

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION II

**DATE:**

**SUBJECT:** New York Bight Monitoring Program Observations, 2002

**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, Acting Chief  
Monitoring and Assessment Branch (DESA-MAB)

Attached for your information is the third update of the 2002 NY Bight Monitoring Program. This update covers the period from June 8 - 14, 2002.

Attachment

cc: Jane Kenny, 2RA, via LAN  
William Muszynski, 2DRA, via LAN  
Richard Caspe, DECA, via LAN  
Walter Mugdan, DEPP, via LAN  
Bonnie Bellow, 2CD, via LAN  
Herbert Barrack, 2OPM, via LAN  
Eric Schaaf, 2ORC, via LAN  
Paul Molinari, 2DEPP, via LAN  
Deborah Szaro, 2DESA, via LAN  
Peter Brandt, 2CD, via LAN  
Mario Del Vicario, 2DEPP, via LAN  
Janice Rollwagen, 2DEPP, via LAN  
Felix Locicero, 2DEPP, via LAN  
Larry Gaugler, 2DECA, via LAN  
Pat Carr, 2CD, via LAN  
Mary Mears, 2CD, via LAN  
John Bourbon, 2DESA, via LAN  
Jim Ferretti, 2 DESA, via LAN  
Deborah Kay, 2 DESA, via LAN  
Irwin Katz, 2DESA, via LAN  
Bob Dieterich, 2DEPP, via LAN  
Douglas Pabst, 2DEPP, via LAN  
Robert Nyman, 2DEPP, via LAN  
Jim Mumman, NJDEP, via EMAIL  
Alfred Korndoerfer, NJDEP, via EMAIL  
William Eisele, NJDEP, via EMAIL  
Eric Feerst, NJDEP, via EMAIL  
Robert Connell, NJDEP, via EMAIL  
Virginia Loftin, NJDEP, via EMAIL  
Elaine Makatura, NJDEP, via EMAIL  
Carol Hoffman, NYSDES  
Robert Nuzzi, SCHD, via EMAIL  
Lester Jarowsky, MCHD, via EMAIL  
Ann Marie Fournier, MCHD, via EMAIL  
Williams Simmons, MCHD, via EMAIL  
Becky Cosgrove, MCHD, via EMAIL  
J. Fredrick Grassle, Rutgers, via EMAIL  
Dr. Robert Howarth, Cornell, via EMAIL  
Robert Reid, NOAA, via EMAIL

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Grebe Glogower Braun

UPDATE OF NY BIGHT MONITORING PROGRAM FROM June 8 - 14, 2002.

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

June 8	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 10	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 11	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Long Island Beaches	Rockaway to Shinnecock Inlet
June 12	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJ Beaches	Sandy Hook to Peck Beach
June 13	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Delaware River Basin	Postponed - Weather Conditions
	Commission	
June 14	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight

**Projected:**

June 15	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 17	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 18	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Long Island Beaches	Rockaway to Shinnecock Island
June 19	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	New Jersey Beaches	Sandy Hook to Cape May
June 20	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 21	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight

### **Floatables**

The New York/New Jersey Harbor Complex was monitored for floatables a total of six times from June 8 - 14, 2002. The Harbor Complex was clear of significant floatables on all six days.

### **Bacteria**

Bacteriological samples were collected along the Long Island coast from Rockaway (LIC01) to Shinnecock Inlet (LIC28) on June 11, and along the New Jersey coast from Sandy Hook (JC01) to Peck Beach (JC83) on June 12. The samples were tested for fecal coliform (FC) and enterococcus bacteria.

Along the Long Island coast, the highest FC count, 6 FC/100ml, occurred at Rockaway Point (LIC01), Rockaway (LIC04), and Far Rockaway (LIC05). The highest enterococcus count, 4 enterococci/100ml, occurred at Tiana Beach (LIC26). The majority of the remaining results was zero.

Along the New Jersey coast the highest FC count, 4 FC/100ml, occurred at Monmouth Beach (JC11), Seaside Heights (JC53), Brigantine (JC73), and Ventnor City (JC77). The highest enterococcus count, 20 enterococci/100ml, occurred at Belmar (JC27). The majority of the remaining results was zero.

### **Phytoplankton**

Phytoplankton samples were collected along the northern New Jersey coast, in Raritan Bay, and Sandy Hook Bay on June 5, and in Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook Bay, and Barnegat Bay on June 12. Samples were given to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring's Leeds Point Laboratory for analysis. The results for June 12 are not yet available and will be reported next week. The results for June 5, reported by NJDEP are as follows:

#### **Raritan/Sandy Hook Bay Area**

A bloom of mixed diatoms was reported in Raritan Bay/Sandy Hook Bay. *Skeletonema costatum* was the dominant species. No toxic species were detected.

#### **Northern New Jersey Coast**

The coastal waters near Long Branch and Manasquan, were generally clear with algal concentrations sparse. No toxic species were detected.

## **Beach Closures**

The Suffolk County Department of Health Services, on Wednesday June 12, ordered the closure of all Suffolk County, town and village ocean beaches after a white “rubbery” substance washed up onshore. Suffolk County park officials discovered the rubbery substance at Smith Point Beach on Tuesday evening and notified the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The substance was found along a six-mile stretch from Moriches Inlet to Smith Point Beach and measured one to two feet in diameter with some as large as five feet in diameter. The County Health Department determined the material to be non-hazardous. All beaches were reopened on Thursday. The Coast Guard is investigating possible points of origin.