

**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 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve*

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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, & 35<sup>th</sup> 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**