

NOAA Hazardous Waste Site Report

Scientific Chemical Processing, Inc. (II-7)
Carlstadt, New Jersey
April 13, 1984

Location and Nature of Site:

Scientific Chemical Processing, Inc. is an inactive waste processing facility situated on 13.5 acres of land next to Peach Island Creek (Figure 1). The company was formerly involved in the recovery and recycling of various byproducts, solvents, and chemicals. On September 13, 1982, about 375,000 gallons (approximately 7,500 drums) of hazardous chemical wastes (sludges, solvents, petroleum/chemical wastes) were stored in tanks, drums, and tank trailers on site. There have been spillages, extensive soil contamination, and petroleum/chemical leachate discharges from the banks of Peach Island Creek. Rusty and leaky drums are also contributing to a chemical product sheen visible in the surface water runoff. The five most persistent and high-level contaminants detected in surface water at the facility and downhill from it were benzene, chloroform, toluene, trichloroethylene, and tetrachloroethylene.

Proximity of Chemical Hazard to Marine Resources:

This site is located within the Hackensack Wetlands Management Area, bordered on the northeast by Peach Island Creek, a tidal waterway. Chemical leachate has been, and continues to be, released from the site into Peach Island Creek and the Wetlands Management Area. The flow of water from Peach Island Creek is into Berry's Creek, a tributary of the Hackensack River. The depth of the groundwater aquifer in the area is shallow. Groundwater contamination is strongly suspected. The Hackensack River is three miles downstream.

Marine Resources at Risk:

Berry's Creek drains approximately 800 acres of marshland in the Hackensack Meadowlands. The marshlands adjacent to this site contribute to the productivity of the Berry's Creek/Hackensack River system. The Hackensack River supports small runs of several anadromous fish species, but is not a primary spawning or nursery area.

The Hackensack River/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).

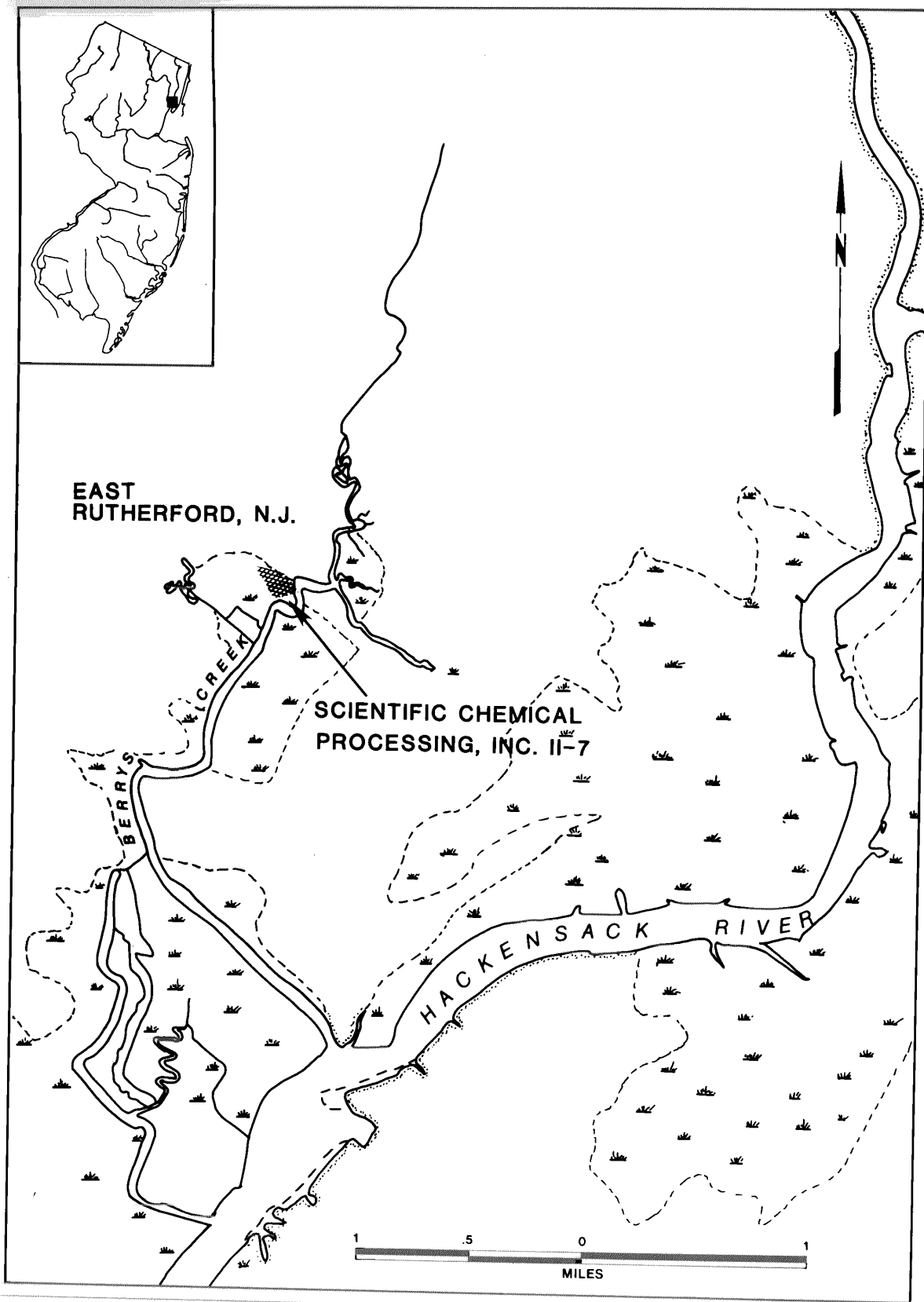


FIGURE 1. Site location.

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).

This site is situated adjacent to a tidal marsh area at the headwaters of Berry's Creek where heron and ibis nest. This area of the Hackensack Meadowlands is also reported to be a recreational area for outdoor activities including fishing and crabbing (Table 1).

Table 1. Fishery Resources of the Hackensack River and Newark Bay (1,2,3,4)

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:

There have been documented hazardous chemical releases from the site to coastal waters. An August 10, 1980 court order obtained by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection halted operations at the site. Enforcement actions issued by the Attorney General's office have ordered responsible parties to begin cleanup by August 1983.

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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.

References, cont.

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. May 12, 1983.
8. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, 1983. Site Descriptions Report. August 1983.