brighton Beach and helping to improve the New York - New Jersey Estuary and public access to its waters. Visit our website at [www.cibbows.org](http://www.cibbows.org).

3) **Event Summary:**

On Sunday, June 27, 2010, CIBBOWS conducted the Sixth Annual Grimaldo's Mile Open Water Swimming Race. The event included United States Masters Swimming (USMS), Open and Wetsuit divisions. 105 contestants started the race and 103 crossed the finish line – two did not complete the course and exited the water safely. The winning time was 25.21 and the final competitor came in at 1:03.46. Approximately 150 spectators watched the event from the beach. After the race and before the awards ceremony, Roland Lewis president and CEO of the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance, was the guest speaker and gave a brief speech on how improved the water quality is, based on the sea life that has returned.

On Saturday, August 07, 2010, CIBBOWS conducted the second annual Coney Island 5K and Aquarium 1 mile events, hosted at the New York Aquarium. 27 swimmers participated in the One Mile Event and all of them finished, including a participant who lost an arm, leg and eye in a bomb explosion he was trying to deactivate as part of his job in Peru. 41 swimmers participated in the 5K event, 39 crossed the finish line, 2 did not finish and exited the water safely. After the race and before the awards ceremony, the guest speaker, Debbie Mans, Executive Director of NY/NJ Baykeeper gave a brief speech on the importance of swimming Open Water and by the fact that people are swimming in our waters, makes her job easier to advocated for cleaner waters.

By all accounts both events were a success. A well-trained, all-volunteer force of approximately 25 dedicated individuals, most of whom have previous experience facilitating open water races, conducted the race. CIBBOWS secured all the required permits with NYC Department of Park & Recreation and with the U.S. Coast Guards. Also made sure to have the required insurance policies in place as required by NYC Department of Park & Recreation and the host facilities. Safety support included kayaks, jet-skis and boats from the Coast Guards and NYC Harbor Police. EMTs were on hand to attend any emergency with support from the NYC Police

Department 60<sup>th</sup> Precinct “gator” vehicles. The automatic timing system allowed for not only efficient time keeping, but to account for all swimmers who entered the water. The post-race party and awards ceremony were held in the host facilities and was catered by CIBBOWS volunteers and included live music.

Regarding lessons learned, next year CIBBOWS will reduce its entry fee to give the opportunity for more participants. Also next year CIBBOWS has been awarded to host a USMS National Championship, which caused this year to be more critical of safety and correct any weaknesses, which includes more buoys to mark the race course.

Finally, as per our agreement, five photographs of both events are attached to this report.





