

NOAA Hazardous Waste Site Report

Roosevelt Drive-In (II-44)

Jersey City, New Jersey

April 13, 1983

Location and Nature of Site:

This 10-acre site is located in a wetlands area on the Hackensack River (Figure 1). The area was reclaimed and filled with chromium slag from a chromium processing operation. There were approximately thirty drums plus liquids, solid, and sludge wastes stored on the site in open pools. An abandoned tanker and mounds of construction debris were also present. The drums and tanker were removed prior to April 1984. There are reported high levels of cadmium, magnesium and sodium in addition to ignitable and flammable toxic wastes, that are leaching into unnamed streams on each side of the site. These streams lead directly into the Hackensack River. High levels of sulfur and chromium are reported in the streams. The streams, in fact, are colored bright yellow from chemical contamination. Midnight dumping of hazardous wastes is reported. There is inadequate security.

Proximity of Chemical Hazard to Marine Resources:

Two streams, one on each side of the site, are continuously contaminated with high levels of sulfur and chromium. These streams run with a bright yellow color due to high levels of contamination. The streams lead directly to the Hackensack River, a navigable waterway. The wetlands is a tidal area. Past flooding has leached considerable amounts of chemical contamination into surface and ground waters.

Marine Resource at Risk:

The Hackensack River supports small runs of several anadromous fish species, but is not a primary spawning or nursery area.

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 (6).

There is an area in the southwest corner of the bay that is used as an overwintering area for waterfowl and shorebirds, and there is a

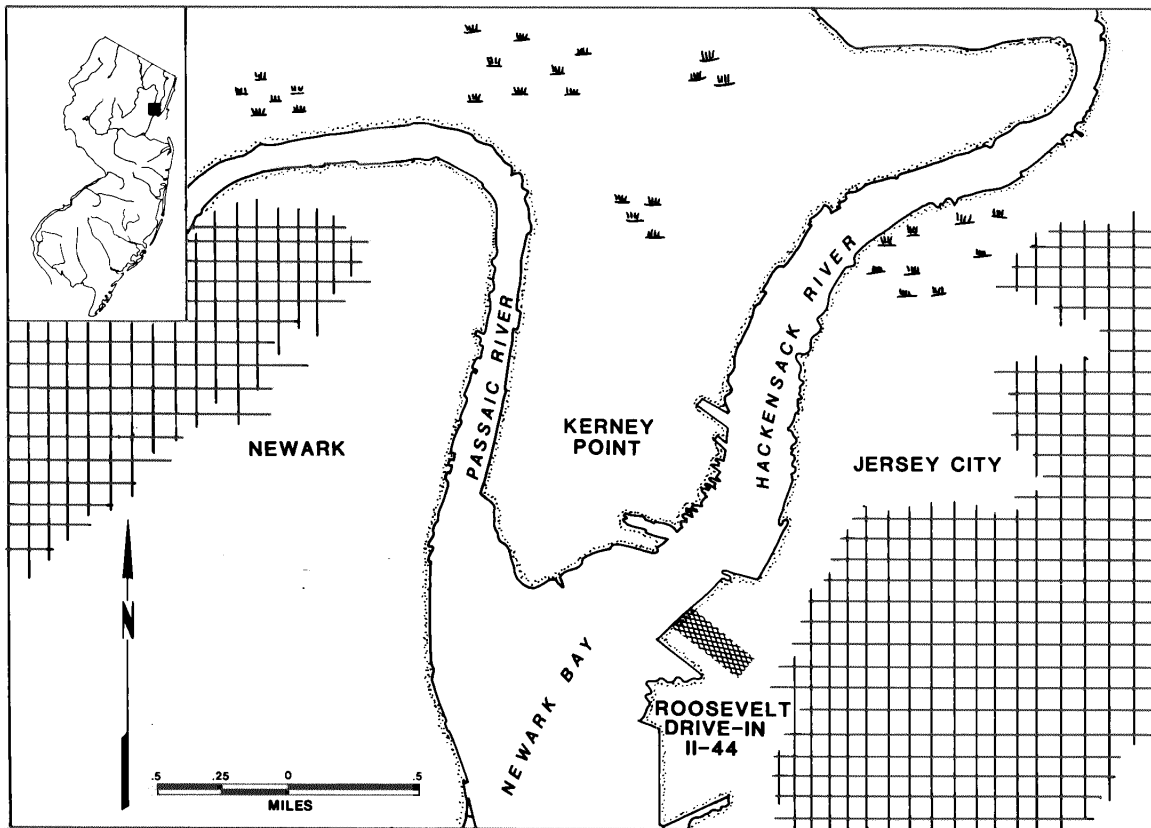


FIGURE 1. Site location.

rookery for wading birds located on Shooters Island (2). Lincoln Park, New Jersey is a city park immediately north of this site.

Table 1. Fishery Resources of 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	

Summary of Site-Related Actions:

In May 1983, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection reported that the previous site owner, Allied Chemical Company, and the current owner, W.R. Grace Company, are cooperating with the Department in developing a remedial plan for the site. Thirty drums have been removed.

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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.

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5. Research Planning Institute. Environmental Sensitivity Index - New Jersey. Unpublished.
6. Zich, H.E., 1977. The collection of existing informatin 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, 1980. Site Data Report. December 19, 1980.
8. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, 1983. Site Descriptions Report. August 1983.