

NOAA Hazardous Waste Site Report

Albert Steel Drum (II-29)

Newark, New Jersey

April 13, 1984

Location and Nature of Site:

The Albert Steel Drum site is an abandoned dump in an industrialized area near Newark Bay (Figure 1). Numerous drums were buried or simply left at the dump, resulting in extensive contamination of the area by ruptured and corroded drums. On-site sampling conducted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection revealed volatile organic chemicals, heavy metals, and pesticide contamination. All drums have since been removed.

Proximity of Chemical Hazard to Marine Resources:

Surface waters and runoff from the site were contaminated by leaking hazardous wastes prior to drum removal. Runoff from the site would wash into nearby Pearsen's Creek, which is within .5 miles of the Passaic River. Since the primary source of contamination has been removed, this site must be rated as one which potentially poses only a residual emission problem following a period of a more continuous chemical release.

Marine Resources at Risk:

The Passaic River supports small runs of anadromous fish, but is not a primary spawning or nursery area (Table 1).

The Newark Bay area is very heavily developed and does not serve as primary spawning or nursery habitat for anadromous fish or shellfish. Adult fish enter this area during spawning runs, and several species are found year-round as adults or larvae (2). There has been a long history of declining anadromous fish runs in New Jersey, dating back to the late 1800's. The Passaic River does not have confirmed runs of any anadromous fish species, and the American shad is considered extirpated from this river (6).

The southwest corner of Newark Bay is a wintering area for many waterfowl, and there is a nesting site for wading birds on Shooters Island (2).

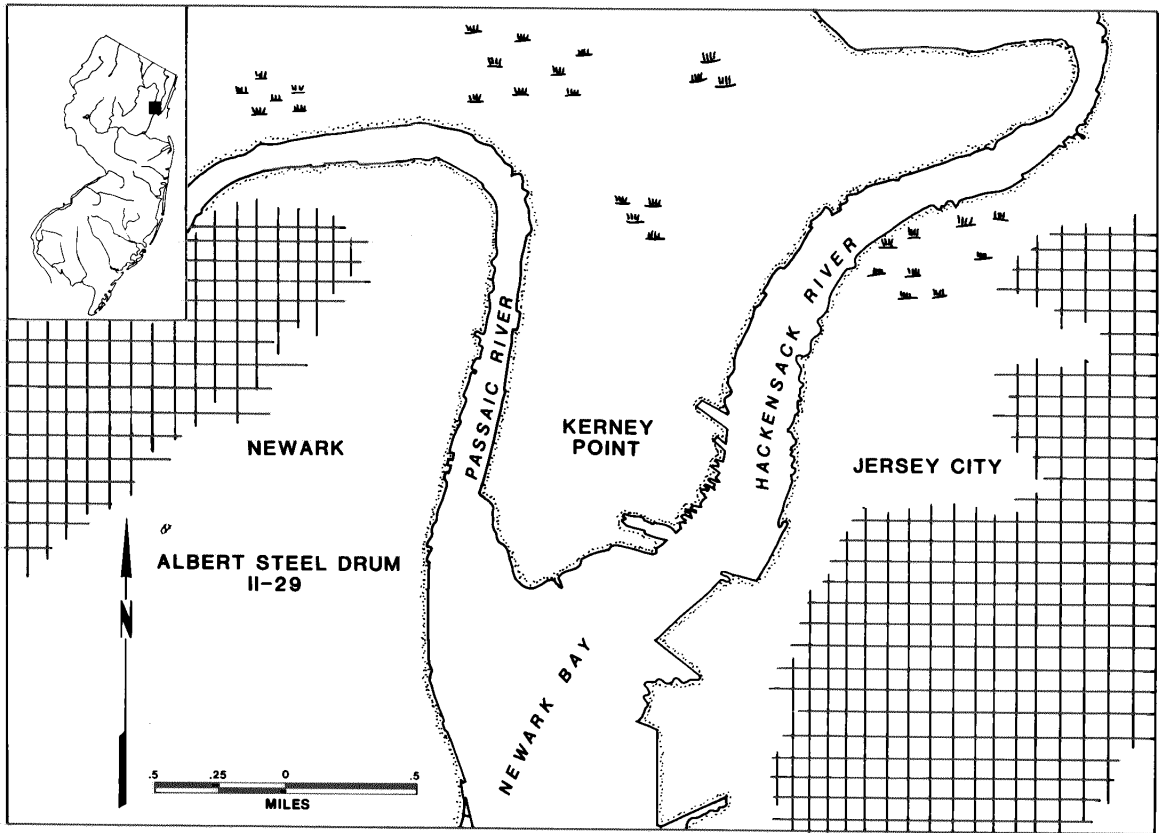


FIGURE 1. Site location.

Table 1. Fishery Resources of the Passaic River and Newark Bay (1-4)

Finfish Species	Adult Habitat	Spawning Area	Nursery Area	Comm. Fish.	Rec. Fish.	Migr. Route
<u>Anadromous</u>						
Alewife						x
Blueback herring						x
Tomcod						x
Striped bass			x			x
<u>Non-anadromous</u>						
White perch	x		x			
Flounder	x					
Bluefish	x		x			
Spot	x		x			
Northern kingfish	x					
<u>Shellfish</u>						
Blue crab	x		x		x	

Summary of Site-Related Actions:

This site is presently owned by the Newark Housing Authority. They and previous owners have entered into a consent agreement for payment of site studies as of May 1983. Drum removal has been completed following a decision to conduct an immediate removal action. There is no indication of contaminated soil removal in available site files.

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References:

1. National Marine Fisheries Service, 1974. Anglers Guide to the United States 2. Atlantic Coast.
2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1982. Assessment of Resources of Newark Bay.
3. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1980. Atlantic Coast Ecological Inventory.
4. Breder, C.M. and D.E. Rosen, 1966. Modes of Reproduction in Fishes. TFH Publications.
5. Research Planning Institute. Environmental Sensitivity Index - New Jersey. Unpublished.

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6. Zich, H.E., 1977. The collection of existing information and field investigation of anadromous clupeid spawning in New Jersey. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Misc. Report No. 41.
  7. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. 1983. Site Descriptions: Hazardous Waste Sites in New Jersey's Management Plan for Remedial Action. August 1983.
  8. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1983. Site Update. Region II. January 6, 1983.
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