

NOAA Hazardous Waste Site Report

Ideal Cooperage (II-41)
Jersey City, New Jersey
April 13, 1984

Location and Nature of Site:

Ideal Cooperage is a three-acre inactive drum reconditioning facility located in a residential/industrial area (Figure 1). Approximately 3,000 drums, mostly empty, have been stored at this site.

Evidence of spillage of chemicals from these drums include, PCB's, flourathene, isophorone, pyrene, and heavy metals such as chromium, lead and cadmium. These chemicals are in sludge, oil, and solid states, and are abundant over most of the site. There have been instances of arson at the site. There is poor, if any, security.

Proximity of Chemical Hazard to Marine Resources:

Leachate spills from this site flow into a ditch which empties into a stream connected to the Hudson River. Stream samples from this ditch show that it is contaminated with 29 different organic substances. Only two of these, however, occur in levels which are higher downstream of the site than upstream. Another potential route would include discharge from the site to flow under double railroad tracks, follow the tracks for almost one mile, then 500 feet to a storm sewer, and then 1.2 miles in the sewer to the Hudson River. High concentrations and frequency of impact of hazardous materials on the Hudson River from this site would not be expected.

Marine Resources at Risk:

The Hudson River is an important spawning and nursery area for many anadromous and marine fish (Table 1). Anadromous fish migrate up the Hudson River during the early spring on their way to freshwater spawning grounds. This occurs in the upper reaches of the Hudson River and in some of its smaller freshwater tributaries. The adults return to the lower parts of Hudson Bay after spawning. Juvenile fish, hatched in the spring, remain in the upper parts of the Hudson River and Bay until late summer or early fall when they also migrate into the lower parts of the Bay.

The Hudson River is the second-most important striped bass spawning and nursery habitat on the Atlantic coast of North America, and supports spawning runs of shortnose sturgeon, a species of special federal concern, and the Atlantic sturgeon, a species of special state concern.

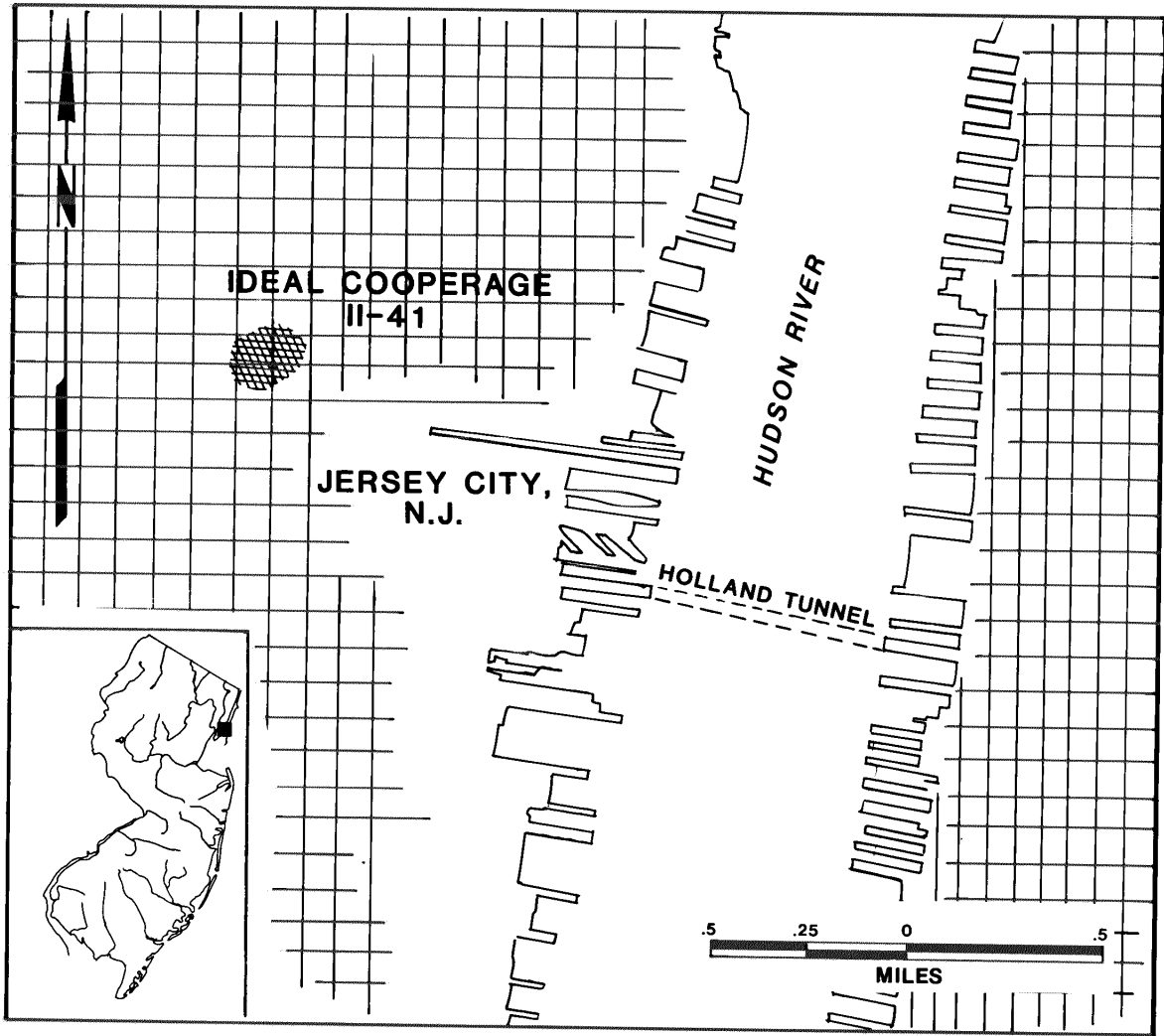


FIGURE 1. Site location.

Table 1. Fishery Resources of the Hudson River (1,2,4).

Finfish Species	Adult Habitat	Spawning Area	Nursery Area	Comm. Fish.	Rec. Fish.	Migr. Route
<u>Anadromous</u>						
Alewife	x			x	x	x
Blueback herring	x			x	x	x
American shad	x			x	x	x
Atlantic sturgeon	x					x
Atlantic tomcod	x	x	x		x	x
Rainbow smelt	x			x	x	x
Striped bass	x			x	x	x
<u>Non-anadromous</u>						
White perch	x		x		x	x
Weakfish	x				x	
Bluefish	x				x	
White perch	x	x	x	x	x	x
Bay anchovy	x		x			
Flounder	x		x		x	
Silver perch	x	x		x		
<u>Shellfish</u>						
Blue crab	x	x	x	x	x	

This part of the Hudson River is heavily developed with many piers and docks.

The Gateway National Recreational Area on Staten Island supports numerous bird populations, including terns, gulls, and overwintering seabirds.

Summary of Site-Related Actions

Ninety percent of the drums were reported to have been removed by site owners. A prospective new owner of the site was also investigating additional remediation work at that time.

NOAA Reviewer: Gary Ott, SSC - U.S. Coast Guard District III
(212)668-7152
FTS 664-7152

Other Contacts: State of New Jersey - Tex Aldridge
(201)420-1315

References:

1. National Marine Fisheries Service, 1974. Anglers Guide to the United States 2. Atlantic Coast.
2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1980. Atlantic Coast Ecological Inventory.

References, cont.

3. Breder, C.M. and D.E. Rosen, 1966. Modes of Reproduction in Fishes. TFH Publications.
4. Research Planning Institute. Environmental Sensitivity Index - New Jersey. Unpublished.
5. Weinstein, L.H. (ed.), 1977. An Atlas of the Biological Resources of the Hudson Estuary. Boyce Thompson Inst. Plant Res.
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 Description Report. August 1983.
8. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1982. Site Data Report. August 4, 1982.