

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  
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Attached for your information is the second update of the 2005 NY Bight Monitoring Program. This update covers the period from June 4 - June 17, 2005.

Attachment

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UPDATE OF NY BIGHT MONITORING PROGRAM FROM June 4 - June 17, 2005

**NY Bight Sampling has been as follows:**

June 4	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Canceled due to rain
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 Peck Beach
June 9	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 10	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Canceled due to rain
June 11	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 13	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 14	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	LI Beaches	Rockaway to Shinnecock Inlet East
June 15	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJ Beaches	Sandy Hook
June 16	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Canceled due to fog
June 17	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight

**Projected Activities for Next Week:**

June 18	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 20	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJDEP Nutrient Network	Sandy Hook to Barnegat
June 21	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Long Island Beaches	Rockaway to Shinnecock Inlet East
June 22	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	New Jersey Beaches	Sandy Hook to Cape May Point
June 23	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJDEP Nutrient Network	Barnegat to Delaware Bay
June 24	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Perpendiculars	NYB20's, JC14, 27, 41, 53
June 25	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight

## **Floatables**

The New York/New Jersey Harbor Complex was monitored for floatables on June 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17. Floatable flights were not conducted on June 4, 10 or 16 due to poor visibility. The Harbor Complex was clear of significant floatable debris on June 9, 11, 13, 14, and 15.

On June 6, a slick, approximately 2 miles long with varying widths, was reported in Newark Bay. The slick was of moderate density consisting of some large wood and plastic. A smaller slick, approximately ¼ mile long and of scattered density was reported in the Kill Van Kull.

On June 7, a heavy density patch of large wood and debris, approximately 300 ft by 50 feet, was reported in Newark Bay. A large slick, approximately 1½ miles long consisting of large wood and plastic, was reported in the Upper Harbor.

On June 8, a slick was observed in Newark Bay, approximately ¼ mile long by 5 feet wide consisting of paper and plastic. A second slick, approximately ¼ to ½ mile long was reported in the Upper Harbor and consisted of large wood and plastic. A third slick, approximately ¼ to ½ mile long by 10 to 15 feet wide, was reported in Gravesend Bay and consisted of paper and plastic.

On June 17, a slick, approximately ½ mile long, was reported west of the Marine Parkway Bridge. The slick was of light concentration consisting of mainly paper and wood debris.

All slicks were reported to the Army Corps of Engineers, and the DECA Floatables Coordinator. Clean ups were conducted as necessary.

## **Bacteria**

On June 7 and June 14, bacteriological samples were taken along the Long Island coast from Rockaway Point (LIC01) to Shinnecock Inlet East (LIC28). On June 8, samples were taken along the New Jersey coast from Sandy Hook (JC01A) to Peck Beach (JC83). On June 15, samples were collected at three locations along Sandy Hook (JC01A, JC 03, JC 05). The Long Island samples were tested for fecal coliform (FC) and enterococcus bacteria. New Jersey samples were analyzed for enterococcus bacteria.

On June 7, along the Long Island coast, the highest fecal coliform count, 8 FC/100ml, occurred at Atlantic Beach (LIC07). The highest enterococcus count, 4 enterococci/100ml, occurred at Point Lookout (LIC10).

On June 8 and 15, along the New Jersey coast, all enterococci counts were below 4 enterococci/100ml.

On June 14, along the Long Island coast, two enterococci counts exceeded the 104 enterococci/100 ml State water quality standards. The elevated counts, 180 and 300

enterococci/100ml, occurred at Long Beach (LIC08) and Gilgo Beach (LIC15), respectively. Local and State authorities were immediately informed of the elevated counts. The highest fecal coliform count, 20 FC/100ml, occurred at Gilgo Beach (LIC15).

## **Phytoplankton**

Phytoplankton samples were collected along the New Jersey coast, in Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook Bay, Barnegat Bay, Great Bay and Great Egg Harbor on July 8. 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:

### Raritan/Sandy Hook Bay Area

The waters of Raritan Bay had a diverse assemblage of phytoplankton species below bloom concentrations. No toxic species were detected.

The waters of Sandy Hook Bay were experiencing a bloom of mixed diatoms. *Dinophysis*, a potentially harmful dinoflagellate, was detected but concentrations were below bloom or toxic levels.

### New Jersey Coastal Area

The waters off Long Branch are experiencing a bloom of mixed diatoms consisting mostly of *Cerataulina pelagica*. Total diatom cell count was 25,000 cells/ml. No toxic species were detected.

The ocean waters from Manasquan to Cape May are generally clear with sparse algal concentrations. No toxic species were detected.

### Barnegat Bay Area

The waters of Barnegat Bay from Toms River to Little Egg Inlet were generally clear with sparse algal concentrations. The waters of Manahawkin Bay had the highest concentration of phytoplankton predominately mixed diatoms. A potentially toxic species *Prorocentrum lima* was detected in Little Egg Harbor at the southern end of Barnegat Bay, but in concentrations so low as to be not considered toxic. No toxic species were detected in any other samples from Barnegat Bay.

### Great Bay

The waters of Great Bay were generally clear with sparse algal concentrations. No toxic species were detected.

## Great Egg Harbor

The waters of the Great Egg Harbor were generally clear with sparse algal concentrations. No toxic species were detected.