

Sixth update of the 2008 Helicopter Monitoring Program

Floatables:

The New York/New Jersey Harbor Complex was monitored for floatables eighteen times from June 21 – July 11. The Harbor Complex was clear of significant floatable debris twelve of the eighteen times: June 21- 28, July 3, and July 8 - 11.

On June 27, an oily sheen, approximately 200 feet long by 100 feet wide, was reported in Newark Bay. A second oily sheen, approximately 400 feet long and 300 feet wide, was reported in the Upper Harbor.

On June 30, two slicks, each approximately 1000 feet long and 5 to 15 feet wide, were reported in the Hudson River and the Upper Harbor. An additional slick, approximately one half mile long and 500 feet wide was observed in the Upper Harbor, the Army Corps of Engineers vessel, the Driftmaster, was already on the scene.

On July 1, slicks, approximately 1200 to 800 feet long and 10 to 50 feet wide, were reported in the Arthur Kill, Newark Bay, Kill Van Kull, Hudson River and Gravesend Bay. A smaller slick, approximately 300 feet long by 15 feet wide was reported in the Upper Harbor.

On July 2, a slick, approximately 1200 feet long by 10 feet wide, was reported in Newark Bay. Two slicks, each approximately 300 to 400 feet long and 20 to 30 feet wide were reported in the Hudson River.

On July 4, two slicks, each approximately 100 feet long and 20 feet wide, were reported in Newark Bay. A slick, approximately 600 feet long by 20 to 40 feet wide, was reported in Gravesend Bay.

On July 5, a slick, approximately 1200 feet long by 10 feet wide, was reported in the Upper Harbor.

On July 7, a slick, approximately 300 feet long and 10 feet wide, was reported in Newark Bay. A slick, approximately 2000 feet long by 20 feet wide, was reported in the Upper Harbor.

All floatable debris slicks consisted of large wood, tires, and plastics and were reported to Army Corps of Engineers. The Army Corps of Engineers conducted clean-ups as necessary.

Sampling:

Phytoplankton samples were collected along the New Jersey coast, in Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook Bay, Barnegat Bay, and Great Bay, on July 9. 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.

Results show a bloom of *Cylindrotheca closterium* in Sandy Hook Bay. The potentially toxic species *Pseudo-nitzschia seriata* and *Dinophysis acuta* associated with amnesic and diarrhetic shellfish poisoning respectively were detected below bloom or toxic levels in the ocean waters off the coast of Ship Bottom.

No samples were collected south of Great Bay due to weather conditions.

The Bureau 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>