

Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

Monthly Highlights

July, 2008

Issue Priorities:

Connect New Yorkers to Nature

Chestnut Ridge Park Pond Fishing Clinic - A total of 114 registered youth anglers and their parents enjoyed a free fishing clinic on Saturday, June 28, at Chestnut Ridge Park Pond, near Orchard Park, NY. The event fell on the DEC designated free fishing weekend, so no license was required to fish. The fishing clinic was cooperatively coordinated by the DEC and Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs (ECFSC). This free family fishing event offered youth anglers an opportunity to spend time outdoors while learning and practicing some basic fishing skills. The clinic featured several hands-on learning stations where participants gained some first hand experience in fish identification, pond life, knot tying, casting and plastic baits. Attendees also enjoyed a presentation by Environmental Conservation Officer Mark Mazurkiewicz. Throughout the event, anglers caught hundreds of fish from this very productive 12-acre pond. Common catches included largemouth bass, yellow perch, bluegill, pumpkinseed and brown bullhead. The family fishing day concluded with a free hot dog lunch provided by Sahlens Meat Packing and a prize giveaway. Ninety-six youth participants remained at the conclusion and each received an excellent rod and reel combo which was generously supplied by the Erie County Fish Advisory Board. In addition, all youth anglers received a fishing education packet which contained copies of the Getting Started booklet, Freshwater Sportfish of New York brochure, Erie-Niagara Hot Spot map and an I Fish NY sticker. DEC and ECFSC offers special thanks to the 29 volunteers who staffed the event and to the East Aurora Boys and Girls Club, East Aurora Fish and Game, WNY Jr. Bassmasters, Erie County Parks, Erie County Fish Advisory Board, Sahlens Meat Packing and Dave Barus of ECFSC.

Bureau of Fisheries

**Michael Todd &
Michael Wilkinson**

(716) 851-7010

Promote a Toxic Free Future

Nothing to report.

Safeguard New York's Unique Natural Assets

"DEC will strive to conserve and restore watersheds; apply state-of-the-art management techniques including ecosystem-based management; ensure sufficient water management infrastructure; promote sound land use and planning; add unique and valuable ecosystems to the Forest Preserve; and protect endangered species, biodiversity, and unique ecosystems."

Salmon River Natural Resource Assessment Finalized - The purpose of a Natural Resources Assessment is to compile available data to describe the current condition of natural resources within a watershed, identify goals, objectives and tools for sustainably managing these resources, and determine necessary actions required for attaining those resource management goals. The Salmon River Natural Resources Assessment provides the blueprint to focus conservation programs where they can be the most effective in attaining watershed-based goals for natural resource conservation. The Salmon River watershed was chosen because it is in excellent condition, ecologically speaking; has a variety of large landowners whose property management decisions can benefit extensive portions of the system; has a large number of partners in place to implement the assessment; and is in a region where implementation funds can be procured. The planning process began in 2003 via US Fish and Wildlife Service grant funds, and involved staff from federal, state and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and academia. This truly collaborative effort has produced an extremely useful strategy for conserving natural resources in the Salmon River Watershed. Print copies and CDs will be available in August or September; until then, the document can be found on the Tug Hill Commission's website:

<http://www.tughill.org>

Bureau of Habitat

Tracey Tomajer

(518) 402-8877

Recent Publication Documents Changes in the Hudson River Marsh Bird Community - A recent publication in the Journal of Coastal Research highlights the findings of a 2004/2005 marsh breeding bird study conducted by DEC, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, and HDR, Inc. This study had three main objectives: 1) document the bird species breeding in four Hudson River tidal marshes (Iona Island Marsh, Constitution Marsh, Tivoli North Bay, and Stockport Flats); 2) determine how the marsh-breeding populations have changed since Bryan Swift's 1986/1987 study; and 3) determine the spatial distribution of marsh-nesting species in relation to measurable habitat variables within marshes. Results of the study indicate that bird species diversity has changed little at Tivoli North Bay and Stockport Flats. However, bird species diversity decreased significantly at Iona Island and Constitution Marshes corresponding to an increase in the density of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). At Iona Island Marsh, this shift in the avian community to almost entirely Red-winged Blackbirds coincided with a shift of the plant community dominance from narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) in 1986/1987 to common reed (*Phragmites australis*) in 2004/2005. In addition, very few bird nests were found at Iona Island during the course of the study (five total). **Citation:** Alan W. Wells, William C. Nieder, Bryan L. Swift, Kelli A. O'Connor, Carol A. Weiss. 2008. Temporal changes in the breeding bird community at four Hudson River tidal marshes. *Journal of Coastal Research*. SI55:221-235.

For a copy of the paper go to:

<http://www.bioone.org/archive/1551-5036/55/sp1/pdf/i1551-5036-55-sp1-221.pdf>

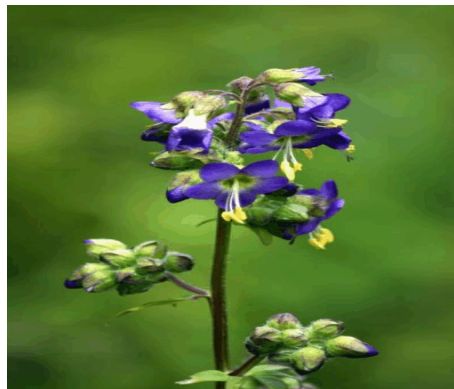
Bureau of Habitat

Chuck Nieder or Bryan Swift

*(518) 402-
9216/8866*

New York Natural Heritage Program Publishes 2008 New York Rare Plant Status Report -

In June 2008, the New York Natural Heritage Program published its annual status list of New York rare plants. Four species that appeared on the June 2007 list have been removed: two because more populations have been found, and two because they were found to be part of a larger, more common species or were erroneously reported from the state. Six species were added to the rare list because they were newly discovered in the state during fieldwork or historical specimens were found in herbarium collections. Four species had name changes. In total, there are 570 rare plants in New York. There are 447 plants that are considered vulnerable to extirpation and 123 that are historical or extirpated.



Jacob's-Ladder

Bureau of Habitat

Steve Young

(518) 402-8951

Actions Taken to Address White Nose Syndrome in Bats - White Nose Syndrome (WNS) is an as yet unidentified mortality source for bats, including the Federally and State listed Indiana bat, that is characterized by a white fungus on the nose or other exposed tissues of some, but clearly not all, affected animals. A three-day White Nose Syndrome Workshop was held June 9-11, 2008 in Albany, New York to further the process of coordinating WNS response among the participating entities. Federal, State, NGO and university-based bat managers and researchers working on WNS and affected species shared current information on possible causes, the extent of the distribution of the disease, and suggestions for moving forward to identify the cause of WNS. Several hypotheses were identified, task groups were assigned, and the creation of a Steering Committee was recommended as the best means of organizing the effort and maintaining communication among the various partners involved. A series of conference calls has been held through July to address the details of the actions recommended at the June meeting. DEC staff have been critical to this effort. DEC employees helped organize and implement the June meeting, have assisted in obtaining crucial samples to participating researchers and laboratories, continue to coordinate with the research and regulatory communities on approaches to determine the cause of WNS and have initiated summer acoustic monitoring surveys to assess relative population trends in bats in New York.

Bureau of Wildlife

Alan Hicks

(518) 402-8854

Spruce Grouse Research - The Spruce Grouse is endangered and declining in New York State. Recent studies have indicated that the species occupies mid-successional spruce-tamarack forests and that populations may be declining due to natural succession. Therefore, sound management of the species may include timber harvesting. To test this hypothesis, Region 6 staff conducted surveys on private property currently occupied by Spruce Grouse that is slated for timber harvesting this winter. Intensive surveys using playback recordings and scat searches were conducted to document the species use of the area, which will be necessary for making

comparisons of post-harvest grouse use. In addition, quantitative evaluations of ground, herb and shrub cover were conducted to establish a baseline for future comparisons. A separate control site was also selected for intensive surveys and habitat evaluation. Wildlife Biologist Angelena M. Ross has begun to delineate: (1) stands where timber harvesting could potentially negatively affect the population and likely should not occur; and (2) stands that may be too old to support the species and where timber harvesting may potentially occur without adverse effects to the species. Multiple harvesting techniques will be exercised for experimental purposes and are currently being developed.

Bureau of Wildlife

Angelena Ross

(315) 785-2261

Preparation for Upcoming Baseline Mussel Surveys - Region 8 Diversity Biologists attended a week-long freshwater mussel identification and sampling techniques course in preparation for upcoming Baseline Mussel Surveys of the Southeast and Southwest Lake Ontario Basins. In addition, Division staff interacted with Pennsylvania DEP, DOT, and Fish and Boat, as well as USFWS and was able to glean a great deal from their extensive experience in mussel surveying and mussel-related bridge construction issues. It was an extremely valuable experience and staff are anticipating starting this survey.

Bureau of Wildlife

Mike Wasilco

(585) 226-5460

Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP), A Look after 10 years - The DMA Program was established in 1998 to help landowners in controlling deer damage to agriculture and forests, and to foster sound deer management programs on private land. Implementation of the program was intended to ensure public access for deer hunting was not harmed. We conducted a survey of all 2007 Region 6 DMAP participants (385) to learn more about their experience with the program, and to assess access and other aspects of the program. Over 80% responded through mail, telephone or email options. Of those who returned the survey, 80% were in the program for four years or more. Eighty-four percent were agricultural producers. Most participants in Region 6 hold large acreage, with 56% over 250 acres. Over half said their damage levels have stayed the same since enrolling in DMAP, while over one third indicated damage had declined. Only 11% indicated damage has worsened. DMAP participants were also asked about access to their land for deer hunting. In total, 99% said that they allow equal or greater numbers of hunters than before enrolling in DMAP. One area where improvement might be made is in venison donation efforts. Twenty-five percent of respondents indicated that deer have been donated to charity in the past, but many did not know how often or if annually.

Venison donation information will be included in 2008 DMAP permits to encourage further charitable use of deer.



Bureau of Wildlife

*Jim Farquhar(315)
793-2261*

Fish population sampling on Mansfield Creek - On July 15-17 DEC Fisheries staff, assisted by angler volunteers, sampled trout populations at six sites on Mansfield Creek. The stream is located

in north-central Cattaraugus County. The lower 2.5 miles of the stream are stocked each spring with yearling and two year-old brown trout, while the upper six miles are managed as a wild trout fishery for brown trout and rainbow trout. Wild rainbow trout were introduced to Mansfield Creek by DEC in 1995-1997. They have been successfully reproducing since then. Wild trout abundances varied greatly in our sampling with the highest numbers found in the upper sites and low abundances at the lower sites in the stocked section. This was expected as summer water temperatures often are above optimum limits for wild trout at the lower two sites. The average number of wild brown trout per mile for all sites was 180/mile, while for wild rainbow trout it was 291/mile. This represents a substantial drop in numbers for wild brown trout from the last sampling (416/Mile in 2003), and a substantial increase for wild rainbow trout (190/mile in 2003). In each year of sampling since 1995 (1997, 1998, 1999, 2003 and 2008), rainbow trout abundances have increased, while brown trout abundance has varied greatly. The largest brown trout captured in this year's survey included a 17" fish in the lower section and a 16" fish in the upper section. A 12.5" rainbow trout was captured in the upper section. At the two sites done in the stocked section, only three hatchery yearling trout were captured, indicating either a very high creel rate, or more likely poor survival due to high water temperatures. Trout habitat at all the stocking sections had changed substantially in the five years since the prior sampling due to flooding and unstable substrates; however, the overall quantity of habitat was similar between years. The suspected reason for the reduced numbers of wild salmonids during this year's survey is water flow conditions that could have impacted brown trout during critical life stages.

Bureau of Fisheries

Scott Cornett

(716) 372-0645

Walleye Culture and VHSV Research - In cooperation with Cornell University, the Oneida Fish Cultural Station, and the Lake Ontario Unit, several efforts were made in spring 2008 to determine the potential impacts of VHSV on NYSDEC walleye culture operations. Oneida Lake walleye brood stock were transported to Cornell, and live VHSV virus was introduced during the egg fertilization process. Fertilized eggs were then processed with either tannic acid (400 ppm) or Fuller's Earth to counteract adhesiveness. Separate egg lots were either left untreated or treated with 50 ppm iodophore solution during the one-hour egg hardening process. Embryos from all treatments were incubated and tested for VHSV via cell culture and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). All untreated (no iodophore) egg lots tested cell culture positive for VHSV at days 0, 1, 10, and 14, indicating viability of the virus and infection of eggs. All treated eggs tested cell culture negative for VHSV.

Experiments were also continued to determine if walleye fingerlings incubated and/or pond-reared in VHSV positive water would "acquire" VHSV. Lake Ontario brood stock (Mud Creek) tested VHSV cell culture negative in spring 2008, and fertilized eggs treated with 50 ppm iodophore solution were incubated at Cape Vincent (St. Lawrence River water, VHSV "positive") and Ogdensburg (Oswegatchie River water, presumed VHSV negative). Six, one-acre hatchery ponds at the Cape Vincent Fisheries Station and three ponds at the former NYS Ogdensburg hatchery were filled with St. Lawrence River water, and approximately 45,000 walleye fry/acre were stocked into individual ponds. Fingerlings from each pond were tested for VHSV

approximately 30 days after stocking into the ponds; all tested VHSV cell culture negative.

Walleye eggs from the Mud Bay brood stock experienced extremely high mortality at both Cape Vincent and Ogdensburg in 2008 (approx. 65%). In addition, pond fingerling production was very poor, averaging approximately 10% survival of stocked fry. Efforts in 2009 will evaluate walleye egg thiamine levels from several brood stock sources, as well as the potential benefits of egg/fry thiamine treatments.

Bureau of Fisheries

Steve LaPan

315-654-2147

Lake trout fisheries restored in two lakes - Rollins Pond (436 acres) and Lake Kushaqua (377 acres) were, historically, lake trout waters. Both lakes are located in Franklin County and are accessible through popular DEC campgrounds. Adirondack strain lake trout have been stocked in both lakes since 1996. Survey work this July determined that quality lake trout fisheries have been restored to both waters.

Lake trout are believed to be native in Rollins Pond, but the population was extirpated when surveyed in 1929. Lake trout were stocked until 1958 when low dissolved oxygen levels were found in the hypolimnion and lake trout could not be caught. Sampling in the 1980's found improved water quality and that rainbow smelt had become established. Smelt are a desirable forage base for lake trout. Experimental stocking policies for landlocked salmon and lake trout began in 1996. A 2001 survey established that salmon were surviving in the lake. This July, in conjunction with netting being done for warmwater species to document mercury levels within the ecosystem, the deeper waters of Rollins Pond were netted for lake trout. A dozen lake trout ranging from 7 to 25 inches were caught, and all the lake trout were in excellent condition. Rainbow smelt were also common in the nets. Dissolved oxygen levels were adequate for lake trout down to 55 feet, but were low from 55 to 65 feet. Stocking should be continued to sustain this population. Rollins Pond also proved to have an excellent smallmouth bass fishery with most bass ranging from 14-18 inches in length. Other species caught were yellow perch, brown bullhead and northern pike.

Lake Kushaqua is an impoundment on the North Branch Saranac River, but it was stocked historically with lake trout from the 1920's through the 1950's when the stockings were discontinued. An experimental lake trout stocking policy was initiated in 1996. In the recent netting, a total of 26 lake trout ranging from 6-26 inches were captured. As in Rollins Pond, all were in excellent condition. Rainbow smelt were found in the stomachs of lake trout that could not be released. Shallow net sets revealed that yellow perch are still abundant in the lake. Also present are rock bass, white sucker, longnose sucker, largemouth bass and northern pike.

Bureau of Fisheries

Rich Preall

518-897-1333

Peconic River Ludwigia Eradication almost complete - The Region 1 Fisheries Unit in cooperation with the Peconic Estuary Program, the Freshwater Anglers of Long Island, Peconic Lake Estates Civic Organization, the Nature Conservancy and the Long Island Bassmasters completed a second weekend of hand removal of the floating primrose willow (*Ludwigia peplodes*) from the Peconic River on July 12 and 13. Unlike 2006 when 60 cubic yards of

Ludwigia were removed in two days or 2007 when 40 cubic yards were removed in four days, this year three days of concerted effort covering the river from Peconic Lake down to the upper limit of tidewater produced only six cubic yards of Ludwigia. Small infestations of Ludwigia remain, but they can be easily removed by hand. The interns hired by the Peconic Estuary Program with funding from the DEC Aquatic Invasive Species Eradication Grant, will continue mapping and removing Ludwigia throughout the summer. They are also preparing a public information sign asking boaters on the river to remove Ludwigia when they see it and deposit it in DEC's Aquatic Invasive Species Drop Boxes which are located at the DEC Fishing Access Sites on the river.

Bureau of Fisheries

Chart Guthrie

(631) 444-0281

Long Island Sound Study Update - *Sound Health*, the report on the status and trends in the health of Long Island Sound (LIS), was circulated in newspapers in New York and Connecticut on July 27, appearing in *Newsday* and *The Journal News in NY*. It is designed as an informational "report card" for the general public on selected indicators in LIS. Indicators examined included hypoxia, bathing beach water quality, living marine resources, and habitat change. As well as evaluating the overall progress in restoring LIS, this particular issue also included articles focused specifically on the affects of climate change in our "Urban Sea."

Sound Health is a product of the Long Island Sound Study (LISS), a joint venture between the US Environmental Protection Agency and the states of New York and Connecticut, as well as other local and public partners to maintain and restore the health of the LIS ecosystem, restore coastal habitats, and increase public awareness. It is produced every two years by the LISS and is distributed as a newspaper insert in publications that serve the LIS watershed area in NY and CT. The publication is available for download on the LISS website (www.longislandsoundstudy.net). Alternatively, feel free to contact Sarah Deonarine in the Bureau of Marine Resources for print copies.

Bureau of Marine Resources

Sarah Deonarine

(631) 444-0467

Marine Resources Unveils Peconic Shellfish Brochure -NYSDEC's Bureau of Marine Resources teamed up with the Long Island Chapter of the Nature Conservancy in an effort to educate communities on the biological, ecological and social importance of shellfish and shellfish restoration. Once widely known for its thriving shellfishing industry, the Peconic Estuary has experienced severe shellfish and shellfish habitat declines. The outreach brochure identifies current East End restoration initiatives and outlines actions citizens can take to help protect and restore the shellfish of the Peconics. "The Importance of Shellfish in the Peconic Estuary" will be distributed mainly within the Peconic watershed and is available on the Peconic Estuary Program website at: <http://www.peconicestuary.org/SHELLFISHBROCHURE.pdf> .

Bureau of Marine Resources

Laura Stephenson

(631) 444-0871

Shad Recovery - On July 31, NYS DEC Bureau of Marine Resources staff attended a Hudson River Shad Recovery Workshop. Attendees included Karen Chytalo of Marine Habitat Protection; Byron Young, retired Finfish and Crustaceans Section Head; Carol Hoffman of the

Anadromous Fish Unit; Andrew Kahnle and Kathy Hattala of the Hudson River Fisheries Unit; and Frances Dunwell of the Hudson River Estuary Program. Andrew Kahnle and Kathy Hattala gave presentations of the status of American shad in the Hudson River, and an overview of the proposed New York State Shad Recovery Plan. Meeting members then reviewed and discussed proposals to characterize and reduce ocean bycatch, to restore critical spawning and nursery habitats, to develop ecosystem-based studies of competition and predation, and to develop ecosystem-based models. The workshop was held at the Hudson River Foundation in New York City, and brought together members of academia, New York and other state conservation departments and private conservation groups in an effort to develop an ecosystem-based approach for recovery of a historically important anadromous fish species.

Bureau of Marine Resources

Carol Hoffman

(631) 444-0476

Commercial Fisheries Closed For Scup, Black Sea Bass - Following months of restrictive trip limits, New York's commercial quotas for scup and black sea bass were reached and the fisheries for these species were closed. This year's quotas are much lower than in previous years due to uncertainty over whether overfishing is occurring in the fisheries coastwide. The data available to do stock assessments for scup and black sea bass do not permit stock assessment scientists to develop reliable stock assessments that could be used to determine if the stocks are overfished or if overfishing is occurring. Annual catch limits for scup and black sea bass are currently set using the index of abundance provided by NOAA's Spring Trawl Survey as a proxy for the stock assessment. Both stocks of fish are on a rebuilding schedule that ends in 2010, much like summer flounder was until Congress extended the deadline to 2013. Low annual catch limits are seen as necessary in order to achieve the rebuilding targets, though it's not certain how we'll actually know if the targets are achieved given the uncertainty over the stock assessments. The quotas for next year are likely to be the same or lower, creating hardship for NY commercial fishermen.

Meanwhile, we were successful in restoring over 40,000 pounds of scup quota to NY's allocation following an appeal to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. The 40,000 pounds was mistakenly assigned to NY's summer period quota, but an investigation by NMFS revealed the error.

Bureau of Marine Resources

Stephen W. Heins

(631) 444-0436

Shellfish Transplant Program in Raritan Bay and QPX Monitoring - The Shellfish Transplant Program in Raritan Bay which is administered by the Shellfish Management Unit has reached the midpoint of another productive season. As of July 31, a total of 11,905 bushels of hard clams with a dockside (wholesale) value of more than \$1 million was harvested and transplanted by commercial shellfishermen. Under this program, shellfish harvested from designated uncertified waters in Raritan Bay are transplanted to certified waters in Little Peconic Bay for bacterial cleansing and eventual marketing as a food product. Staff, working in collaboration with the Marine Animal Disease Laboratory at Stony Brook University, conducted hard clam disease monitoring in Raritan Bay and Great Kills Harbor for the parasitic hard clam disease known as Quahog Parasite Unknown (QPX) which involved the collection of up to 30 samples to date. The hard clam monitoring results indicate that QPX is still prevalent in parts of

Raritan Bay that preclude these areas from being acceptable for transplant purposes. Results from QPX monitoring conducted in May in Great Kills Harbor reported the finding of QPX at low prevalence, 3.6%, for the first time since the sampling program began in 2002. Due to the high density of clams and importance of this area for transplant harvest, staff will focus future monitoring efforts in this area in order to closely monitor any changes in QPX prevalence and distribution in Great Kills Harbor. The Shellfish Transplant Program will run through October 5.

Bureau of Marine Resources

Debra A. Barnes

(631) 444-0483

Invasive Species Identification Training at Wildlife Management Areas - A two-day training session was held on July 24 and 25 for summer interns who will be identifying and mapping invasive species in Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in Regions 4 and 5. The aim for next summer is to expand this effort to more regions. These interns will help identify where management efforts may be necessary. Interns were shown how to identify the invasive species, how to use a GPS/GIS system, and were given invasive plant identification guides. Despite a very wet and rainy start to the first day of training, they were shown terrestrial invasive species in a variety of habitats. Samples of aquatic invasive species were retrieved from heavily-infested waterways on the second day for interns to examine. A surprising discovery of swallow-wort in the Black Creek Marsh WMA on the first afternoon was an indication that this project is essential.

Bureau of Wildlife

M. J. del Puerto & Sandy Van Vranken

(518) 402-8910

Work for Environmental Justice

Kick-off meeting of the Environmental Justice Interagency Taskforce - Division staff participated in the kick-off meeting of the Environmental Justice Interagency Taskforce on July 9, 2008 sponsored by Governor Paterson's Office. Speakers included Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director of the United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset Park (UPROSE); Judith Enck, Deputy Secretary for the Environment; Lorraine Cortes-Vazquez, Secretary of State; and Lisa Garcia, DEC Chief Advocate for Environmental Justice and Equity. Comprising the task force are the following agencies: Division of Human Rights; Department of Environmental Conservation; Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation; Department of Labor; Department of Health; Department of State; Metropolitan Transit Authority; Empire State Development Corporation; Department of Transportation; Department of Agriculture and Markets; New York State Energy Research Development Authority; Department of Housing and Community Renewal; Department of Public Service; and the New York Port Authority.

The meeting focused on current environmental issues affecting minority and low-income communities across the State. Participants broke out into working groups which met to discuss land use and development, water issues, air quality, and food. The goal of these working groups is to develop recommendations for the pertinent agencies. The working groups will continue meeting monthly and the general group will meet again in October and December. This is an unprecedented effort for DEC and for New York likely to result in significant changes for the betterment of communities in need.

Combat Climate Change

Nothing to report.

Foster Green and Healthy Communities

“DEC’s job is to foster the green and healthy communities that we need for New York’s future.”

Restoration of Herrick Hollow Creek Under way: The final phase of remediation at the Richardson Hill Road Landfill site (Sidney, NY) is under way as Herrick Hollow Creek and its associated wetlands undergo restoration. Stream restoration was first attempted by the Amphenol Corporation in 2004, following the removal of PCB contaminated sediments from the upper stretch of the creek which included a series of beaver dams. However, original restoration efforts were unsuccessful because significant rainfall events and sheet flow from an incomplete landfill cap caused sudden and dramatic increases in stream flow, thereby eroding the newly created stream channel.



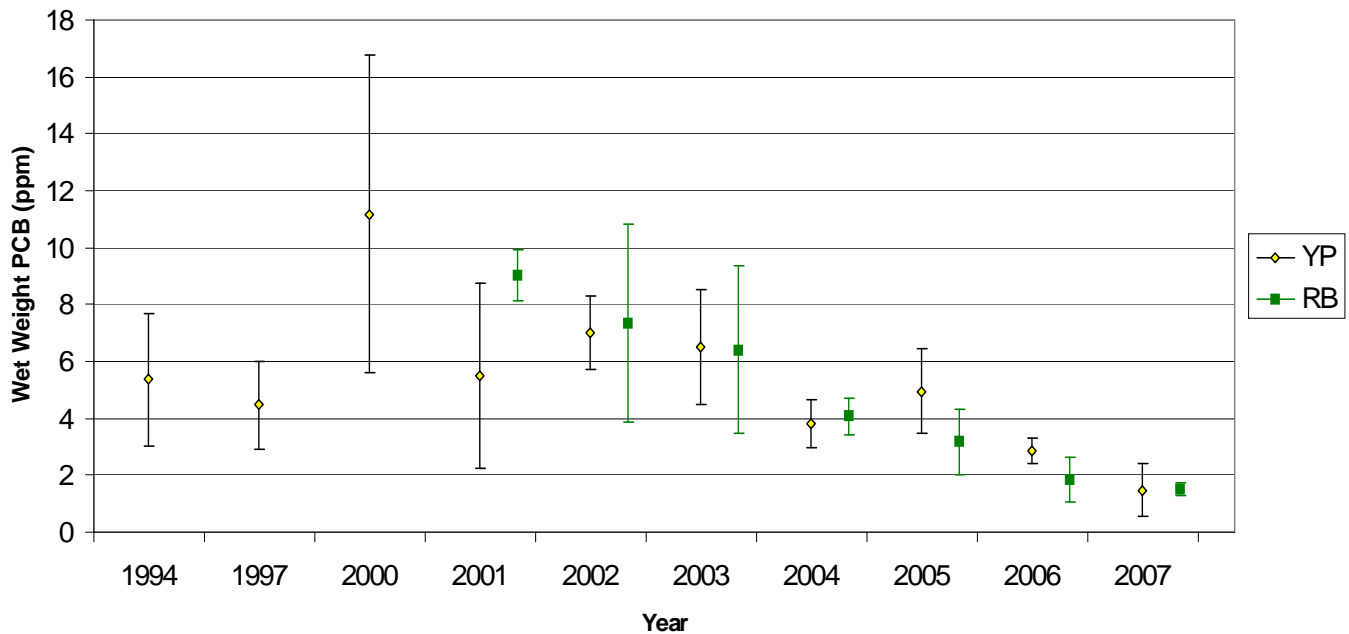
Capping of the landfill was subsequently completed in 2006 and the stream channel was stabilized using short-term in-stream structures. In 2007, Amphenol completed an extensive study of local hydrologic conditions and similar local streams (also called reference reaches) to develop a final restoration plan which was approved by EPA and DEC this spring. The restoration currently under way has been designed to recreate a naturally meandering stream that is hydrologically connected to its adjacent wetlands. Extensive stream and wetland revegetation will put the finishing touches on restoration early this fall.

Post Remediation Declines in Lake Champlain Fish PCB Concentrations Documented:

More than five years after the completion of remedial activities, fish taken from around Wilcox Dock in Plattsburgh are showing an encouraging decline in PCB concentrations. It is estimated that more than 20,000 pounds of PCBs were contained in the materials removed from Cumberland Bay during remediation, which included 195,000 cubic yards of sediment, wood and paper-processing sludge dredged from around the dock, and an additional 37,000 cubic yards of material removed from a nearby wetland and the near shore area. Annual fish sampling has taken place since the end of dredging, which started in April of 1999 and ended in October 2000. As shown in the graph, dramatic decreases in PCB concentrations have been seen to date in rock bass (RB) and yellow perch (YP) that were taken from adjacent to the dock. Biologist Michael Kane of the Environmental Monitoring Unit is collaborating with William Ports and Robert Edwards, both from the Division of Environmental Remediation, in preparing a case study using this valuable information obtained by DFWMR staff. This data is notable because it shows that dredging of contaminated sediment and other material from the lake had resulted in an a significant improvement in environmental conditions.

James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant SPDES Permit and 401 Water Quality Certification Issued - After a legislative hearing and long negotiations with the permittee, DEC staff issued a SPDES permit with conditions requiring Entergy Nuclear to minimize environmental impacts caused by the James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant located in Lycoming, NY. This facility uses over 600 million gallons of Lake Ontario water daily for condenser cooling and operation of the plant, impinging over 200,000 adult fish and entraining

**Average Wet Weight PCB Concentration
in Rock Bass and Yellow Perch at Wilcox Dock
with 95% Confidence Interval**



18,000,000 fish eggs and larvae annually. Over the five-year term of the new permit, Entergy is required to: 1) immediately install fish protective screens on the facility’s cooling water intake structure (CWIS) and return fish and debris collected off the screens to Lake Ontario via the existing thermal discharge tunnel; 2) study the feasibility of installing and operating a dedicated fish return system to reduce mortality of impinged fish; and 3) study the feasibility of extending the CWIS further offshore to reduce the entrainment of early life stages of fish. If the studies indicate the technologies are feasible, Entergy will be required to install the dedicated fish return by the end of the five-year permit term and to extend the CWIS further offshore during the next permit term.

Organizational Priorities:

Fair and Effective Enforcement

Nothing to report

Partnerships and the Public

Nothing to report

Workforce, Science and Technology

“To maintain the quality of this workforce, we must update our personnel and recruitment policies and facilitate staff access to state-of-the-art science and information technology through in-house training, investment in information management, and partnerships with universities, other state agencies and professional organizations.”

New York’s BTA Program Showcased at EPA’s Permit Writer’s Workshop - Staff of the Steam Electric Unit participated in a national workshop sponsored by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to explore program needs, evaluate consistency, and share innovative solutions on how states and EPA implement the requirements of the Clean Water Act. EPA recognizes New York as a leader in its implementation of Section 316(b) of the Clean Water Act, which requires steam electric and other industrial facilities that use water from lakes, estuaries, and rivers for cooling to employ the best technology (BTA) available to minimize adverse environmental impacts to these aquatic systems. Biologist Colleen Kimble gave a presentation to explain New York’s permitting process through the State Pollution Discharge Elimination System program (SPDES) focusing on procedures for determining BTA issues related to permit issuance and successes at protecting aquatic resources. Representatives from 27 States and all 10 EPA regions attended this workshop; only New York has such a well developed and well articulated program for administering 316(b).

Bureau of Habitat

Colleen Kimble

(518) 402-8981

Sustainability of DEC’s Own Operations

Nothing to report