

UPDATE: October 4, 2011

Delaware Bay

The commercial and recreational harvest ban on New Jersey shellfish has been in effect since August 27th due to concerns about degradation of water quality in more than 720,000 acres of shellfish beds in the state's ocean waters and estuaries.

[Closure Notice of Shellfish Beds Statewide due to Hurricane Irene](#)

Results from August 31, 2011 monitoring of the Delaware Bay showed fecal coliform levels ranging from <3 – 260 CFU/100mL. All of the stations in Approved waters in the Maurice River Cove met the shellfish criteria for Approved waters, which is 14 CFU/100mL. 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).

[Partial Re-Opening of NJ Shellfish Beds notice: 9/8/11](#)

On September 8, 2011 water quality in Nantuxent Cove showed improvement with some samples meeting Approved criteria. The Department expanded water monitoring efforts on September 10, 2011 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 within acceptable levels, therefore, the Department reopened shellfish harvesting in this portion of the Delaware Bay as of September 29, 2011. Specifically the areas involved in the September 29, 2011 partial re-opening included:

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](#)

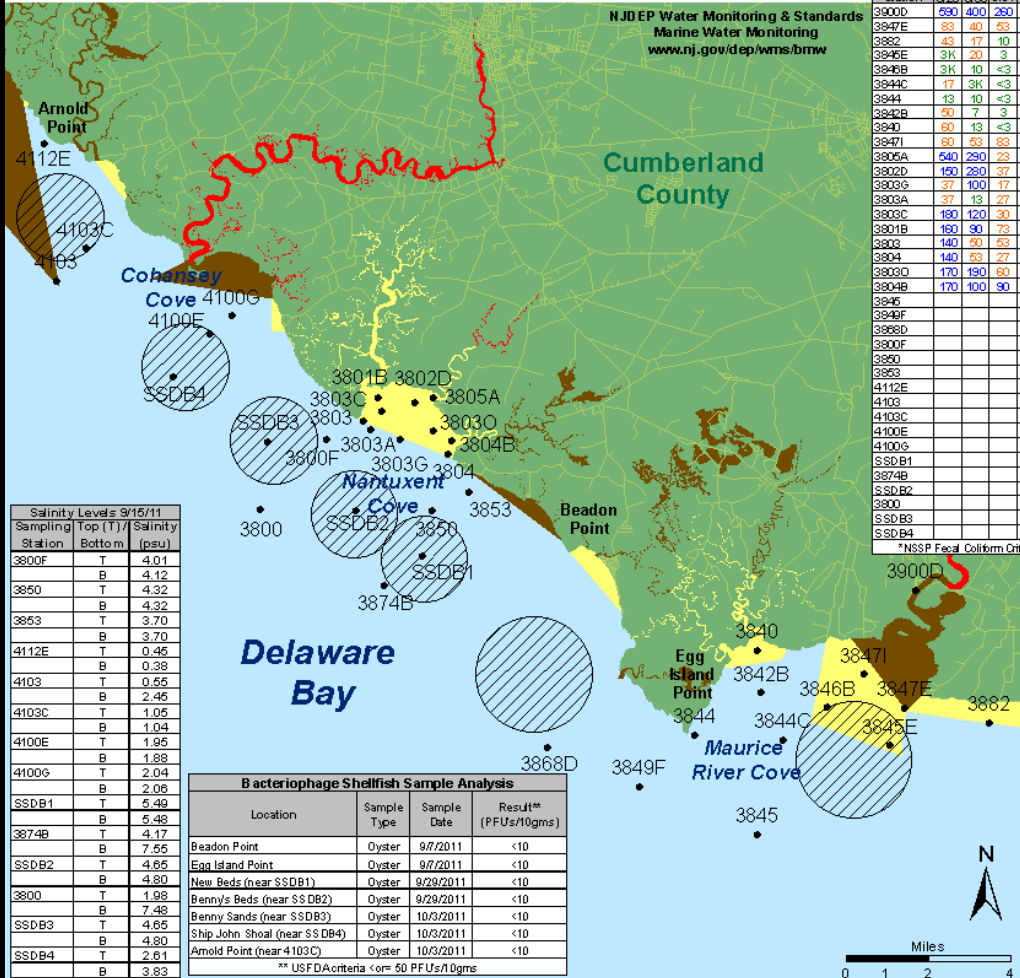
The samples collected on September 26, 2011, showed an improvement in water quality in the Upper Delaware Bay, with samples meeting Approved criteria. Therefore, coliphage and fecal coliform samples on shellfish tissue were collected in that area on October 3, 2011. Since results of tissue sampling are within acceptable levels, the Department is reopening shellfish harvesting today, October 4, 2011. Having determined through sample monitoring that the waters described above are now safe for the harvesting of shellfish, the waters are now re-opened to their prior classification, effective immediately. Specifically the areas involved in the September 29, 2011 partial re-opening include:

All of the New Jersey state waters of the Delaware Bay starting 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 New Jersey/Delaware state boundary line at Latitude 39 degrees 15 minutes 10.158 seconds N, Longitude -75 degrees 20 minutes 17.038 seconds W, then following the New Jersey/Delaware boundary line northwest bound to a point at Latitude 39 degrees 27 minutes 3.65 seconds N, Longitude -75 degrees 33 minutes 9.05 seconds W, then northeast bound to the southern dome at the Salem Nuclear Power Plant, then following the shoreline to the point of origin and terminating.

[Partial Re-Opening of NJ Shellfish Beds notice: 10/04/11](#)

Water Quality Sampling Stations post Hurricane Irene Delaware Bay

NJDEP Water Monitoring & Standards
Marine Water Monitoring
www.nj.gov/dep/wms/bmw



Water Quality Fecal Coliform Analysis																	
Sampling Station	Fecal Coliform (CFU/100mL)*																
	8/28	8/30	8/31	9/1	9/2	9/3	9/4	9/6	9/10	9/12	9/14	9/15	9/17	9/19	9/21	9/23	9/26
3900D	590	400	260	250	210	160											
3947E	83	40	63	87	60	110											
3882	43	17	10	63	7	20											
3849E	31K	20	3	60	50	67	80										
3949B	31K	10	<3	3	10	20											
3944C	17	3K	<3	<3	3	13											
3844	13	10	<3	7	3	7											
3842B	60	7	3	3	17	20											
3840	60	13	<3	13	7	27											
3947I	60	63	63	120	83	87											
3805A	540	290	23	37	87	100	90	33									
3802D	150	280	37	67	73	90	30	30									
3803G	37	100	17	67	37	30	20	7									
3803A	37	13	27	47	67	40	17	10									
3803C	190	120	30	40	20	47	33	13									
3801B	150	90	73	23	73	80	43	17									
3803	140	60	63	60	23	60	37	13									
3804	140	63	27	67	40	37	40	10									
3803D	170	190	60	67	43	60	47	33									
3804B	170	100	90	70	60	67	63	17									
3846				<3	<3	<3											
3849F				<3	3	<3											
3868D				7	3	<3											
3800F				17	60	47	23	20	30	20	60	33	70	60	13		
3890				38	37	17	17	10	63	30	13	60	20	7	7		
3863				43	40	40	33	<3	37	30	63	43	20	27	23		
4112E							60	20	140	207	200	210	63	80	30	23	
4103							140	43	280	230	330	193	97	27	39	<3	
4103C							60	67	270	290	160	120	67	23	7	23	
4100E							27	130	67	140	120	100	63	97	160	27	3
4100G							20	120	70	30	63	290	70	30	43	13	3
SSDB1										100	63	23	60	110	10		
3874B										120	120	27	150	50	90	13	
SSDB2										37	63	10	60	87	20		3
3800										170	170	110	240	37	60		3
SSDB3										83	120	70	110	97	67	120	<3
SSDB4										290	170	40	150	93	43	13	63
*NSSP Fecal Coliform Criteria: Approved <=14 CFU/100mL, Special Restricted <= 88 CFU/100mL																	

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Legend

- Previously Sampled Stations
- ▨ Bacteriophage Tissue Analysis Locations
- Major Roads
- NJ Counties
- Shellfish Classification 2011**
 - Approved
 - Seasonal (Jan-Apr)
 - Seasonal (Nov-Apr)
 - Special Restricted
 - Prohibited

Miles
0 1 2 4