

UPDATE: September 29, 2011

Delaware Bay

On September 8, 2011 the Department re-opened a portion of the Delaware Bay, south of a line between Beadon Point (Latitude 39.2447166, Longitude -75.19019194) and Cross Ledge abandoned lighthouse (Latitude 39.1627089, Longitude -75.236464; see [Partial Re-Opening of NJ Shellfish Beds notice: 9/8/11](#)). The portion of the Delaware Bay north of this line remains closed for shellfish harvesting. On September 8, 2011 water quality in Nantuxent Cove showed improvement with some samples meeting Approved criteria (14 CFU/100mL). The Department expanded water monitoring efforts on September 10th in the Upper Delaware Bay and added six additional monitoring locations in the main channel and in areas from Ship Johns Shoal to Benny Sands, an area used extensively for oyster harvesting.

On September 15th the Department took salinity readings at 14 monitoring locations. Salinity levels are unusually low and many readings are outside the tolerance range for oysters (5-30psu). The low salinity is due to the tremendous flow of fresh water from the Delaware River as a result of record precipitation.

The samples collected on September 21, 2011, showed an improvement in water quality with samples in the area slightly north of Nantuxent Cove and southbound, meeting Approved criteria. Therefore, coliphage and fecal coliform samples on shellfish tissue were collected in that area on September 28, 2011. Tissue sampling results were read today and are within acceptable levels, therefore, the Department is reopening shellfish harvesting in this portion of the Delaware Bay as of September 29, 2011. Specifically the areas involved with this partial re-opening include:

All of the New Jersey waters of the Delaware Bay south of a line from Ben Davis Point at Latitude 39 degrees 17 minutes 36.564 seconds N, Longitude -75 degrees 17 minutes 21.552 seconds W, southwest bound through sampling stations 3800F at Latitude 39 degrees 17 minutes 0.42 seconds N, Longitude -75 degrees 18 minutes 4.68 seconds W, and station 3800 at Latitude 39 degrees 15 minutes 30.42 seconds N, Longitude -75 degrees 19 minutes 52.716 seconds W to a point on the state boundary line at Latitude 39 degrees 15 minutes 10.158 seconds N, Longitude -75 degrees 20 minutes 17.038 seconds W.

[Partial Re-Opening of NJ Shellfish Beds notice: 9/29/11](#)

The samples collected on September 26, 2011, showed an improvement in water quality in the Upper Delaware Bay, with samples meeting Approved criteria. Therefore, coliphage and fecal coliform samples on shellfish tissue are scheduled to be collected in that area on October 3, 2011. If results of tissue sampling are within acceptable levels, the Department will reopen shellfish harvesting in these waters on October 4, 2011.

The Department is doing everything possible to reopen the remaining portions of the Delaware Bay and will continue to have boats out on the water and labs staffed throughout the week and weekend.

Water Quality Sampling Stations post Hurricane Irene Delaware Bay

