

Environmental Monitoring Plan 2018

Environmental Monitoring in the New York – New Jersey Harbor Estuary

Environmental monitoring is critical for tracking the health of the estuary, and the progress and effectiveness of management actions. 51 indicators, selected by scientific and technical experts convened by the New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program (HEP), can help us understand and document progress towards improvements in water quality, habitat, public access, maritime use, and community engagement.

To help coordinate these monitoring efforts, improve data analysis, and make data available, HEP has produced an Environmental Monitoring Plan. The Environmental Monitoring Plan also identifies priorities for future environmental monitoring, including gaps in currently available data. There are three tools: an interactive map, a companion digital storymap, and a monitoring recommendations report. All of the resources outlined below are accessible by visiting www.hudsonriver.org/article/environmental-monitoring-plan.

NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SITES

Goal

- Water Quality
- Habitat and Ecological Health
- Port and Maritime
- Public Access
- Community Engagement

Monitoring Status

- Active
- Continuous
- Non-Active

Indicator Category:

Organization Name:

Organization Name	NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Goal Addressed	Habitat and Ecological Health
Indicator Category	Riparian
Indicators	Stream Health Bioassessment
Program Name	Rotating Integrating Basin Studies
Program Objective	Assessment of stream health
Monitoring Status	Active
Quality Assurance Protocol	QAPP 2018
Spatial Extent	Each major watershed in NY
Temporal Extent	Initiated 1972, ongoing
Sampling Frequency	Every 5 years, varies
Reference	https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/23847.html
Contact	Brian Duffy, DOWinformation@dec.ny.gov; Alene Onion, wave@dec.ny.gov

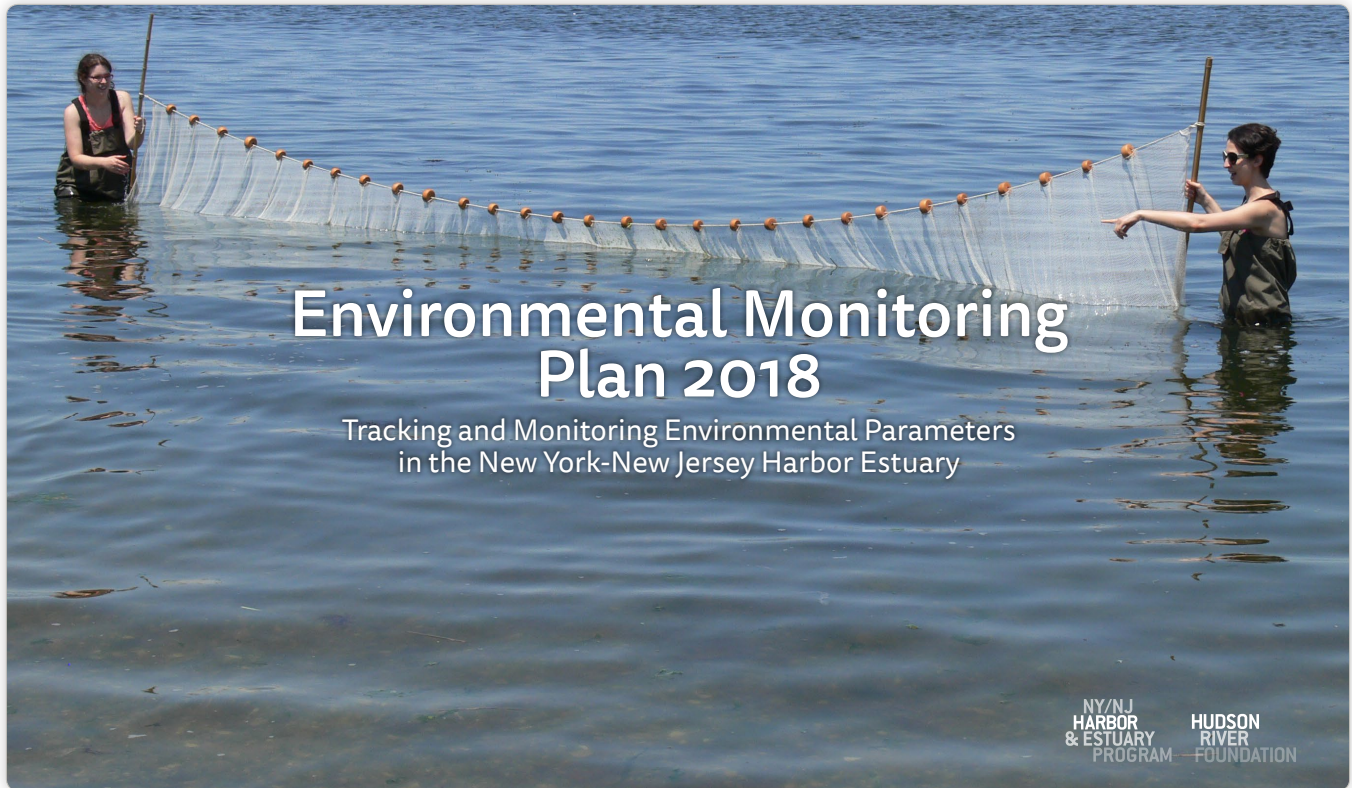
About the Map | Download the Program Database

Interactive Map

The interactive map identifies past and current environmental monitoring efforts by HEP and its partners, including public agencies, utilities, universities, non-profits, and local community groups. The geographic scope extends to the watersheds of the Hudson Raritan Estuary with a northern boundary of the Troy Dam and southern boundary of Sandy Hook-Rockaway Point transect. The map allows users to locate monitoring sites for 29 environmental indicators and access downloadable data from specific programs. Other monitoring program information accessible on the map includes the agencies/organizations conducting the monitoring; locations and geographical distribution of the monitoring stations or sites; frequency and duration of monitoring; and program objectives. A complete catalog of monitoring programs is also downloadable from the map. The catalog includes statewide or regional programs not included on the map, monitoring programs where data may not be publically accessible, and relevant publications.

Environmental Monitoring Plan Storymap

The storymap illustrates current and past monitoring efforts across the Hudson Raritan Estuary, organized by HEP's five goals: water quality, habitat and ecological health, port and maritime, public access and stewardship, and community engagement. Each section explores how the relevant indicators provide critical insight as to the quality of the estuary and progress towards HEP's five goals. It also indicates how these current efforts could be expanded or otherwise improved in the future.



Monitoring Recommendations

The monitoring recommendations report prioritizes current and prospective monitoring programs and identifies critical gaps in data. These recommendations seek to sustain and/or start new monitoring efforts that will enable HEP and its partners to undertake the short-term and long-term trend analyses portrayed in the State of the Estuary report (www.hudsonriver.org/NYNJHEPStateoftheEstuary.pdf) or otherwise address the 40 actions in the 2017-2022 Action Agenda (www.hudsonriver.org/NYNJHEPActionAgenda.pdf). The report also suggests funding streams that could help support the continuation or new monitoring activities to achieve the actions outlined in the Action Agenda.

About the NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program

The New York - New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program (HEP) helps bring together diverse stakeholders including scientists, citizens, and policymakers to realize the benefits of the fishable and swimmable waters called for by the Clean Water Act. HEP was created in 1988 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the request of the governors of New York and New Jersey. The Hudson River Foundation manages the Program and provides the non-federal match to funds received from the EPA under the Clean Water Act.

Working with its many partners, HEP is working to reach critical water quality, habitat, maritime, public access, and community engagement goals. 40 specific actions have been identified in the 2017-2022 Action Agenda. Our State of the Estuary 2018 compiles the best available data to illuminate long-term and short-term trends as to the health of the Estuary. The Environmental Monitoring Plan will help ensure that HEP and its many partners have the data needed to understand estuarine health and our progress towards fishable and swimmable waters.

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