UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II

DATE:

SUBJECT: New York Bight Monitoring Program Observations, 2003

FROM: Helen Grebe, Regional Coastal Monitoring Coordinator
Monitoring Operations Section (DESA-MOS)

TO: Barbara A. Finazzo, Director
Division of Environmental Science and Assessment (DESA)

THRU: Randy Braun, Chief
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Attached for your information is the first update of the 2003 NY Bight Monitoring Program. This update covers the period from May 27 - June 20, 2003.

Attachment

cc: Jane Kenny, 2RA, via LAN
William Muszynski, 2DRA, via LAN
Patrick Durack, 2DECA, via LAN
Walter Mugdan, 2DEPP, via LAN
Bonnie Bellow, 2CD, via LAN
Herbert Barrack, 2OPM, via LAN
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2MOS-MAB 2MOS-MAB 2MAB-DESA

Grebe Glogower Braun
UPDATE OF NY BIGHT MONITORING PROGRAM FROM May 27 - June 20, 2003

NY Bight Sampling has been as follows:

May 27	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJ Beaches	Sandy Hook to Spring Lake
May 29	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
May 30	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJ Beaches	JC01A, JC03, JC05, JC08
May 31	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 2	Delaware River Basin Commission	Delaware Bay, Trenton
June 3	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	LI Beaches	Rockaway to Shinnecock Inlet
June 6	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 10	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	LI Beaches	Rockaway to Shinnecock Inlet
June 11	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJ Beaches	JC01A, JC03, JC05
June 12	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 14	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 16	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 17	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJ Beaches	JC61, JC96, JC97,JC99
	Phytoplankton	NJ Coast and Back Bays
June 18	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	LI Beaches	Rockaway to Robert Mosses State Park
June 19	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Cancelled due to inclement weather
	NJDEP 200 station	Cancelled due to inclement weather
July 20	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight

Projected Activities for Next Week:

June 23	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJDEP 200 station	20 DO samples, nutrients
June 24	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	LI Beaches	Rockaway to Shinnecock Inlet
June 25	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJ Beaches	Sandy Hook to Cape May
June 26	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJDEP 200 station	20 DO samples, nutrients
June 27	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Perpendiculars	25 DO samples, NYB20's, JC14, 27, 41, 53

Floatables

The New York/New Jersey Harbor Complex was monitored for floatables a total of thirteen times from May 27 - June 20, 2003.

The harbor complex was clear of significant floatables on the following days: May 27, 29, 31, June 3, 6, 10, 11, and 20. Table 1 presents the significant floatables observed on all other days.

Table 1: Significant Floatable Debris Observations from May 27 - June 20, 2003

Date	Area	Approximate Size	Contents
June 12	Arthur Kill	2 - 3 miles wide, 10-20 feet long	wood, tires, plastic
	Arthur Kill	1/4 mile wide, 10-20 feet long	wood, plastic
	Newark Bay	500 yards long, varying widths	scattered wood and plastic
	Newark Bay	half mile long	plastic
June 14	Arthur Kill	1/4 mile long, 10-20 feet wide	large wood
June 16	Arthur Kill	1/4 mile long	moderate wood and debris
June 17	Newark Bay	½ mile long	moderate wood and debris
June 18	Newark Bay	1/4 mile long	heavy debris, in some areas scattered

All slicks were reported to Corps of Engineers. Cleanup was conducted as necessary.

Bacteria

Bacteriological samples were collected from Sandy Hook (JC01A) to Spring Lake (JC33) on May 27, from Sandy Hook (JC01A) to Sea Bright (JC08) on May 30, from Rockaway (LI01) to Shinnecock Inlet (LI28) on June 3, from Rockaway (LI01) to Shinnecock Inlet (LI28) on June 10, from Sandy Hook (JC01A) to Sandy Hook (JC05) on June 11, from Barnegat (JC61) and from Cape May Inlet (JC96) to Cape May Point (JC99) on June 17, and from Rockaway (LI01) to Robert Mosses State Park (LI17) on June 18. The samples were tested for fecal coliform (FC) and enterococcus bacteria.

Tables 2 and 3 present the highest bacteria counts for the period. The highest enterococcus count, 105 enterococci/100ml, occurring on May 27 in Shark River Inlet, exceeded the EPA single sample maximum criteria of 104 enterococci/100ml. New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection was notified of the elevated bacteria count. All fecal coliform counts were well below the 200FC/100ml state standard.

Table 2: Highest Bacteria Counts, New Jersey Beaches

	New Jersey Beaches - Highest Bacteria Counts per Run			
Date	Station	FC/100ml	Station	Enterococcus/100ml
5/27	Shark River Inlet	132	Shark River Inlet	105
5/30	Sandy Hook	2	all stations	0
6/11	Sandy Hook	6	all stations	0
6/17	Cape May Point	9	Cape May Point	4

Table 3: Highest Bacteria Counts, Long Island Beaches

	Long Island Beaches - Highest Bacteria Counts per Run			
Date	Station	FC/100ml	Station	Enterococcus/100ml
6/03	Long Beach & Point Lookout	8	All stations	0
6/10	Point Lookout	6	All stations	0
6/18	Rockaway Point, Atlantic Beach & Long Beach	3	Robert Moses State Park	4

Phytoplankton

Phytoplankton samples were collected along the New Jersey coast, in Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook Bay, Barnegat Bay, Great Bay, Great Egg Harbor, and in Delaware Bay, on June 17. 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**:**

No toxic species were detected in any of the samples. The waters of Raritan Bay, Long Branch,

Manasquan, Great Bay, Great Egg Harbor, and Delaware Bay were generally clear with sparse algal conditions. In Sandy Hook Bay waters a sparse mix of diatoms was observed. In Barnegat Bay, algal concentrations were sparse throughout with minimal amounts of detritus. A sparse mix of diatoms was found near Ship Bottom.

Delaware River Basin Commission Sampling

At the request of Ed Santoro, Monitoring Coordinator for the DRBC, surface water samples were collected at low slack tide at four sites along the Delaware River, on June 2. All samples were analyzed by a contract Laboratory for bacteria, algae, metals, dissolved oxygen and organic carbon. Additional sampling is scheduled for July 17 and August 25 and will augment DRBC's longstanding water quality sampling program in the Delaware Estuary.