



The New York Bight Floatables Action Plan Partnership in the Abatement of Floatable Debris

EPA Region 2

Summer 2008

Introduction:

EPA, along with our federal, state and local partners, has revised the plan to address slicks of floating debris that can threaten area beaches. This plan, entitled “The New York Bight Floatables Action Plan, Partnership in the Abatement of Floatable Debris” defines the roles and responsibilities of various agencies in addressing floatable debris in the New York Bight for the next 10 year period. Periodic reviews, evaluations and modification of this plan will occur during that period. The New York Bight includes the New York/New Jersey Harbor Complex and the shorelines of Long Island and New Jersey.

Partners:

Interagency partners from federal, state and local agencies included in this plan are: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), the Passaic Valley Sewage Commission (PVSC) and the Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC).

Objectives:

The primary objectives of this plan are to define the roles and responsibilities:

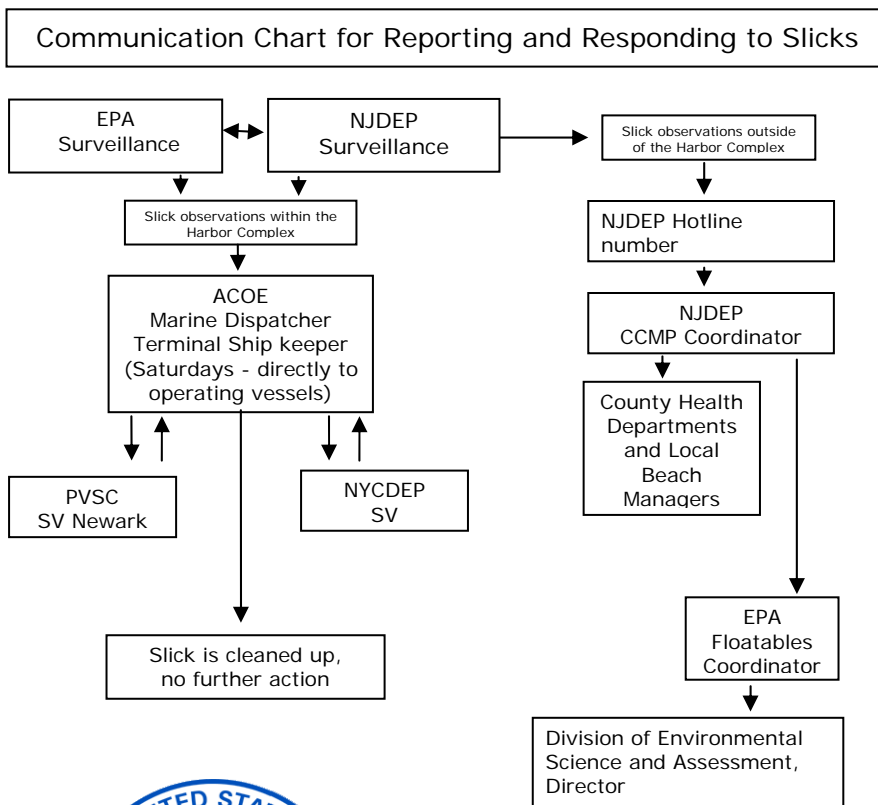
- for surveying the New York/New Jersey Harbor Complex, and the New Jersey shore to spot slicks of floating debris;
- for communicating with appropriate agencies so they can clean up floating slicks of debris before they can wash up on beaches, and;
- for effectively notifying state and local authorities of impending debris washups.

Surveillance:

EPA will use its helicopter to look for slicks of floating debris in the NY/NJ Harbor Complex every day except Sunday throughout the critical beach season. NJDEP will fly on Sundays to ensure seven day a week coverage.

The NJDEP also administers the Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program (CCMP) with the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and local environmental health agencies. As part of this program, NJDEP will provide aerial surveillance from Raritan Bay south to Barnegat Light four days a week; and from Raritan Bay to Cape May Point, two days a week, throughout the critical beach season.

Communication:



Cleanup:

The ACOE will provide three drift vessels equipped with specially designed nets to be used on a routine basis and to pick up floating debris slicks. These vessels will operate on a rotating basis seven days a week with one to three vessels operating on any given day throughout the critical summer season.

The PVSC will provide a 50-foot skimmer vessel, the *SV Newark Bay*, to respond to slicks of floating debris located within Newark Bay. The PVSC operates its vessel year-round Monday through Friday.

The NYCDEP will provide an open water skimmer vessel, the *SV Cormorant*, to respond to slicks located within the Upper and Lower NY Harbor.