Tenth Update of the 2008 Helicopter Monitoring Program

Floatables:

The New York/New Jersey Harbor Complex was monitored for floatables six times from August 2 - 8. The Harbor was clear of significant floatables on August 4 - 8.

On August 2, a slick, approximately one half mile long by 20 to 30 feet wide, was reported in Newark Bay. A heavy patch, approximately 100 feet long and 100 feet wide, was reported in the Upper Harbor. A slick, approximately 200 feet long by 30 feet wide, was reported in Gravesend Bay.

All floatable debris slicks consisted of large wood, tires, paper 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 August 4. 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 August 7. 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 waters of Raritan Bay are experiencing a bloom of *Skeletonema costatum*. The waters of Sandy Hook Bay are experiencing a bloom of *Thalassiosira minima.* The waters of Delaware Bay near Dias Creek are experiencing a large bloom of *Cylindrotheca closterium*. The potentially toxic species *Psuedonitzschia seriata* associated with amnesic shellfish poisoning was detected off the coast of Long Branch but it was below bloom or toxic levels.

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