

**The State of the Estuary: Looking Back / Moving Forward
Fostering New Collaborations for the Future**

A Summit Celebrating the 30 Year Anniversary of the
NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program (NY-NJ HEP) and
the Hudson River Estuary Program of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
as well as the 35th Anniversary of its Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve

May 23rd, 2017
Vanderbilt Hall
New York University School of Law

Agenda

8:30 AM - Registration and Breakfast

9:00 AM - Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Dennis Suszkowski , Science Director, Hudson River Foundation & Chair of the NYSDEC's Hudson River Estuary Management Advisory Committee and Chair of the Science and Technical Committee of the NY-NJ HEP
- Dominic Brewer, Dean, Steinhardt School of Culture Education and Human Development at NYU (invited)

9:15 AM – Presenting the Draft NY-NJ HEP Action Agenda

- Robert Pirani, Program Director, NY-NJ HEP

9:30 AM Session 1 - Moving Forward on Public Access and Education: How can we improve access, programming, and stewardship, especially in higher need communities?

Related NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program Target: : “Access is improved for fishing, swimming, boating, and wildlife-dependent recreation on tidal waters for all, using principles of universal design and storm resilience, especially in under-served communities.”

Moderator: Mary Leou, NYU Wallerstein Collaborative for Urban Environmental Education.

- Mitchell Silver, Commissioner, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (invited)
- Marcy DePina, Program Director, Newark Riverfront Revival
- Steve Rosenberg, Senior Vice President, Scenic Hudson

10:15 AM Session 2 - Moving Forward on Habitat Conservation and Restoration: How do we achieve success in a changing world?

Related NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program Targets: “The quantity and quality of tidal wetlands, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) beds, and natural or nature-based shorelines are increased through conservation and restoration to foster a healthy ecosystem that is resilient to change.” and “Habitats needed to support American shad, river herring, striped bass, black bass, American eel, blue crab, and

sturgeon populations during critical life stages and seasons are identified, sustained, and, where possible, restored. “

Moderator: Sasha Spector, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

- Betsy Blair, Regional Marine Habitat Manager, and Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve Manager, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- Lisa Baron, Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers and HEP Restoration Work Group Chair
- Stuart Findlay, Aquatic Ecologist, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

11:00 Session 3 - Moving Forward on Water Quality: How do we accelerate creation, adoption and implementation of water quality improvements?

Related Hudson River Estuary Program Target: “Water quality in the estuary, its tributaries and watershed is maintained and improved to support municipal drinking water supplies, swimming and other types of water-based recreation, as well as aquatic life.”

Moderator: Javier Laureano, Director, Clean Water Division, U.S. EPA Region 2

- Dawn Zimmer, Mayor of City of Hoboken (invited)
- Dan Kennedy, Assistant Commissioner, NJ Department of Environmental Protection
- Jim Tierney, Deputy Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- Angela Licata, Deputy Commissioner of Sustainability, NYC Department of Environmental Protection

12:00 Lunch and Networking

12:45 Leadership Perspectives on Collaboration: How do partnerships enable us to tackle the current needs and future opportunities for our estuary?

Moderator: Chris Daggett, Chair, NY-NJ HEP Policy Group and Hudson River Foundation Board Member

- Catherine McCabe, Acting Regional Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency
- Basil Seggos, Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (invited)
- Bob Martin, Commissioner, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (invited)

1:45 Celebrating 30 years of the Hudson River Estuary Program, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program, & 35th anniversary of the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve

- Fran Dunwell, Coordinator, NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary

2:00 A Celebration of Partnerships – Award Ceremony

We will recognize some of the key partners that have been instrumental in the success of the estuary programs over the past 30 years.

2:40 Closing Remarks

- Rob Pirani and Fran Dunwell, Estuary Program Directors

2:45 PM Adjourn