

## Protecting and Restoring Natural Resources in New York

### Issues

- Elevated levels of persistent contaminants from current and ongoing sources impact freshwater wetlands, salt marshes, historically important rivers, and fisheries (recreational and commercial) in New York.
- State and federally protected species are in decline, including short-nose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, lake sturgeon, American eel, and sea turtles.
- Multiple health advisories restrict consumption of fish and shellfish, resulting in a lost recreational resource and impacting subsistence fishing for millions of people.
- The Port of New York/New Jersey is one of the largest and most complex ports in North America. New York Harbor and ports on the Hudson handle thousands of ships annually. The Arthur Kill and Kill Van Kull waterways are home to dozens of terminals and some of the largest refineries on the eastern seaboard. Ports on Long Island also handle bulk shipments of refined oils.

### What we do

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) acts as a trustee for natural resources on behalf of the public. DARRP collaborates with federal, state, and tribal entities and also works with cleanup agencies (such as EPA), local organizations, the public, and those responsible for the incident to:

- protect coastal and marine natural resources;
- respond to discharges of oil and hazardous substances;
- assess risks and injuries to natural resources; and
- restore injured natural resources and related socioeconomic benefits.

### How we do it

DARRP acts as a trustee for natural resources to:

- work cooperatively with those responsible for the incident;
- develop innovative approaches and techniques for remediation and restoration;
- work with the public to select restoration options to compensate for injuries to natural resources; and
- design and implement or oversee natural resource restoration projects and monitor their success.



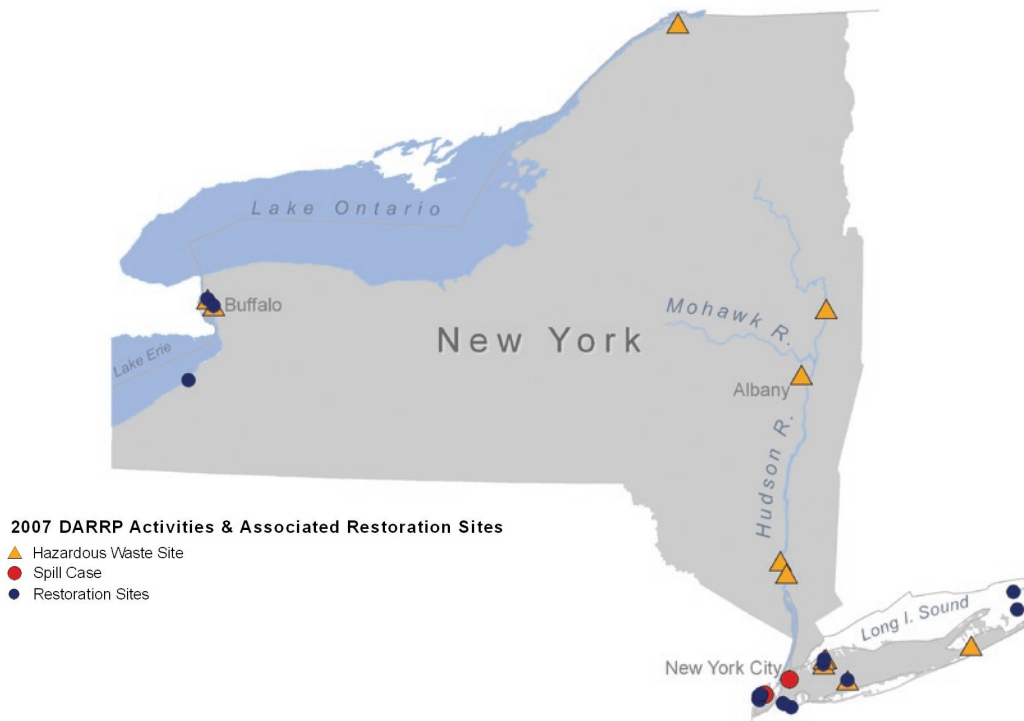
Exxon Bayway Oil Spill - see case highlights.

### DARRP Accomplishments

- Restoration and/or protection of 144 acres of marine habitats and 82 acres of freshwater and terrestrial habitats in New York (completed and planned activities).
- Settlements have resulted in 20 protection and restoration projects in New York.
- Cleanup actions promote recovery of coastal resources and communities at 17 hazardous waste sites.



Applied Environmental Services Superfund Site - see case highlights.



## Historic and ongoing case highlights

- Exxon Bayway Oil Spill – Restored approximately 34 acres of salt marsh and purchased over 110 acres of land to buffer Goethals Bridge Pond and the Old Place Marsh on Staten Island (*top photo on page 1*).
- Applied Environmental Services Superfund Site – Worked with EPA to replace a bulkhead to prevent contaminated soils and asphalt from entering mudflats of Hempstead Harbor in Long Island and, through community and industry partnerships, restored salt marsh and coastal shoreline habitat in Hempstead Harbor (*bottom photo on page 1*).
- Mattiace Petrochemical Superfund Site – Reached a settlement for protective cleanup of Glen Cove Creek and planned restoration of approximately 5 acres of salt marsh on Beaver Dam Creek.
- Liberty Industrial Finishing Corp. Superfund Site – Reached a cooperative settlement for cleanup and monitoring of aquatic resources, and the restoration of anadromous fish passage on Massapequa Creek (approximately 20 acres of spawning habitat).

For further information about DARRP, please visit  
<http://www.darrp.noaa.gov>

