

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II

DATE:

SUBJECT: New York Bight Monitoring Program Observations, 2003

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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 sixth update of the 2003 NY Bight Monitoring Program. This update covers the period from August 2- August 8, 2003.

Attachment

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UPDATE OF NY BIGHT MONITORING PROGRAM FROM August 2 - August 8, 2003

NY Bight Sampling has been as follows:

August 2	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Cancelled due to inclement weather
August 4	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Cancelled due to inclement weather
	Perpendiculars	Cancelled due to inclement weather
August 5	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Cancelled due to inclement weather
	LI Beaches	Cancelled due to inclement weather
August 6	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Phytoplankton	NJ Coast and Back Bays
	NJ Beaches	Sandy Hook to Cape May
August 7	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Cancelled due to inclement weather
	Perpendiculars	Cancelled due to inclement weather
August 8	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Cancelled due to inclement weather
	Perpendiculars	Cancelled due to inclement weather

Projected Activities for Next Week:

August 9	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
August 11	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Perpendiculars	NYB20's, JC14, JC27, JC41, JC53
August 12	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	LI Beaches	Rockaway to Shinnecock Inlet
August 13	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJ Beaches	Sandy Hook to Cape May
August 14	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJDEP 200 Stations	Barnegat to Delaware Bay
August 15	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Perpendiculars	JC61, JC69, JC75, JC85, JC90

Floatables

The New York/New Jersey Harbor Complex was monitored for floatables once during August 2 - August 8, 2003. Other scheduled floatable flights were cancelled due to inclement weather.

On August 6, a slick approximately 1/4 mile long was reported in Newark Bay and consisted of paper and plastic.

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

Bacteria

Bacteriological samples were collected from Sandy Hook (JC01A) to Cape May (JC99) on August 6. The samples were tested for fecal coliform (FC) and enterococcus bacteria.

Along the New Jersey beaches, the highest FC count, 18 FC/100ml, occurred at Atlantic City and the highest enterococcus count, 6 enterococci/100ml, occurred at Ocean Grove.

Phytoplankton

Phytoplankton samples were collected along the New Jersey coast, in Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook Bay, Barnegat Bay, and Great Bay on July 31 and August 6. Results for July 31 were not available for last week's report. 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:

Sampling Conducted on July 31:

Raritan/Sandy Hook Bay Area

The waters of Raritan Bay were generally clear with several different algal species found. The dominant species was *Thalassiosira nordenskioldii* Cleve, at 960 cells/ml. This species can occur in solitary fashion but typically occurs united in chains. Also found was *Navicula transitans* Cleve, *Cylindrotheca closterium*, *Amphidinium spp.* and *Skeletonema costatum*. No toxic species were detected.

Sandy Hook Bay waters were generally clear with several different algal species found. Species present include *Skeletonema costatum*, *Prorocentrum micans* Ehrenberg, *Cylindrotheca closterium*, and *Consinodiscus spp.*. No toxic species were detected.

New Jersey Coastal Area

The coastal waters near Long Branch were generally clear with three different species found, *Thalassiosira nordenskioldii* Cleve, *Skeletonema costatum* (Greville) Cleve, and *Cerataulina pelagica* (Cleve) Hendey. No toxic species were detected.

The coastal waters near Manasquan were generally clear with one species detected. *Thalassiosira nordenskiöldii* Cleve was found in extremely sparse concentrations. No toxic species were detected.

Waters off Ship Bottom were generally clear with *Gyrodinium undulans* Hulbert the only species detected. It appeared in sparse concentrations. No toxic species were discovered.

A sample was not collected off Ocean City due to inclement weather.

Barnegat Bay Area

Waters near Mantoloking contained extremely heavy amounts of detritus. The dominant species was *Cylindrotheca closterium*, a solitary species. It was present at a concentration of 1,140 cells/ml. No toxic species were detected.

The Barnegat Inlet station contained mild concentrations of detritus. The dominant species was *Cylindrotheca closterium*, which was detected in sparse concentrations. No toxic species were detected.

Manahawkin Bay contained sparse algal concentrations. Species detected include *Cylindrotheca closterium*, *Navicula spp.*, and *Lycmophora abbreviata*. No toxic species were detected.

Waters near Beach Haven contained sparse algal concentrations. Species present include *Chaetoceros decipiens* Cleve, *Navicula spp.*, and *Cylindrotheca closterium*.

Tuckerton area waters contained a mild amount of detritus. Species detected include *Navicula transitans* Cleve and *Eucampia zodiacus* Ehrenberg. No toxic species were detected.

Great Bay

Algal concentrations were sparse with a minor amount of detritus. Species detected include *Navicula spp.* and *Cylindrotheca closterium*. No toxic species were detected.

Great Egg Harbor and Delaware Bay/Capeshore Area

These samples were not collected due to inclement weather.

Sampling conducted on August 6:

Raritan/Sandy Hook Bay Area

The waters of Raritan Bay were clear with two different algal species found. The dominant species was *Thalassiosira nordenskiöldii* Cleve, at 1,260 cells/mL. This species can occur in solitary fashion but typically occurs united in chains. Also found was *Skeletonema costatum*.

No toxic species were discovered.

Sandy Hook Bay waters were clear with sparse algal concentrations. Species present include *Thalassiosira nordenskiöldii* Cleve and *Nitzschia spp.*. No toxic species were detected.

New Jersey Coastal Area

The coastal waters near Long Branch were found to be clear. This station also contained sparse algal concentrations. *Thalassiosira nordenskiöldii* Cleve was the most dominant, with a just a few individuals found. No toxic species were detected.

The coastal waters near Manasquan were clear with two species detected: *Gyrodinium undulans* Hulbert and *Gyrodinium spirale*. No toxic species were detected.

Waters off Ship Bottom and Ocean City were clear with extremely sparse algal concentrations. No toxic species were discovered.

Barnegat Bay Area

The northern Barnegat Bay stations contained extremely sparse algal concentrations. The dominant species was *Cylindrotheca closterium*, a solitary species. No toxic species were detected.

Manahawkin Bay contained heavy amounts of detritus. Several species were detected, including: *Cylindrotheca closterium*, *Navicula spp.*, and *Nitzschia spp.*. No toxic species were detected.

The southern Barnegat Bay stations contained extremely sparse algal concentrations. Species present include *Thalassiosira nordenskiöldii* Cleve, and *Navicula spp.*

Great Bay

Algal concentrations were extremely sparse with generally clear waters. No toxic species were detected.

Great Egg Harbor

Algal concentrations were extremely sparse with clear waters. The dominant species was *Cylindrotheca closterium*. No toxic species were discovered.

Delaware Bay/Capeshore Area

Waters near station were clear with several different species detected. *Asterionellopsis glacialis*, *Thalassionema nitzschioides*, and *Skeletonema costatum* were found. No toxic species were detected.

Waters of the Capeshore Area contained moderate amounts of debris. Several species, including

Skeletonema costatum, *Navicula spp.*, *Cylindrotheca closterium*, and *Consinodiscus spp.*, were found. No toxic species were found.