

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  
Monitoring and Assessment Branch (DESA-MAB)

Attached for your information is the fifth update of the 2003 NY Bight Monitoring Program. This update covers the period from July 26 - August 1, 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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Dr. Robert Howarth, Cornell, via EMAIL  
Robert Reid, NOAA, via EMAIL  
Richard M. Warren, OCUA, via EMAIL  
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2MOS-MAB-DESA:HGrebe:hg:x6797:bldg209:finalized:8/1/03  
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Grebe Glogower Braun  
UPDATE OF NY BIGHT MONITORING PROGRAM FROM July 26 - August 1, 2003

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

July 29	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	LI Beaches	Rockaway to Shinnecock Inlet
July 30	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJ Beaches	Cancelled due to inclement weather
July 31	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJ Beaches	Sandy Hook to Barnegat
	Phytoplankton	NJ Coast and Back Bays
August 1	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Cancelled due to inclement weather
	Perpendiculars	Cancelled due to inclement weather

**Projected Activities for Next Week:**

August 2	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
August 4	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Perpendiculars	NYB20's, JC14, JC27, JC41, JC53
August 5	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	LI Beaches	Rockaway to Shinnecock Inlet
August 6	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJ Beaches	Sandy Hook to Cape May
	Phytoplankton	NJ Coast and Back Bays
August 7	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Perpendiculars	JC61, JC69, JC75, JC85, JC90
August 8	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Perpendiculars	NYB20's, JC14, JC27, JC41, JC53

## **Floatables**

The New York/New Jersey Harbor Complex was monitored for floatables a total of three times for the period July 26 - August 1, 2003. Other scheduled floatable flights were cancelled due to inclement weather or technical difficulties.

The harbor was clear of significant floatables on July 29.

On July 30, a slick approximately 500 yards long was reported in Newark Bay and consisted of plastic and wood. The Corps of Engineers vessel the *Drift Master* was observed in the Upper Harbor cleaning a slick of heavy debris, approximately 1/4 to 1/2 mile long, and 10-50 feet wide.

On July 31, in the Gravesend Bay, a slick approximately 400 yards long consisting of paper and plastic was reported.

All slicks were reported to the Corps of Engineers and cleanup was conducted as necessary.

## **Bacteria**

Bacteriological samples were collected from Rockaway (LI01) to Shinnecock Inlet (LI28) on July 29 and from Sandy Hook (JC01A) to Barnegat (JC61) on July 31. The samples were tested for fecal coliform (FC) and enterococcus bacteria.

Along the Long Island beaches, the highest FC count, 12 FC/100ml, occurred at Jones Beach and the highest enterococcus count, 40 enterococci/100ml, occurred at Rockaway Point. The majority of the remaining results were zero.

Along the New Jersey beaches, the highest FC count, 20 FC/100ml, occurred at Bradley Beach and the highest enterococcus count, 8 enterococci/100ml, occurred at Barnegat.

## **Phytoplankton**

Phytoplankton samples were collected along the New Jersey coast, in Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook Bay, Barnegat Bay, and Great Bay on July 31. Samples were given to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring's Leeds Point Laboratory for analysis. The results are not available for this week's report and will be reported next week.