

NOAA Hazardous Waste Site Report

Marathon Battery (II-105)
Cold Springs, New York
April 13, 1984

Location and Nature of Site:

The Marathon Battery site, now inactive, operated between 1953 and 1970 (Figure 1). EPA has estimated that 930 million gallons of waste contaminated with cadmium, nickel, and other metals was discharged into Foundry Cove. Drinking water sources on the Hudson River are located one and three miles downstream. Some dredging in the cove was accomplished and the material was placed in an asphalt and clay surface impoundment on the site with no drainage.

Proximity of Chemical Hazard to Marine Resources:

The Marathon Battery site is on Foundry Cove adjacent to the Hudson River. Nine hundred thirty million gallons of heavy metal-contaminated waters have been discharged into the Cove. At one point, levels of cadmium in the cove were observed to be 50,000 parts per million. High levels of cadmium, nickel, and cobalt have been found in the Hudson River. This site is the only known source of these contaminants in the area.

Marine Resources at Risk:

This site is located in a marshy area near Cold Springs on the Hudson River (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.

Haverstraw Beach State Park is an overwintering area for shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon, and a spawning area for blueback herring, alewife, white perch, striped bass, rainbow smelt, and Atlantic tomcod. It is located 16 miles downstream from the site. Numerous species of waterfowl and shorebirds have been observed utilizing the lower Hudson River.

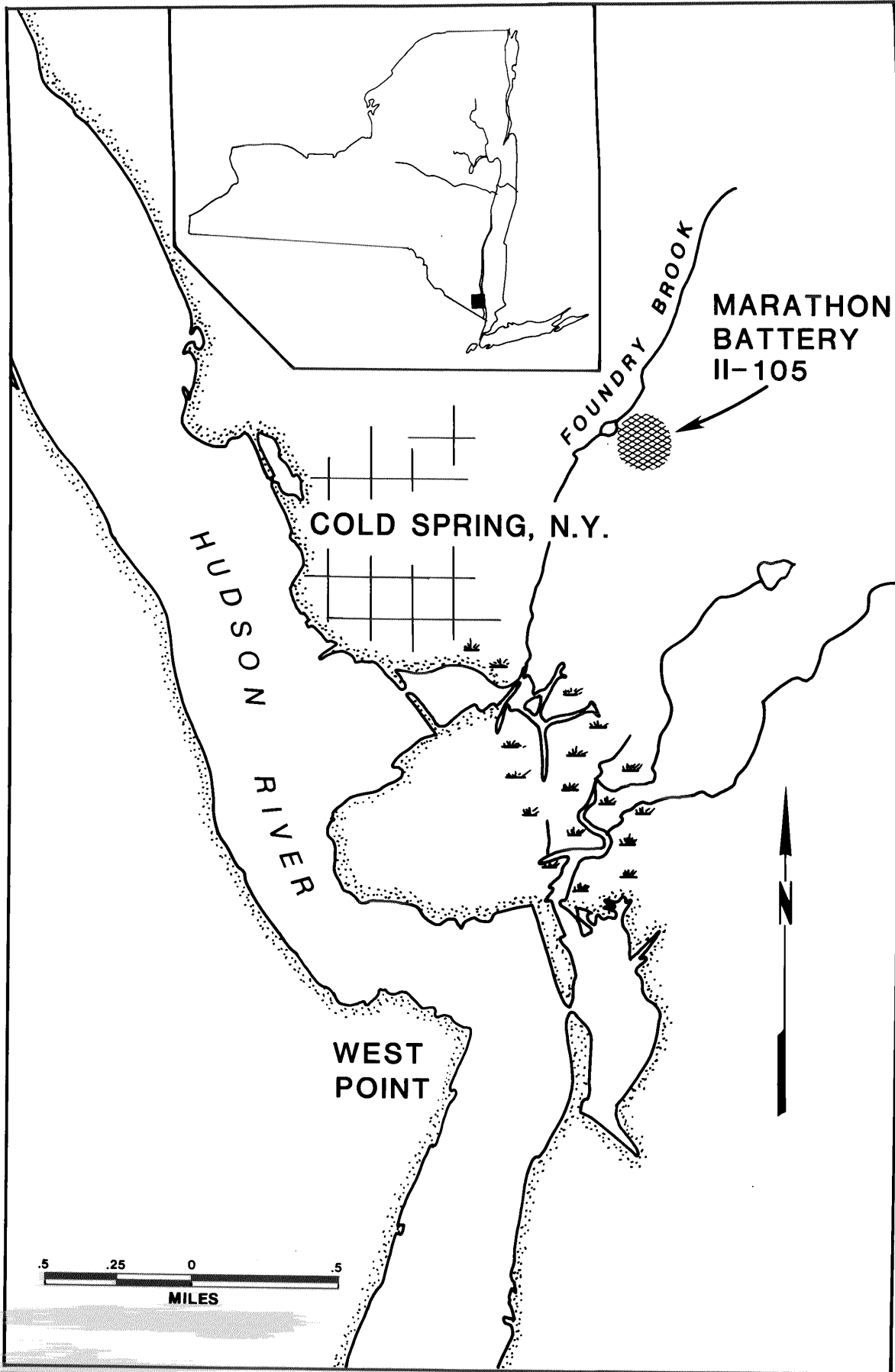


FIGURE 1. Site location.

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	

The following State Management Areas are located near this site:

Hudson Highlands State Park	1 mile upstream
Bear Mountain State Park	8 miles downstream
Harriman State Park	10 miles downstream
Haverstraw Beach State Park	16 miles downstream

Summary of Site-Related Actions

There is little data for the site from either the New York Department of Environmental Conservation or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The status of cleanup, remediation efforts, facility ownership, degree of hazard, and other pertinent details necessary for a complete site investigation and assessment are not present in EPA files.

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

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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1982. Site Evaluation Report. August 11, 1982.