

NOAA Hazardous Waste Site Report

Mobil Chemical Company (II-55)
Carteret, New Jersey
April 13, 1984

Location and Nature of Site:

The 20-acre Mobil Chemical Company site in Carteret, New Jersey has been used since the early 1900's for processing and disposal of chemicals and chemical wastes by three different chemical companies (Figure 1).

The Agrico Company used the site until the 1960's. The Conoco Company then took over the site for production of petrochemicals and dumped chemical wastes until 1971. After 1971, the site was used by Mobil Chemical Company as a waste dump site.

Numerous areas on the site have been identified as special problems. These include an abandoned drainage pipe containing a small amount of phosphorous sludge, three drums of sulfuric acid left by the Agrico Company, the Mobil Chemical Company landfill, a small condensate pot containing phosphorous residue, a concrete pit containing sulfur residue and one suspected of containing phosphorous, and water-reactive residue from the phosphorous by-product produced by the cleansing of the site's pentasulfide building.

In addition, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has reported that the site contains "about ten tons" of miscellaneous materials, including both air- and water-reactive wastes, phosphorous, and sulfuric acid.

The site is presently in use as a small trucking terminal and maintenance shop.

Proximity of Chemical Hazard to Marine Resources:

No stream was observed to enter the Arthur Kill from the site. Contamination of soil on the site is unknown. Transport of surface water to the Arthur Kill would be expected during flooding conditions only. The release of hazardous materials by this facility when it was in operation is unknown.

Marine Resources at Risk:

Kill Van Kull acts as a passageway for small runs of anadromous fish entering the Hackensack or Passaic Rivers in Newark Bay, and borders on New York Bay, which is a migratory route for anadromous fish runs up the Hudson River. The Passaic and Hackensack Rivers support small runs of several anadromous fish species, but are not primary spawning or nursery areas. The Hudson River is a very important spawning and nursery area.

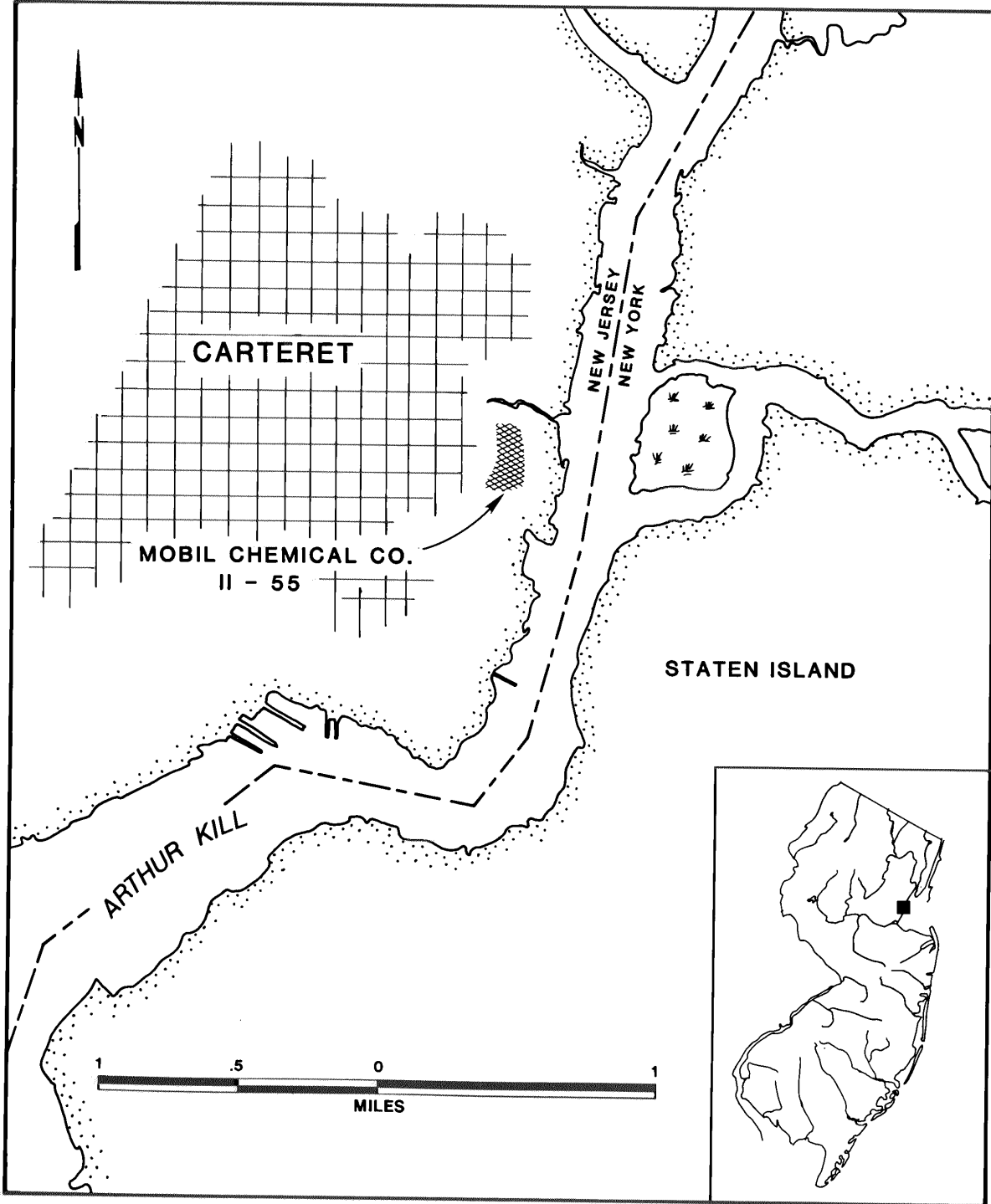


FIGURE 1. Site location.

Table 1. Fishery Resources of the Passaic River,
the Hackensack 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			x
Striped bass			x			x
<u>Non-anadromous</u>						
White perch	x					
Flounder	x					
Bluefish	x		x			
Spot	x		x			
Northern kingfish	x					
<u>Shellfish</u>						
Blue crab	x		x		x	

The Newark Bay area is very heavily developed and does not serve as primary spawning or nursery habitat for anadromous fish. Adult fish may enter this area during spawning runs in the Hackensack River, and some species are present 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 Hackensack River has confirmed runs of herring, but shad spawning does not occur there now, nor do any confirmed runs of anadromous fish occur in the Passaic River (6). The Hudson River supports the second-most important striped bass spawning runs on the east coast of North America.

There is an area in the southwest corner of Newark Bay that is used as an overwintering area for waterfowl and shorebirds, and there is a rookery for wading birds located on Shooters Island (2).

Summary of Site-Related Actions:

Enforcement and remedial action alternatives were being evaluated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection as of August 1983. Extensive site dismantlement was in progress in April 1984.

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References:

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References, cont.

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.
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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1983. Site Data Report. March 17, 1983.
8. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, 1983. Site Description Report. August 1983.