

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II

DATE:

SUBJECT: New York Bight Monitoring Program Observations, 2005

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: John Kushwara, Chief
Monitoring and Assessment Branch (DESA-MAB)

Attached for your information is the first update of the 2005 NY Bight Monitoring Program.
This update covers the period from May 25 - June 3, 2005.

Attachment

cc: Kathleen Callahan, Acting 2RA, via LAN
George Pavlou, Acting 2DRA, via LAN
Dore LaPosta, 2DECA, via LAN
Walter Mugdan, 2DEPP, via LAN
Bonnie Bellow, 2PAD, via LAN
Donna Vizian, 2OPM, via LAN
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2MOS-MAB-DESA:HGrebe:hg:x6797:bldg209:finalized:6/3/05

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2MAB-DESA

Grebe

Braun

Kushwara

UPDATE OF NY BIGHT MONITORING PROGRAM FROM May 25 - June 3, 2005

NY Bight Sampling has been as follows:

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| May 25 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Canceled due to rain |
| | NJ Beaches | Canceled due to rain |
| May 26 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| | NJ Beaches | Sandy Hook to Sea Bright |
| May 27 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| May 28 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| May 30 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Canceled due to mechanical problems |
| May 31 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Canceled due to mechanical problems |
| | Long Island Beaches | Canceled due to mechanical problems |
| June 1 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| | NJ Beaches | Canceled due to rain |
| June 2 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| June 3 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |

Projected Activities for Next Week:

| | | |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| June 4 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| June 6 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| June 7 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| | Long Island Beaches | Rockaway to Shinnecock Inlet East |
| June 8 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| | New Jersey Beaches | Sandy Hook to Cape May Point |
| June 9 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| June 10 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |
| June 11 | NY/NJ Harbor Complex | Overflight |

Floatables

The New York/New Jersey Harbor Complex was monitored for floatables on May 26, 27, 28, and June 1, 2 and 3. Floatable flights were not conducted on May 25 due to poor visibility or on May 30 or 31 due to mechanical problems with the helicopter. The Harbor Complex was clear of significant floatable debris on June 1, 2 and 3.

On May 26, a slick, approximately ¼ mile long by 5 feet wide, was reported in the East River. The slick was of light density consisting of some large wood and reeds.

On May 27, a slick was observed in the Arthur Kill that was approximately ½ mile long by 10 feet wide consisting of large wood and reeds. A second slick, approximately ¼ to ½ mile long was reported in Newark Bay and consisted of large wood and reeds. A third slick, approximately one to 1 ½ miles long was reported in the Kill Van Kull and consisted of plastic, wood and reeds.

On May 28, light scattered debris was reported in the Arthur Kill and Newark Bay. A slick, approximately ¼ mile long by 5 feet wide, consisting of light scattered reeds and plastic, was observed in the Kill Van Kull.

On June 1, an oily sheen, approximately 900 feet long by 9 feet wide, was reported in the Arthur Kill. On June 2, a smaller oily sheen, approximately 300 feet long by 60 feet wide, was reported in the East River.

All slicks were reported to the Army Corps of Engineers, and the DECA Floatables coordinator. Clean ups were conducted as necessary. All oil sheens were reported to the US Coast Guard.

Bacteria

On May 27, bacteriological samples were taken along the New Jersey coast from Sandy Hook (JC01A) to Sea Bright (JC08). All samples were analyzed for enterococcus bacteria.

The highest enterococcus count, 11 enterococci/100ml, occurred at Sandy Hook (JC01A).