

Targets and Goals of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

Goal 1 - Fishing and Swimming: All of the Harbor waters will meet the Fishable/Swimmable goal of the Clean Water Act.

Goal 1A: All of the Harbor waters will meet the Fishable/Swimmable goal for **Pathogens**.

Target 1: Increase the area of the Harbor where the geometric mean values achieve the 200 MPN/100ml criteria for fecal coliform. The 206.5 out of 207.1 square miles currently meeting this criterion will be maintained through 2009, and will be increased to 207.1 square miles by 2022.

Target 2: Increase the area of the Harbor where 90% of the annual values achieve the 400 MPN/100ml criteria for fecal coliform. The current conditions of 160.8 out of 207.1 square miles meeting this criterion will be increased to 166.5 square miles by 2009, and to 207.1 square miles by 2022.

Target 3: Increase the area of the Harbor where the annual values achieve the 35 MPN/100ml criteria for Enterococci. Current areas achieving this criterion will be determined by 2004, and targeted improvements for 2009 and 2022 will be determined at that time.

Goal 1B: All of the Harbor waters and biota will meet the Fishable/Swimmable goal for **Toxics**.

Target 4: By 2009, increase the area of harbor surface sediments that are below the ERM values, from the 1993/94 baseline of 50 percent, to target levels established in 2005.

Target 5: By 2009, levels of PCBs in striped bass and other fish in the Harbor will not exceed the FDA guideline of 2ppm, and progress will continue to be made to decrease concentrations even further to protect human health.

Goal 1C: All of the Harbor waters will be Fishable/Swimmable in terms of **Nutrients and Oxygen levels**.

Target 6: Increase the area of the Harbor achieving the dissolved oxygen level of never less than 4.8 mg/l. The 29.8 out of 207.1 square miles currently achieving these levels will be increased to 41.2 square miles by 2009, and will approach 59.2 square miles by 2022.

Target 7: Increase the area of the Harbor achieving the dissolved oxygen level of never less than 2.3 mg/l. The 166.9 out of 207.1 square miles currently achieving those levels will be increased to 170.9 square miles by 2009, and will approach 175.6 square miles by 2022.

Goal 1D: All of the Harbor will be essentially free from floatable **debris**.

Target 8: Decrease the amount of floatables that are discharged from the combined sewer system, as measured by the decreased amount collected at CSO discharge points. The 5-year average of 849 cubic yards (1998 – 2002) collected at selected CSOs will be decreased to an average of 679 cubic yards, by 2009.

Target 9: Continue the decreasing trend in the number of floatables slicks in the Harbor so that by 2009, there are less than 6 observed per year.

Target 10: Decrease the amount of debris that requires removal from beaches as indicated by the amount collected through New Jersey's Operations Clean Shores, by 20% from a 5 year average of 1226 tons (1998–2002) to an average of 981 tons by 2009.

Goal 2: Habitat and Ecological Health – Preserve, manage, and enhance the Estuary's vital habitat, ecological function, and biodiversity so that the Harbor is a system of diverse natural communities.

Target 11: By 2005, restoration will be underway on 500 acres in Jamaica Bay, Hudson River, Hackensack Meadowlands, Arthur Kill, western Long Island Sound and Raritan Bay watershed. By 2009, accelerate restorations to 1,527 acres.

Target 12: By 2009, acquire 2700 acres above the 2001 baseline level, for habitat preservation purposes.

Target 13: Establish a list of key plant and animal species representative of the biodiversity of the Harbor by 2004, and by 2005 set targets for their populations.

Goal 3: Public Access - Ensure that all residents in the core area of the Harbor have a public waterfront access site within thirty minutes of their home for boating, fishing, swimming and/or waterfront leisure (e.g. walking, bird watching, and picnicking), without harming important habitat areas.

Target 14: By 2009, the number of public waterfront access points around the Harbor will be increased by 10%, from 2003 level.

Goal 4 - Clean Sediment and Navigation - The Port of New York and New Jersey will be an integral and complementary part of the world-class NY-NJ Harbor Estuary, that is environmentally sustainable, economically efficient, and safe for commercial and recreational navigation.

Goal 4A: Sediment Quality- Sediment hot spots, and point and non-point sources of contaminants entering the Harbor are reduced, such that levels of toxics in newly deposited sediments do not inhibit a healthy thriving ecosystem and can be dredged and beneficially reused.

Target 15: By 2009, improve quality of newly deposited sediments to the target levels that will be established in 2005.

Target 16: All dredged material will be used beneficially.

Goal 4B: Sediment Quantity- The quantity of sediments entering the Harbor system will support the ecological health of the estuary, including protection of shallow water habitats, such as oyster reefs, without excessively impairing navigational activities.

Target 17: By 2005, complete a characterization of sediment loading to the Harbor and establish suitable load reduction targets that will be achieved by 2009 and beyond, through regional sediment management.

Goal 4C: Navigation- Navigation related projects in the Harbor are designed and implemented in an environmentally beneficial manner.

Target 18: By 2005, all navigation related projects will contain a beneficial component for the enhancement of the harbor environment.

Goal 5: Stewardship - Everyone who lives or works in the Estuary watershed acts a steward for the ecosystem.

Target 19: Increase both in-class and out of class estuary-related education in grades K-12 by 10% by 2005, and by 25% by 2009, from 2003 baseline level.

Target 20: By 2009, engage every elected official within the core Harbor watershed as a steward of the estuary.

Target 21: By 2004, HEP will recognize an increasing number of groups and individuals as stewards and friends of the estuary.

Target 22: By 2009, have at least 200 businesses recognized as stewards of the estuary.

Notes:

1. Projections for 2009 in Targets 1 and 2 are based on preliminary modeling results that will be updated when final model is completed in 2004. Projection is based on 1988 hydrologic conditions.
2. For Targets 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7, the 2022 targets will exclude areas for which Use Attainability Analyses are approved in the future. Targets are based on 1988 hydrologic conditions. MPN values in Targets 1, 2, and 3 are based on state and federal standards and criteria.
3. Projections for 2009 for Targets 6 and 7 are based on modeling results. Projection is based on 1988 hydrologic conditions.
4. For Targets 6 and 7, the 2022 targets are based on the Limit of Technology (4mg/l nitrogen discharge level at treatment plants) modeling projection and will exclude areas for which Use Attainability Analyses are approved in the future. Projection is based on 1988 hydrologic conditions. The 2.3 and 4.8 mg/l values are described under the USEPA Marine DO Criteria.
5. MPN stands for "Most Probable Number" and is a method for estimating the amount of bacteria in a sample.
6. ERM stands for "Effects Range Median" and is an estimate of the toxicity of sediments, based on the levels of contaminants in the sediment.
7. Fecal coliform and Enterococci are bacterial indicators of contamination from warm-blooded animals including humans.
8. The System Wide Eutrophication Model (SWEM) has a model domain of 207.1 square miles. It is slightly smaller than the actual area of the harbor, 220 square miles, because of the shape of the model grid.
9. EPA has developed "Screening Values" (SV) for several chemicals in fish tissue including PCBs. The applicable SV for PCBs is 0.02 ppm. This value is based on consuming 17.5 g/day of fish (EPA's default value) by an average person who weighs 70 kg. In addition the cancer slope factor and a risk level of 10⁻⁵ are used in calculating this value.