

Protecting and Restoring Natural Resources in New Jersey

Issues

- The State of New Jersey is bounded by ports on the Delaware River and on New York Harbor, both with extensive petrochemical industries. The Tosco Bayway Refinery in Linden, NJ, is the largest such facility in the U.S.
- More than 100 coastal hazardous waste sites threaten natural resources in sensitive wetlands, coastal shoreline, beaches, urban, suburban, and rural areas.
- Multiple health advisories in effect in New Jersey for the consumption of fish and shellfish result in lost recreational usage for millions of people.

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.



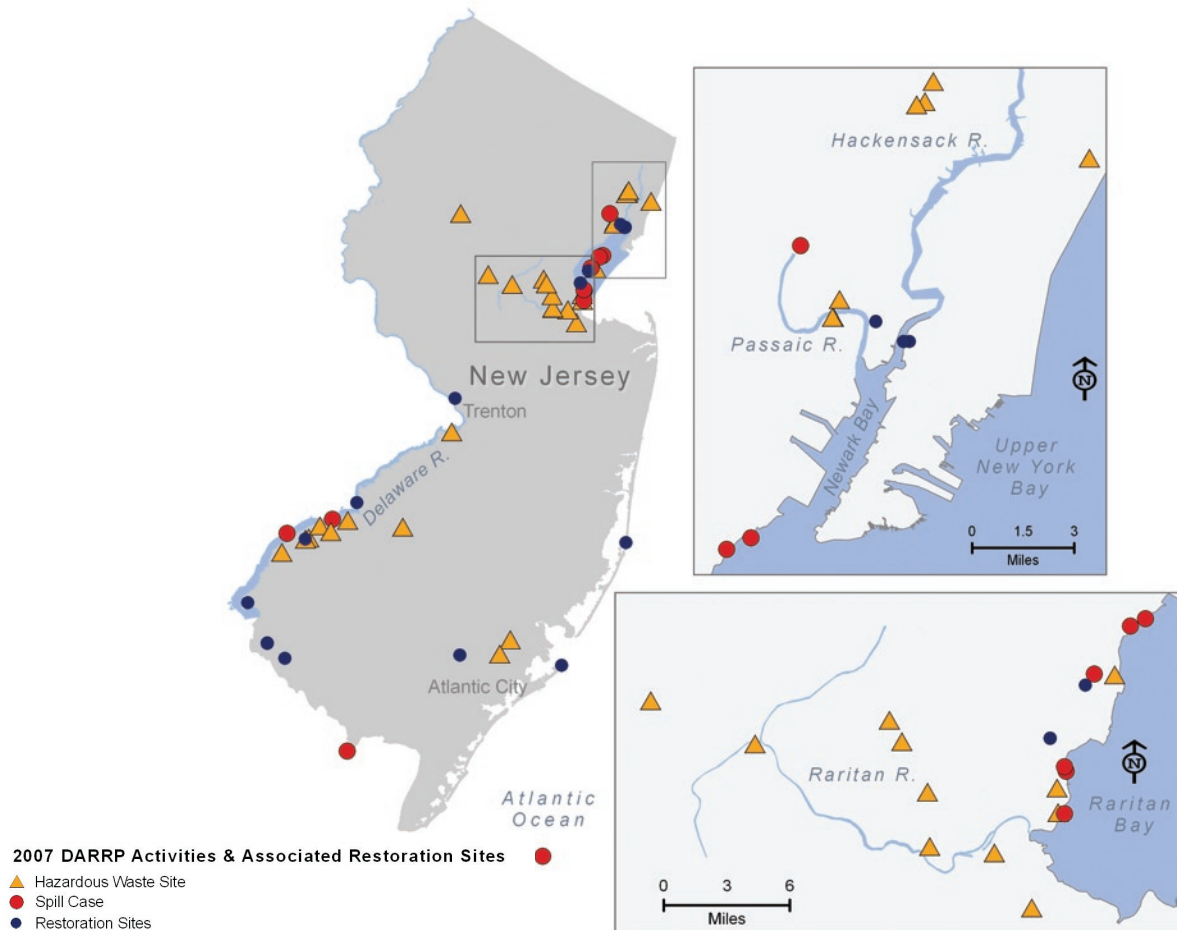
Exxon Bayway Oil Spill - see case highlights.

DARRP Accomplishments

- Restoration and/or protection of 492 acres of marine habitats, 417 acres of freshwater and terrestrial habitats, and 15 stream miles in New Jersey (completed and planned activities).
- Settlements have resulted in 16 protection and restoration projects in New Jersey.
- Cleanup actions promote recovery of coastal resources and communities at 35 hazardous waste sites.



Exxon Bayway Oil Spill - see case highlights.



Historic and ongoing case highlights

- Exxon Bayway Oil Spill – Constructed 17.5 acres of intertidal salt marsh restoration in the Arthur Kill watershed on Woodbridge Creek; acquired 25 acres of freshwater wetlands and upland forest at the headwaters of the Rahway River; and planning to restore 35 acres of tidal wetlands along the Hackensack River (*photos on page 1*).
- M/V *Presidente Rivera* Oil Spill – Purchased a 186-acre addition to Mad Horse Creek Wildlife Management Area and another 180-acre parcel in the nearby Alloway Creek watershed; planning is underway to restore 50 acres of salt marsh; restored the Fort Mott Pier, allowing ferry service at three registered heritage sites on the Coastal Heritage Trail.
- Newark Bay Complex – Created a sediment, bioassay, and tissue database for the Newark Bay Complex including over 70 studies, more than 250,000 sediment chemistry records, and 100,000 tissue chemistry records.
- Upper Delaware Estuary – Created a watershed database and mapping project for the Upper Delaware Estuary to facilitate future habitat and aquatic natural resource restoration efforts in the urbanized portion of the Delaware River.
- M/T *Athos I* Oil Spill, DE, PA, NJ – Assessing natural resource losses that occurred as a result of this November 2004 spill and planning compensatory restoration. The spill occurred when the M/T *Athos I* struck a large submerged anchor, spilling approximately 264,000 gallons of oil into the Delaware River. Natural resources over 115 miles of the River (280 miles of shoreline) and six tributaries, from the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge to south of the Smyrna River in Delaware, were exposed to *Athos* oil.

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

