New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Baseline Studies

October - December 2009 Quarterly Report



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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

°C Degree(s) Celsius µW Microwatt(s)

ADCP Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler

AM Amplitude-modulated

ASFA Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (Cambridge)

BRP Bioacoustics Research Program

BSS Beaufort Sea State

CDOM Colored Dissolved Organic Matter

cm² Square Centimeter(s)

CTD Conductivity-Temperature-Depth

dB Decibel(s)

ESA Endangered Species Act FM Frequency-modulated

ft Foot(Feet)
GMI Geo-Marine, Inc.

GPS Global Positioning System

hr Hour
kHz Kilohertz
km Kilometer(s)

km² Square Kilometer(s)

kt Knot

lon-lat Longitude-Latitude

m Meter(s)

MARS[®] Mobile Avian Radar System

max Maximum

mg/L Milligram(s) per Liter

mi Mile(s)

min Minimum/Minute(s)

MMS Minerals Management Service NCDC National Climatic Data Center

NJDEP New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

nm Nanometer(s) NM Nautical Mile(s)

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

PAR Photosynthetically Active Radiation

psu Practical Salinity Unit(s)

PU Pop-up

QAWP Quality Assurance Work Plan

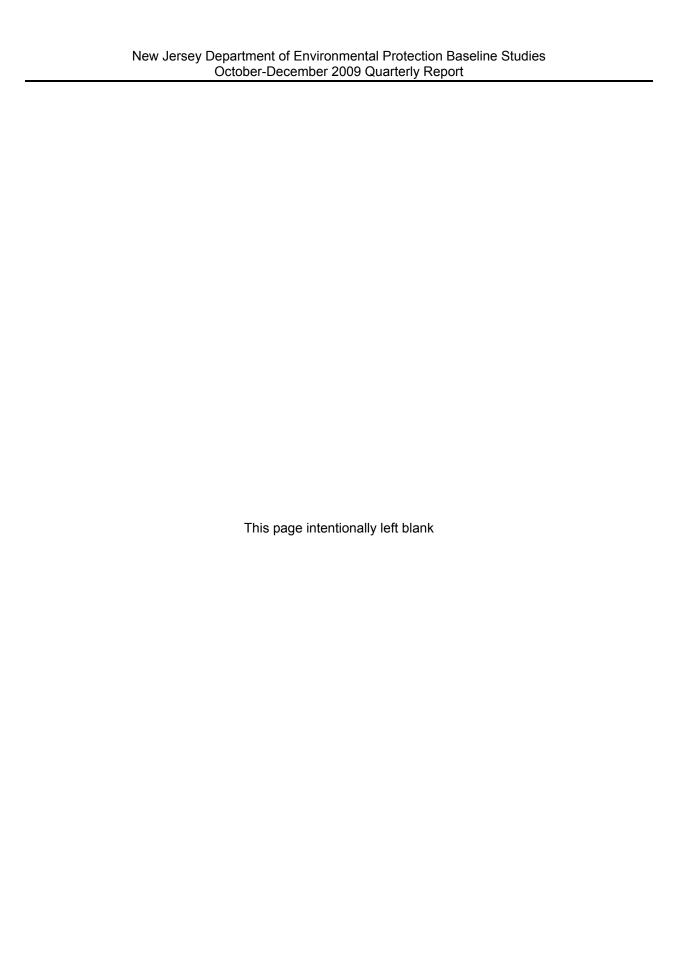
s Second(s)

SMS Surface Mapping System SST Sea Surface Temperature

U.S. United States

USFWS United States Fish and Wildlife Service WSR-88D Weather Surveillance Radar – 1988 Doppler

Xbat Extensible Bioacoustic Tool



INTRODUCTION

This quarterly progress report provides an overview of avian, marine mammal, sea turtle, and pinniped studies conducted for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Baseline Studies Project from October through December 2009. Survey effort and a brief overview of survey results are presented for birds, marine mammals, sea turtles, and pinnipeds. In addition, the acoustic monitoring task is discussed. Dates for the occurrence of each field task are presented in **Table 1-1**.

Table 1-1
Dates and Status of Tasks Conducted during this Reporting Period

Ta	ask	October	November	December
Ship Offshore Avian Survey		09/28; 09/30-10/02	11/19-11/22	12/07; 12/12-12/13
	Offshore al Survey	09/28; 09/30-10/02	11/19-11/22	12/07; 12/12-12/13
	erial al Survey	None Scheduled	None Scheduled	None Scheduled
	astal Survey	10/06	12/01	12/18
	Offshore	None Scheduled	None Scheduled	None Scheduled
Radar Sites	Onshore	Island Beach State Park: 9/15 – 10/02 Brigantine Beach: 10/05 – 10/26	Sea Isle City: 10/26 – 11/15	None Scheduled
Therm	al Sites	Brigantine Beach: 10/20	Sea Isle City: 11/3, 11/6, 11/8	None Scheduled
Acoustic Surveys		8/11: 6 pop-ups deloyed 10/26: 2 pop-ups recovered	Data analyses	12/7: 4 pop-ups recovered Data analyses
	ographic veys	09/28; 09/30-10/02	11/19-11/22	12/07; 12/12-12/13
SideSca	n Surveys	09/30-10/01	11/19-11/22	12/07; 12/12

1.0 QUALITY ASSURANCE WORK PLAN

The draft Quality Assurance Work Plan (QAWP) was submitted on 24 October 2007. NJDEP comments on the draft were addressed and a revised QAWP submitted on 04 January 2008 prior to the initiation of field work. Additional comments were addressed and a revised QAWP submitted on 08 February 2008 and then again on 16 June 2008 after secondary revisions.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

An initial literature search was conducted within the Geo-Marine, Inc. (GMI) in-house library for information pertaining to wind-farms, birds, marine mammals, sea turtles, fishes, fisheries, habitats, oceanography, and other marine resources for the northeast Atlantic. Literature identified as relevant to the Study Area was catalogued and a new keyword identifying it as New Jersey-specific was entered into GMI's master library. An initial thorough and systematic electronic literature search for additional relevant literature was conducted focusing on the same subject areas as the in-house library search; additional searches are conducted periodically to identify and collect new literature throughout the project performance period. These electronic literature searches are conducted using a variety of database

search engines (e.g., Library of Congress' First Search and Dissertation Abstracts databases, Ingenta, Web of Science, Blackwell-Science, and Cambridge Abstract's Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts [ASFA] database services). General internet searches were conducted through the Google and Google Scholar web search engines to identify additional reports not collected through the previous database searches. **Table 2-1** shows the number of references relevant to the Study Area that have been collected to date. **Appendix A** contains a current bibliography for each category of interest.

Table 2-1
New Jersey Literature Review (as of 21 December 2009)

Categories	Number of References	Appendix
Fishes	344	A-1
Marine Birds	331	A-2
Marine Mammals	766	A-3
Offshore Wind Farms	163	A-4
Sea Turtles	247	A-5
Avian Predictive/Probability Modeling	196	A-6
Total	2047	

Prior experience has demonstrated that electronic searches produce a low number of false positive (references produced by a search that are not relevant) and false negative (references not produced by a search that are relevant) results when combinations of search keywords are used. Keywords for this report typically combine a subject matter (e.g., marine mammal, dolphin, whale, porpoise, sea turtle, fish, fishery, bird, seabird, wind farm, benthos, slope, circulation) paired with a geographic descriptor (e.g., western North Atlantic, northwest Atlantic, New Jersey, Delaware Bay, New York, Mid-Atlantic). Irrelevant (false positive) literature is excluded. The relevant results of these electronic searches are supplemented by investigating and acquiring the references gathered that, based on a reading of their titles or abstracts, appear to provide relevant information. This process is repeated on a continuing basis to ensure that a majority of the relevant references cited by the introduction, results, and discussion sections of the gathered references are obtained. More specific searches may be conducted to hand-pick relevant literature where a generalized keyword search does not result in adequate information and to identify any false negative results. Hand searches of published journals are not being conducted.

Results of these searches are obtained in hard or electronic format and reviewed, key-worded, and indexed regularly into GMI's in-house library using commercial bibliographic software for ease of recall for inclusion in all relevant sections of the Quarterly, Interim, and Final Reports. From each document obtained, information relevant to the biological resources in the Study Area is extracted and integrated into the appropriate report.

3.0 DIGITAL DATA COMPILATION

The Principal Investigator for this task has compiled a digital data list from GMI data banks and geospatial data from numerous sources which is presented in **Appendix B**. These data are currently under review for applicability for this project.

4.0 AVIAN PREDICTIVE/PROBABILITY MODEL

Per last quarter directive, GMI compiled both the offshore and coastal data into a consolidated dataset in order to project the total kernel density information on a single map. Internal work on the avian predictive modeling continued during this period

Modeling meetings were conducted in October and November. The major topic in both meetings was the presentation of the modeling data. Linear vs. geometric formats were discussed and GMI prepared example formats for review. After review, it was agreed during the November meeting that linear format would be used. Formats (colors, shading, etc) were discussed and various formatting decisions were

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made. GMI presented information on the possible development of an environmental sensitivity index. The next modeling meeting is scheduled for 11 January 2010.

5.0 BASELINE SURVEYS

5.1 SHIPBOARD OFFSHORE SURVEYS

5.1.1 Avian

5.1.1.1 Survey Effort

Shipboard avian surveys for October through December 2009 were conducted along the same strip transects as the marine mammal/sea turtle surveys. Avian surveys may be greater in length and duration because of differing visibility requirements between the avian and marine mammal and sea turtle survey methods. The survey listed under October 2009 actually began on 28 September.

5.1.1.1.1 October 2009

Shipboard avian surveys were conducted from 28 September to 02 October 2009. The ship transects covered 307.95 nautical miles (NM; 569.71 kilometers [km]; **Figure 5.1-1**) and on-effort survey time totaled 34.38 hours (hrs).

5.1.1.1.2 November 2009

Shipboard avian surveys were conducted from 19 November to 22 November 2009. The ship transects covered 322.83 NM (597.24 km; **Figure 5.1-2**), and on-effort survey time totaled 33.53 hrs.

5.1.1.1.3 December 2009

Shipboard avian surveys were conducted from 07 December to 13 December 2009. The ship transects covered 127.62 NM (236.10 km; **Figure 5.1-3**), and on-effort survey time totaled 14.79 hrs.

5.1.1.2 Survey Results

5.1.1.2.1 Avian species occurrence

All 41 avian species observed during the October through December 2009 offshore surveys are listed in **Table 5.1-1**. Of these, 21 were sighted in October 2009, 20 in November 2009 and 18 in December 2009. Birds that were not identifiable due to weather/sea state conditions, behavior, and/or distance were identified to the lowest identifiable form or taxon (genus, family, or class).

5.1.1.2.2 Avian abundance

The monthly number of individual birds/km (i.e., number of individuals detected on one side of and within 300 meters [m] of the ship from the beam forward) observed on the offshore surveys increased drastically from October 2009 (0.28) to November 2009 (3.94), and decreased somewhat in December 2009 (2.12) (**Table 5.1-2**). The spike in abundance values for November 2009 was attributed to increased presence of the Anatidae, Gaviidae, Laridae, and most prominently, the Sulidae. Between November and December 2009 Anatidae and Sulidae abundance values decreased while the Gaviidae and Laridae abundance values increased slightly (**Table 5.1-2**).

The five most numerous species for each month of offshore transect surveys are presented in **Table 5.1-3**. Northern Gannet was the most numerous species in both November and December, representing 53 percent of all individuals recorded from October through December 2009. Herring Gull was the third most numerous species in each month and the second most numerous species from October through December, representing 10 percent of all individuals recorded. The top five species together represented 82, 91, and 78 percent of all individuals recorded in October, November and December, respectively.

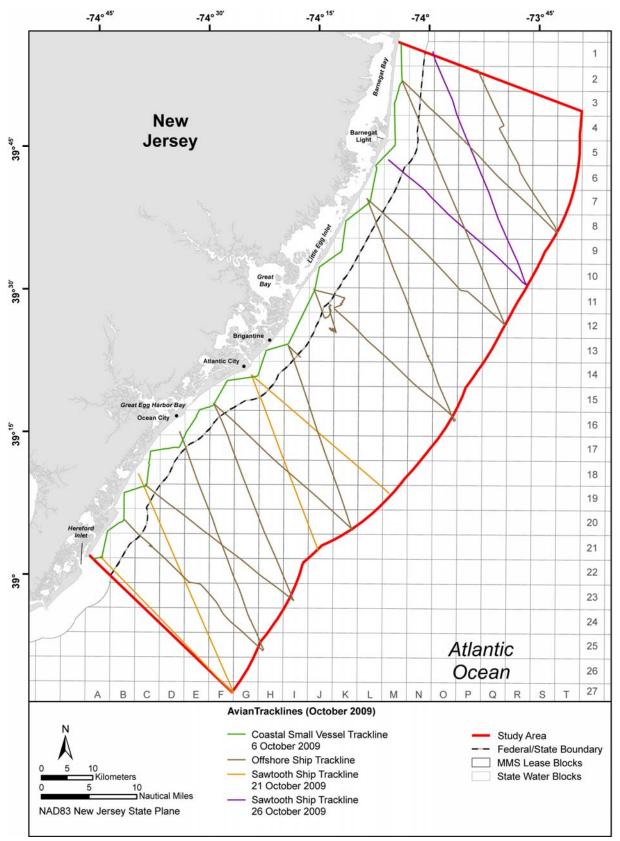


Figure 5.1-1. Avian offshore and coastal survey effort for the New Jersey Study Area in October 2009.

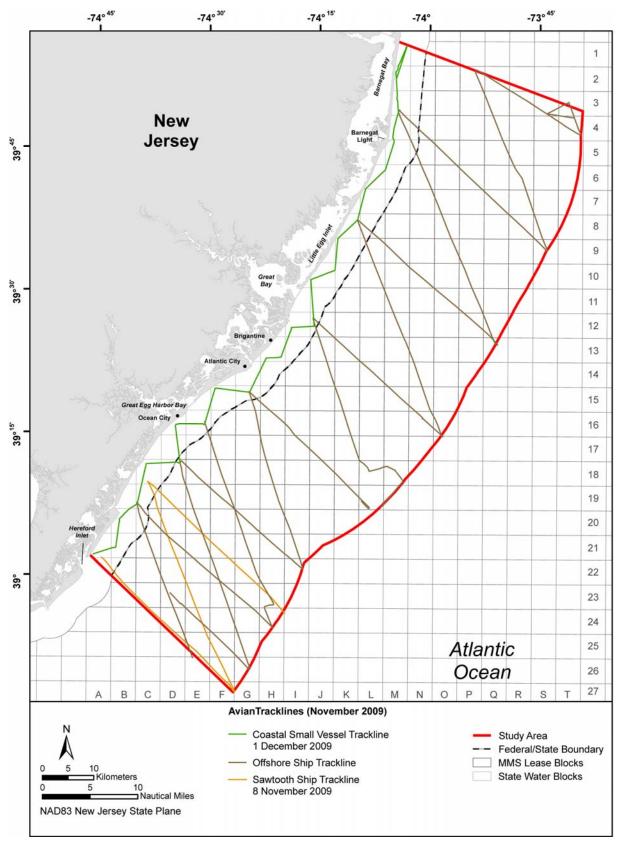


Figure 5.1-2. Avian offshore and coastal survey effort in the New Jersey Study Area in November 2009.

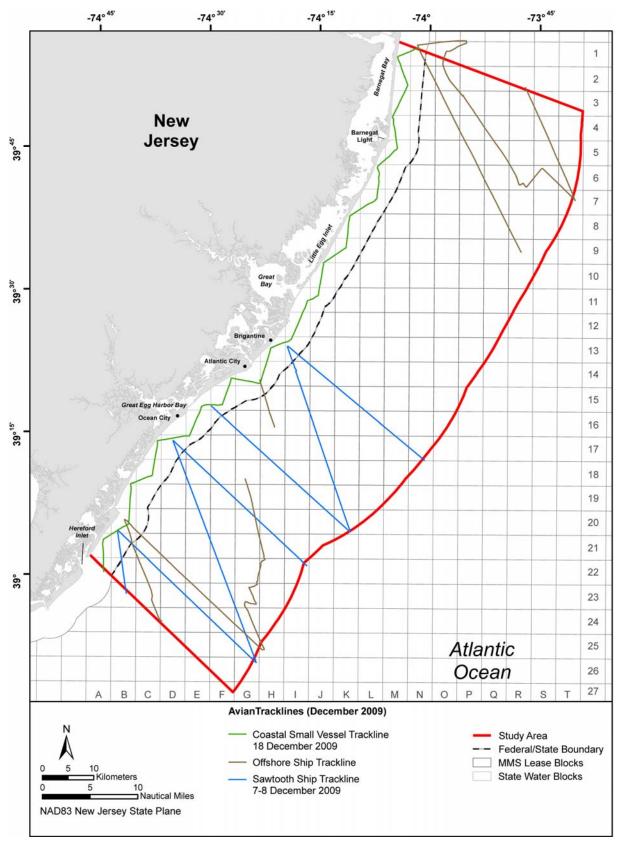


Figure 5.1-3. Avian offshore and coastal survey effort in the New Jersey Study Area in December 2009.

Table 5.1-1
Avian species observed during the October through December 2009 shipboard offshore surveys¹.

Family		2009	Τ _
Common Name, Scientific name	October	November	December
Anatidae (ducks, geese, and swans)			
Snow Goose, Chen caerulescens			X
Canada Goose, Branta canadensis			X
American Black Duck, Anas rubripes		X	X
Northern Shoveler, Anas clypeata			X
Northern Pintail, Anas acuta		X	
Greater Scaup, Aythya marila			X
Lesser Scaup, Aythya affinis			X
Surf Scoter, Melanitta perspicillata		X	Х
White-winged Scoter, Melanitta fusca		X	Х
Black Scoter, Melanitta nigra		Х	Х
Red-breasted Merganser, Mergus serrator		Х	
Gaviidae (loons)			
Red-throated Loon, Gavia stellata		X	Х
Common Loon, Gavia immer		Х	Х
Procellariidae (petrels and shearwaters)			
Greater Shearwater, <i>Puffinus gravis</i>		Х	
Sooty Shearwater, <i>Puffinus griseus</i>		X	
Sulidae (gannets)			
Northern Gannet, Morus bassanus	Х	X	Х
Pelecanidae (pelicans)	X		
Brown Pelican, Pelecanus occidentalis	X		
Phalacrocoracidae (cormorants)	^		
Double-crested Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	T X	X	I
	^	^	
Ardeidae (egrets and herons) Great Blue Heron, Ardea herodias	T v	T	T
Accipitridae (eagles and hawks)	X		
Merlin, Falco columbarius	T v	T	T
² Peregrine Falcon, <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	X		
Scolopacidae (sandpipers)	T v	T	T
Sanderling, Calidris alba	X		
Laridae (gulls and terns)			
Black-legged Kittiwake, Rissa tridactyla		X	X
Bonaparte's Gull, Chroicocephalus philadelphia		X	X
Laughing Gull, Leucophaeus atricilla	X	X	X
Ring-billed Gull, Larus delawarensis		X	X
Herring Gull, Larus argentatus	X	X	Х
Great Black-backed Gull, Larus marinus	X	Х	Х
Forster's Tern, Sterna forsteri	X		
Royal Tern, <i>Thalasseus maxima</i>	X		
Stercorariidae (jaegers and skuas)	<u> </u>		
Pomarine Jaeger, Stercorarius pomarinus		X	
Picidae (woodpeckers)			
Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker, Colaptes auratus	X		
Certhiidae (creepers)			
Brown Creepr, Certhia americana	X		
Troglodytidae (wrens)			
Winter Wren, Troglodytes troglodytes		X	
Parulidae (wood-warblers)			
Blackpoll Warbler, Dendroica striata	X		
American Redstart, Setophaga ruticilla	X		
Ovenbird, Seiurus aurocapilla	X		
Northern Waterthrush, Seiurus noveboracensis	X		
Common Yellowthroat, Geothlypis trichas	X		
Sommon Tonowinious, Sootinypio triorido	^	 	L

Table 5.1-1 (continued)

Avian species observed during the October through December 2009 shipboard offshore surveys¹.

Family	2009			
Common Name, Scientific name	October	November	December	
Emberizidae (sparrows)				
Field Sparrow, Spizella pusilla	X			
Icteridae (blackbirds, meadowlarks and orioles)				
Baltimore Oriole, Icterus galbula	X			

All birds identified to species during avian surveys are included (in-zone and out-zone).

New Jersey endangered species

Table 5.1-2 In-zone avian species abundance during the October, November, and December 2009 shipboard offshore surveys.

Family	Octol	per 2009	Novem	ber 2009	December 2009		
Common Name, Scientific Name	No.1	Abun.1	No.1	Abun.1	No.1	Abun.1	
Total Birds	146	0.28	2,282	3.94	432	2.12	
Anatidae (swans, geese, and ducks)			256	0.45	17	0.06	
Canada Goose, Branta canadensis					1	0.00	
American Black Duck, Anas rubripes					3	0.01	
Northern Shoveler, Anas clypeata					1	0.00	
Northern Pintail, Anas acuta			3	0.01			
Lesser Scaup, Aythya affinis					4	0.02	
Surf Scoter, Melanitta perspicillata			213	0.37			
White-winged Scoter, Melanitta fusca			4	0.01	7	0.03	
Black Scoter, Melanitta nigra			13	0.02			
Scoter, dark-winged (unknown), Melanitta sp.			20	0.03	1	0.00	
Red-breasted Merganser, Mergus serrator			3	0.01			
Gaviidae (loons)			204	0.35	110	0.55	
Red-throated Loon, Gavia stellata			54	0.09	28	0.14	
Common Loon, <i>Gavia immer</i>			150	0.26	82	0.41	
Procellariidae (petrels and shearwaters)			3	0.01			
Greater Shearwater, Puffinus gravis			3	0.01			
Sulidae (gannets)	6	0.01	1,399	2.42	124	0.62	
Northern Gannet, Morus bassanus	6	0.01	1,399	2.42	124	0.62	
Phalacrocoracidae (cormorants)	6	0.01					
Double-crested Cormorant, Phalacrocorax auritus	6	0.01					
Ardeidae (bitterns, egrets, and herons)	8	0.02					
Great Blue Heron, Ardea herodias	8	0.02					
Falconidae (falcons)	3	0.00					
Merlin, <i>Falco columbarius</i>	2	0.00					
Peregrine Falcon, Falco peregrinus	1	0.00					
Scolopacidae (sandpipers)	4	0.01					
Sanderling, Calidris alba	4	0.01					
Laridae (gulls and terns)	111	0.23	418	0.71	181	0.89	
Black-legged Kittiwake, Rissa tridactyla			106	0.18	1	0.00	
Bonaparte's Gull, Chroicocephalus philadelphia			13	0.02	44	0.22	
Laughing Gull, Leucophaeus atricilla	28	0.06	25	0.04	1	0.00	
Ring-billed Gull, Larus delawarensis			11	0.02	13	0.06	
Herring Gull, Larus argentatus	19	0.04	208	0.36	46	0.23	
Great Black-backed Gull, Larus marinus	59	0.12	53	0.09	42	0.21	
Gull, large (unknown)			2	0.00	34	0.17	
Forster's Tern, Sterna forsteri	5	0.01					
Stercoraridae (skuas and jaegers)			1	0.00			
Pomarine Jaeger, Stercorarius pomarinus			1	0.00			
Picidae (woodpeckers)	1	0.00					
Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker, Colaptes auratus	1	0.00					

Table 5.1-2 (continued) In-zone avian species abundance during the October, November, and December 2009 shipboard offshore surveys.

Family	Octob	er 2009	Novem	ber 2009	Decem	ber 2009
Common Name, Scientific Name	No. ¹	Abun.1	No. ¹	Abun.1	No. ¹	Abun.1
Certhidae (creepers)	1	0.00				
Brown Creeper, Certhia americana	1	0.00				
Troglodytidae (wrens)			1	0.00		
Winter Wren, Troglodytes troglodytes			1	0.00		
Parulidae (wood-warblers)	4	0.00				
American Redstart, Setophaga ruticilla	1	0.00				
Ovenbird, Seiurus auricapilla	1	0.00				
Northern Waterthrush, Seiurus noveboracensis	1	0.00				
Common Yellowthroat, Geothlypis trichas	1	0.00				
Emberizidae (sparrows)	1	0.00				
Field Sparrow, Spizella pusilla	1	0.00				
Icteridae (blackbirds, meadowlarks and orioles)	1	0.00				
Baltimore Oriole, Icterus galbula	1	0.00				

Table 5.1-3 The most abundant in-zone avian species during the October through December 2009 shipboard offshore transect surveys.

offshore transect surveys.								
October 2009 Shipboard Offshore In-zone ¹								
Common Name	Number	Abundance ²						
Great Black-backed Gull	59	0.12						
Laughing Gull	28	0.06						
Herring Gull	19	0.04						
Great Blue Heron	8	0.02						
Double-crested Cormorant	6	0.01						
Novemb	er 2009 Shipboard Offshore	In-zone ¹						
Common Name	Number	Abundance ²						
Northern Gannet	1399	2.42						
Surf Scoter	213	0.37						
Herring Gull	208	0.36						
Common Loon	150	0.26						
Black-legged Kittiwake	106	0.18						
Decemb	er 2009 Shipboard Offshore	In-zone ¹						
Common Name	Number	Abundance ²						
Northern Gannet	124	0.62						
Common Loon	82	0.41						
Herring Gull	46	0.23						
Bonaparte's Gull	44	0.22						
Great Black-backed Gull	42	0.21						

Includes avian observations within the 300-m x 300-m survey strip transect when the ship was traveling ≥7 kts

Includes avian observations within the 300-m x 300-m survey strip transect when the ship was traveling ≥7 knots (kts)
 Detected abundance = No. birds/km and within the 300-m x 300-m survey strip transect when the ship was traveling ≥7 kts

² Detected abundance = No. birds/km and within the 300-m x 300-m survey strip transect when the ship was traveling ≥7 kts

Avian abundance offshore (**Table 5.1-2**) was very low (0.28 birds/km) during the October shipboard transects, but climbed nearly 13-fold in November (3.94); avian abundance decreased by close to half from November to December (2.12) as migration season approached completion. The composition of the avifauna changed dramatically from month to month, as different groups of birds migrated to and through the area. In October, over two-thirds of the very few birds present were gulls and terns (Laridae); no waterfowl, loons, or Northern Gannets were observed that month. As the October trip actually occurred in late September and early October, before the peak of southbound waterbird migrants, it is not surprising that bird abundance was low; however, the near absence of migrating Double-crested Cormorants (only 6 counted) was unexpected, as this species is typically moving in fairly large numbers in late September and early October. Though the November trip occurred after the time of typical peaking of waterbird migrants along the New Jersey coast, we recorded relatively high numbers of migrant waterfowl, loons, Northern Gannets, and gulls; each of these groups accounted for >200 of the 2,282 in-zone birds that month. Northern Gannets were the most abundant bird during the surveys. In December Northern Gannet remained the most numerous species, as is typical. Loons, Northern Gannets, and gulls combined to account for >96 percent of all birds recorded offshore in December.

The most significant event of the season was the large movement of Black-legged Kittiwakes recorded on the November offshore transects (**Table 5.1-2**). In fact, the number recorded in-zone during November (106) was larger than the total of all in-zone occurrences during the entire rest of the project. This movement was noted in the same time period from a couple on-shore sites to the northeast of the project area, Montauk Point, NY (S. Mitra pers. comm.) and Block Island, RI (T. Magarian pers. comm.), but not from any New Jersey coastal points.

5.1.1.2.3 Avian density

Methods

High-density grid boxes were identified based on a ranking procedure, in which the individual grid boxes with non-zero densities (i.e., those grid boxes with at least one bird sighting) were ranked in the order of highest to lowest total density.

This procedure was conducted for each individual month (October, November, and December 2009) for all birds from the combined offshore ship and coastal boat surveys, using the Minerals Management Service (MMS) grid system of 249 grid boxes that are defined on a regular longitude-latitude (lon-lat) grid system that encompasses the entire survey area off the New Jersey coast. Each square grid box is defined by a maximum (max) and minimum (min) longitude and a max-min latitude. The area of each grid box (square kilometers [km²]) is calculated from these min-max lon-lat values.

Input bird sightings data for the purpose of these calculations consists of the following parameters recorded for each observation (sighting): Number of birds sighted, date (month, day, and year) of the observation, and the lon-lat coordinates of the observation. Each observation is identified and binned spatially into the appropriate grid box as well as temporally according to month. After all bird counts are binned according to month and grid box, the number of bird counts within each grid box for each month is summed to yield a total bird count, which is then divided by the area of the specific grid box to yield total monthly bird density.

To identify high avian density grid boxes in the Study Area, an alphabetic letter-ranked system (A-F) is used. Rank A is designated as the highest avian density and Rank E is designated as the lowest non-zero density. For each month the zero-density grid boxes are identified and automatically assigned a rank of "F". The percentile density ranges for each rank are: Rank A: 80-100 percent; Rank B: 60-79 percent; Rank C: 40-59 percent; Rank D: 20-39 percent; Rank E: 0.01-19 percent.

The above procedure is repeated for each month (October-December 2009), for the combined offshore (ship) and coastal (boat) surveys, for total birds. Then, for each month and survey type, color-coded spatial maps of the 249 grid boxes encompassing the survey area are generated, with the ranks of A, B, C, D, E, represented by a progression from darkest to lightest shades of green, and F represented by

white. Each of the 249 grid boxes is assigned the appropriate color according to its ranking. By definition, high-density grid boxes are identified by the dark green grid boxes (which are ranked "A", corresponding to densities in the 80-100 percentile).

Results

Monthly color-coded spatial maps illustrating the 249 gridboxes ranked according to avian density are given in Figure 5.1-4 through Figure 5.1-9 for the combined offshore (ship) and coastal (boat) surveys (Figure 5.1-4: Total [i.e., all behavior categories] birds in October 2009; Figure 5.1-5: Total birds in November 2009; Figure 5.1-6: Total birds in December 2009; Figure 5.1-7: Sitting birds in October 2009; Figure 5.1-8: Sitting birds in November 2009; Figure 5.1-9: Sitting birds in December 2009). The gridboxes depicted in dark green (indicating avian densities from 80 to 100 percent among the positive-density gridboxes) are designated as high-density gridboxes. As shown on the color-coded spatial maps, the spatial locations of the high-density gridboxes exhibit monthly variability.

The combined offshore (ship) and coastal (boat) surveys showed a highly scattered spatial distribution of high-density (dark green) gridboxes for both total and sitting birds, in October, November, and December 2009 (Figure 5.1-4 through Figure 5.1-9). Offshore observations (as indicated by a higher number of colored gridboxes) were generally more numerous in November than in October or December, whereas there were more coastal observations in October and December than in November. Among regions where sightings occurred (non-white gridboxes), high-density (dark green) gridboxes were highly interspersed with medium-density (medium green) and low-density (light green) gridboxes in the northern, central, and southern regions of the Study Area, with adjacent dark green and light green gridboxes indicating sharp local spatial gradients in abundance. For total birds, there were 18 high-density gridboxes in October (Figure 5.1-4), 24 in November (Figure 5.1-5), and 16 in November (Figure 5.1-6). For sitting birds, there were 9 high-density gridboxes in October (Figure 5.1-7), 15 in November (Figure 5.1-8), and 12 in November (Figure 5.1-9).

For total birds, sightings and abundances were scattered throughout the Study Area (from northern to southern regions) in all three months (as indicated by interdispersion among white and non-white gridboxes), and were more heavily concentrated nearshore in October and December than in November (Figures 5.1-4 to 5.1-6). Conversely, there were relatively more offshore sightings in November than in October and December, with the few offshore December sightings occurring in the northern and southern regions of the Study Area. In October (Figure 5.1-4) and December (Figure 5.1-6), colored gridboxes predominated over white gridboxes in the coastal region, with high-density (dark green) gridboxes interspersed along the coastline, ranging from Barnegat Light (northern extent) to Hereford Inlet (southern extent) in October, and ranging from Barnegat Bay to Hereford Inlet in December. In the northern coastal region, there were relatively more sightings and a heavier concentration of high-density gridboxes in December (Figure 5.1-6) than in October (Figure 5.1-4) and November (Figure 5.1-5). In November, there were relatively fewer coastal sightings (as indicated by a high proportion of white gridboxes in the coastal region) than in the other two months, with only one high-density gridbox touching the coastline (adjacent to Ocean City and Great Egg Harbor Bay; Figure 5.1-5). The majority of high-density (dark green) gridboxes occurred in the coastal region in October and December, and occurred in the midoffshore region in November. Among the colored gridboxes, a distinct onshore-offshore gradient is evident in all 3 months, with higher avian densities nearshore and lower avian densities further offshore (Figure 5.1-4 to 5.1-6). For example, in October (Figure 5.1-4) and December (Figure 5.1-6), most of the high-density gridboxes were concentrated in the coastal region, whereas the offshore regions exhibited a greater number of low-density (light green) gridboxes than high-density (dark green) gridboxes. In November, even though there were relatively few coastal sightings, most of the colored gridboxes located nearest the coastline (in the mid-offshore region) were high-density rather than lowdensity, whereas the far-offshore region showed relatively more low-density gridboxes than high-density gridboxes, reflecting a general decrease in avian density with increasing offshore distance from the midoffshore to the far-offshore regions (i.e., considering only those regions with adequate sightings; Figure 5.1-5). In the offshore region, only November showed a significant number of high-density gridboxes, which were more heavily concentrated in the south and mid-offshore than in the north and far-offshore (Figure 5.1-5). The number of offshore sightings in October was less than in November but greater than

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in December, with relatively more high-density gridboxes in the south than in the central and northern regions. In December, mostly all of the offshore sightings occurred in the northern and southern regions, with essentially zero sightings (a continuum of white gridboxes) in the offshore central region (**Figure 5.1-6**). In general, spatial gradients showed a general decrease in avian density with increasing offshore distance. In the offshore region, moving from north to south, avian densities generally decreased and then increased. In the coastal region, avian densities were spatially variable all along the coast in the months with adequate sightings (October and December), with a relatively lower density in the northern coastal region in October than in December.

For sitting birds, the spatial gradients in avian density and the relative proportions and distributions of high-density (dark green), low-density (light green), and zero-density (white) gridboxes in the coastal and offshore regions (Figures 5.1-7 to 5.1-9) were similar to the all-behavior birds (Figures 5.1-4 to 5.1-6). That is, there were a greater number of sightings and high-density gridboxes in the coastal region in October (Figures 5.1-4 and 5.1-7) and December (Figures 5.1-6 and 5.1-9) than in November (Figures 5.1-5 and 5.1-8); there were relatively more offshore sightings in November than in October and December; high-density gridboxes were interspersed all along the coastline in October and December; avian densities were generally higher nearshore (in those months with adequate coastal sightings: October and December) and decreased moving offshore (including from mid-offshore to far-offshore); and offshore avian densities were generally higher in the northern and southern regions than in the central region (Figures 5.1-7 to 5.1-9).

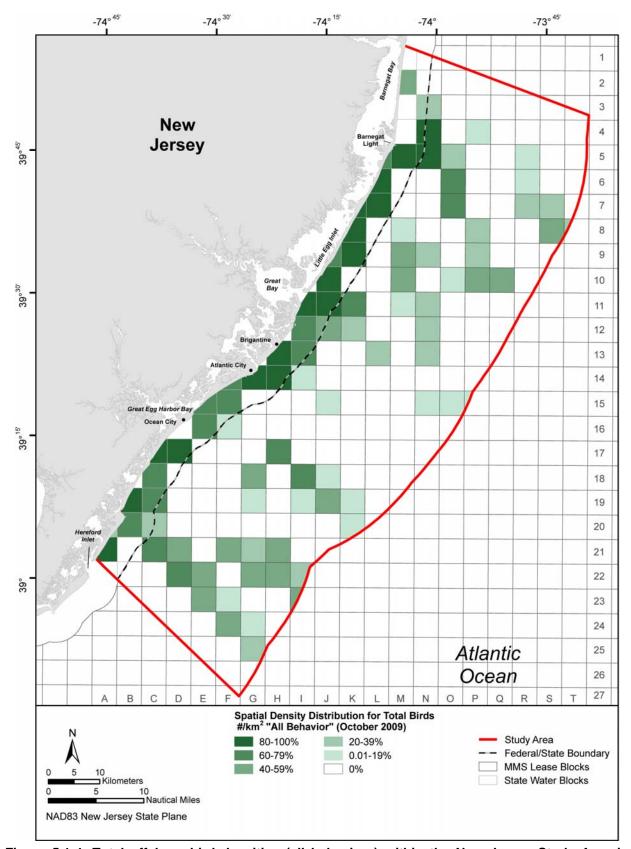


Figure 5.1-4. Total offshore bird densities (all behaviors) within the New Jersey Study Area in October 2009.

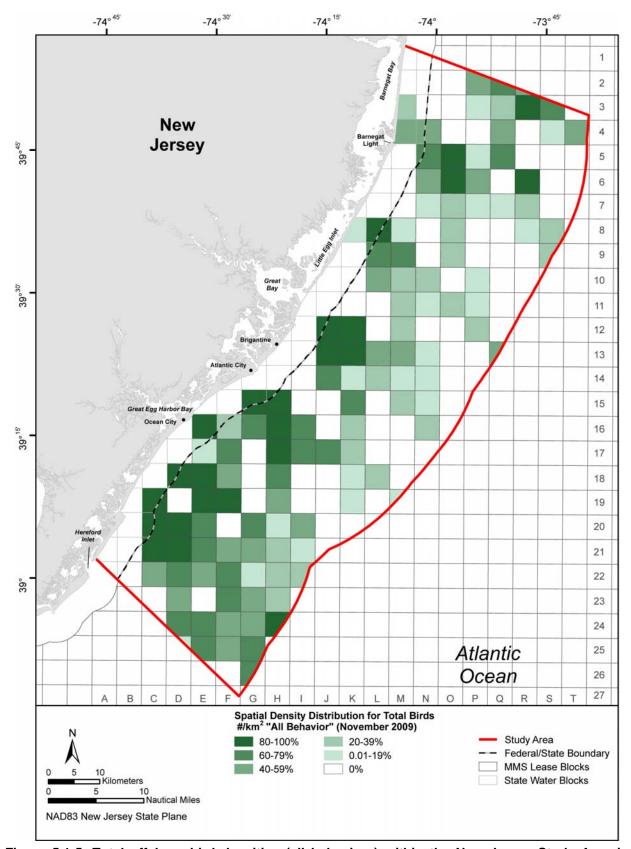


Figure 5.1-5. Total offshore bird densities (all behaviors) within the New Jersey Study Area in November 2009.

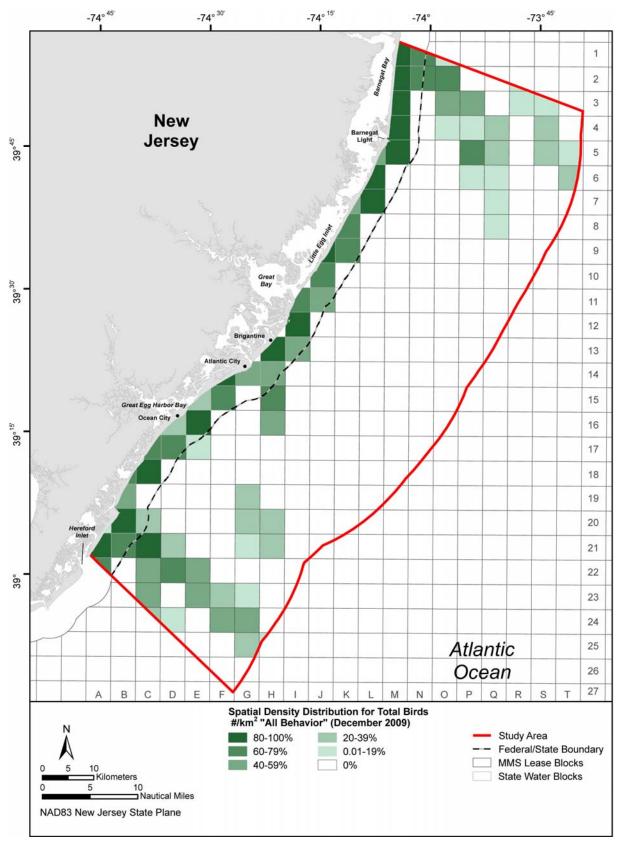


Figure 5.1-6. Total offshore bird densities (all behaviors) within the New Jersey Study Area in December 2009.

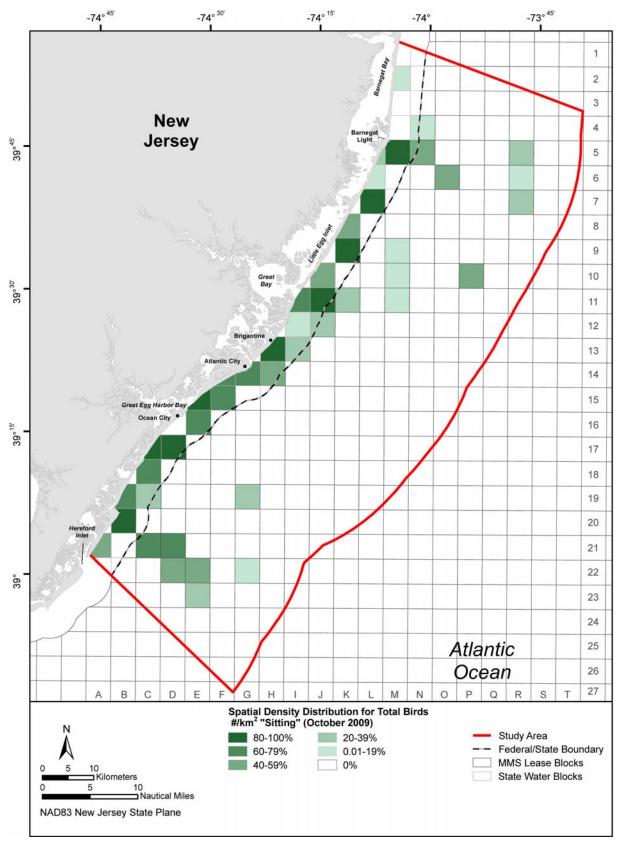


Figure 5.1-7. Total offshore bird densities (sitting) within the New Jersey Study Area in October 2009.

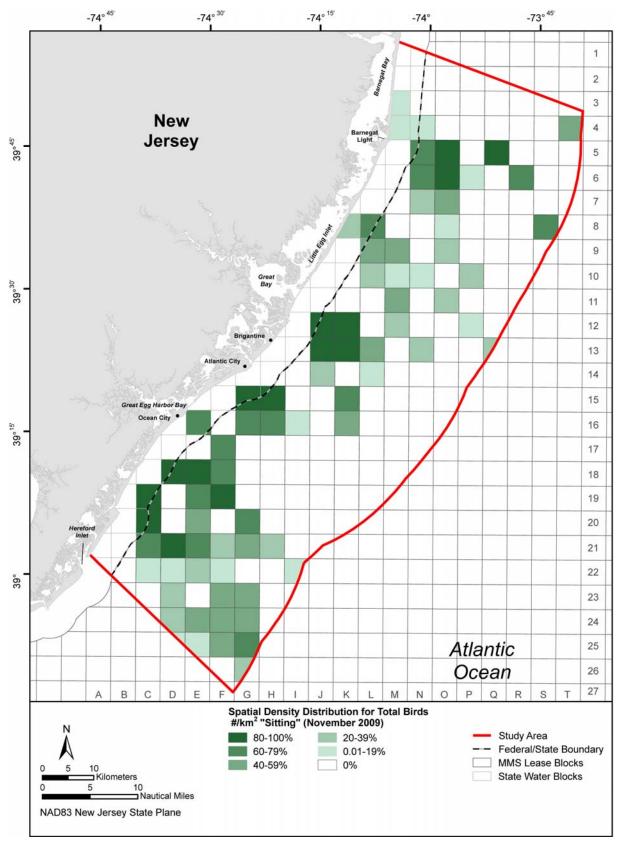


Figure 5.1-8. Total offshore bird densities (sitting) within the New Jersey Study Area in November 2009.

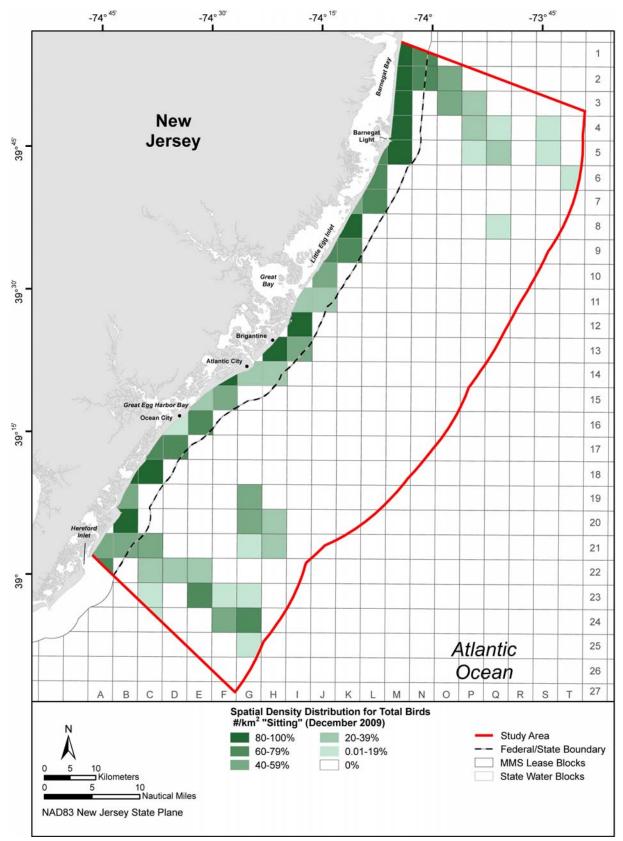


Figure 5.1-9. Total offshore bird densities (sitting) within the New Jersey Study Area in December 2009.

5.1.2 Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles

5.1.2.1 Survey Effort

Shipboard marine mammal/sea turtle survey efforts may differ from avian survey efforts due to specific differences in survey methodologies (e.g., sea state/observation requirements).

5.1.2.1.1 October 2009

Marine mammal/sea turtle shipboard surveys were initiated on 28 September and concluded on 02 October. Effort was delayed on 27 September due to rain, high seas, and gusts up to 25 knots. Effort was suspended mid-morning on 28 September and through 29 September due to strong winds (Beaufort Sea State [BSS] >5). We had several brief delays in survey effort on 30 September and 01/02 October while waiting for winds to die down to a BSS of 5. The survey period ended a day early due to rain and strong southeast winds. The survey covered 213.23 NM (394.90 km) of an on-effort trackline (**Figure 5.1-10**).

5.1.2.1.2 November 2009

Marine mammal/sea turtle shipboard surveys were initiated on 19 November and concluded on 22 November. Effort was delayed on 18 November due to strong northeast winds and high seas (4-7 feet [ft]). Brief delays in effort were experienced on 19 November due to thick patches of fog that hindered visibility. Effort was suspended in the early afternoon on 22 November due to strong winds (BSS=6). The survey covered 278.67 NM (516.10 km) of an on-effort trackline (**Figure 5.1-11**).

5.1.2.1.3 December 2009

Marine mammal/sea turtle shipboard surveys were initiated on 07 December and concluded on 13 December. During this survey period, we experienced rough weather consisting of gale force winds during many of our survey days; therefore, survey effort was suspended from 09 December through 11 December. We had a delay in survey effort the morning of 12 December and had to end survey effort early on 13 December due to strong winds (BSS=6). The survey covered 107.955 NM (199.93 km) of oneffort trackline (**Figure 5.1-12**).

5.1.2.2 Survey Results

Five marine mammal and one sea turtle species were observed on the ship surveys from October through December 2009. All sightings from this time period are summarized in **Table 5.1-4**. Four of the six species observed are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

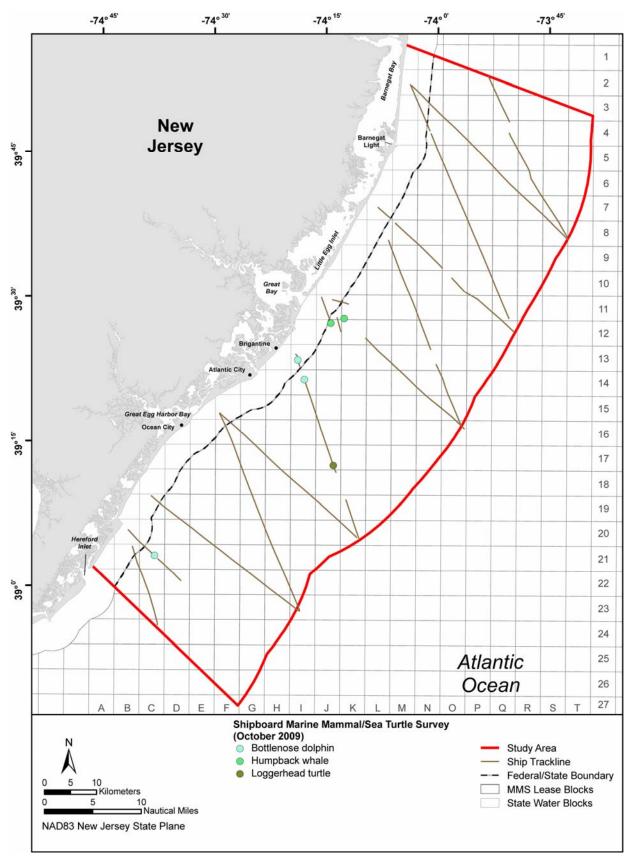


Figure 5.1-10. Shipboard Marine Mammal/Sea Turtle Survey for October 2009.

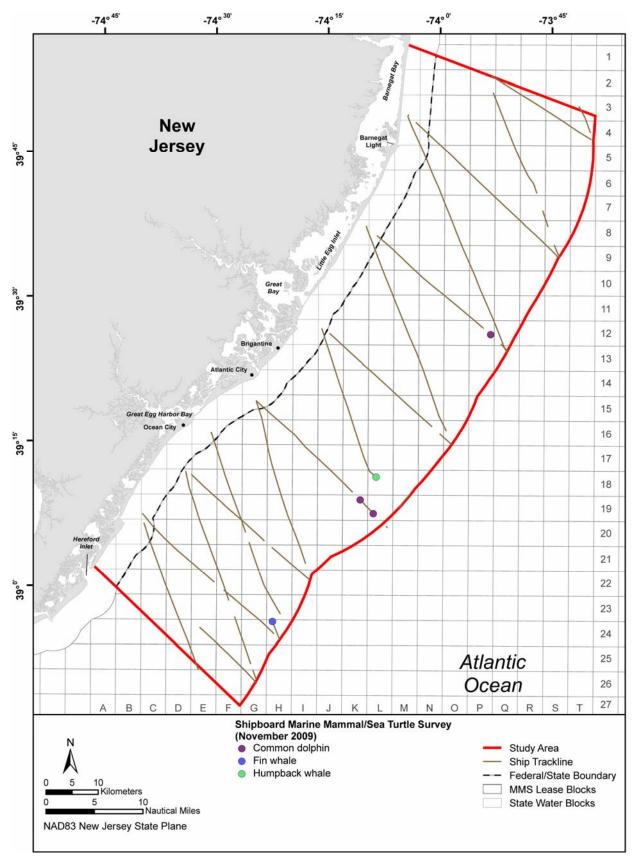


Figure 5.1-11. Shipboard Marine Mammal/Sea Turtle Survey for November 2009.

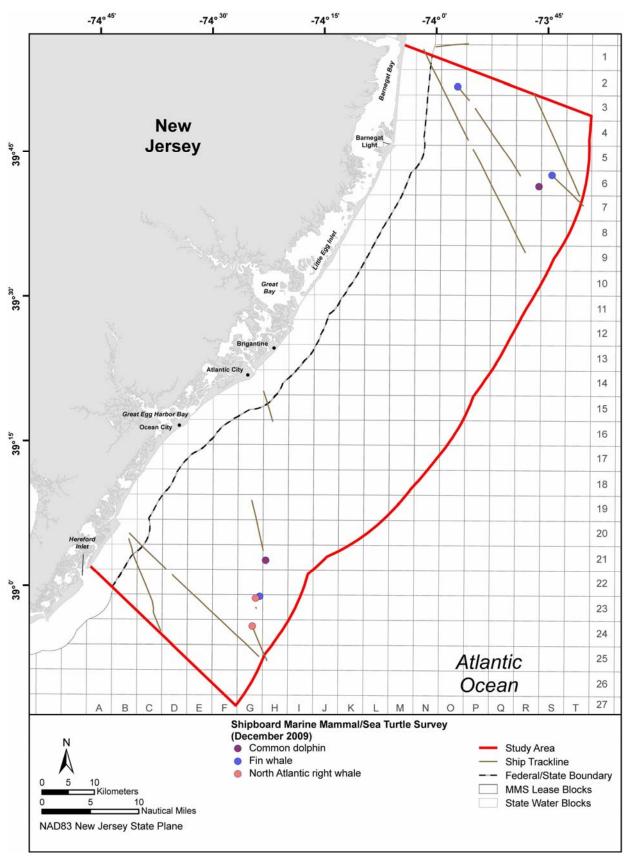


Figure 5.1-12. Shipboard Marine Mammal/Sea Turtle Survey for December 2009.

Table 5.1-4
Summary of Marine Mammal/Sea Turtle Sightings from the Shipboard Surveys from October through December 2009.

Common Name, Scientific Name	Sightings by Month					
Common Name, Scientific Name	October	November	December			
Fin whale, Balaenoptera physalus*		1	3			
Humpback whale, Megaptera novaeangliae*	2	1				
North Atlantic right whale, Eubalaena glacialis*			2			
Bottlenose dolphin, Tursiops truncatus	3					
Common dolphin, Delphinus delphis		3	2			
Loggerhead turtle, Caretta caretta*	1					

^{*} ESA species

This table is a summary of sightings and not the total number of animals observed. Note that a sighting can include more than one animal.

5.2 AERIAL SURVEYS

5.2.1 Avian

Aerial avian surveys were discontinued for the remainder of the project.

5.2.2 Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles

Aerial marine mammal and sea turtle surveys were discontinued for the remainder of the project.

5.3 SMALL BOAT COASTAL SURVEYS

5.3.1 Survey Effort

Per NJDEP request, the coastal survey effort was included with the ship-based based survey effort figures.

5.3.1.1 October 2009

The small-boat coastal survey was conducted on 06 October 2009, with transects covering 71.19 NM (131.70 km; **Figure 5.1-1**). Survey effort was continuous. The total daily effort was 6.66 hrs.

5.3.1.2 November 2009

The small-boat coastal survey was conducted on 01 December 2009, with transects covering 75.42 NM (139.53 km; **Figure 5.1-2**). Survey effort was continuous. The total daily effort was 7.06 hrs.

5.3.1.3 December 2009

The small-boat coastal survey was conducted on 18 December 2009, with transects covering 75.82 NM (140.27 km; **Figure 5.1-3**). Survey effort was continuous. The total daily effort was 7.10 hrs.

5.3.2 Survey Results

5.3.2.1 Avian Species Occurrence

All 40 avian species observed during the October through December 2009 coastal surveys are listed in **Table 5.3-1**. During the October survey, 26 species were recorded; 16 species were recorded during November 2009 and 21 species were detected during the December 2009.

Table 5.3-1
Avian species observed during the October and December 2009 small boat coastal surveys¹.

Family	2009				
Common Name, Scientific name	06 October	01 December ²	18 December		
Anatidae (ducks, geese, and swans)					
Snow Goose, Chen caerulescens			Х		
Atlantic Brant, Branta bernicla	Х				
Canada Goose, Branta canadensis	Х		Х		
Wood Duck, Aix sponsa	Х				
American Wigeon, Anas americana	Х				
American Black Duck, Anas rubripes	Х	Х	Χ		
Northern Pintail, Anas acuta	Х				
American Green-winged Teal, Anas crecca	Х				
Greater Scaup, Aythya marila			Х		
Common Eider, Somateria mollissima		X	Х		
Surf Scoter, Melanitta perspicillata		X	Х		
White-winged Scoter, Melanitta fusca			Х		
Black Scoter, Melanitta nigra	Х	Х	Х		
Long-tailed Duck, Clangula hyemalis		X	Х		
Red-breasted Merganser, Mergus serrator		X	X		
Gaviidae (loons)					
Red-throated Loon, Gavia stellata		X	Х		
Common Loon, Gavia immer		X	Х		
Podicipedidae (grebes)					
Horned Grebe, Podiceps auritus			Х		
Sulidae (gannets)					
Northern Gannet, Morus bassanus	Х	Х	Х		
Pelecanidae (pelicans)					
Brown Pelican, Pelecanus occidentalis	Х				
Phalacrocoracidae (cormorants)					
Double-crested Cormorant, Phalacrocorax auritus	Х	Х	Х		
Great Cormorant, Phalacrocorax carbo			Х		
Ardeidae (egrets and herons)					
Great Blue Heron, Ardea herodias	Х				
Accipitridae (eagles and hawks)					
Osprey, Pandion haliaetus	Х				
Falconidae (falcons)					
³ Peregrine Falcon, <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Х				
Scolopacidae (sandpipers)					
Greater Yellowlegs, Tringa Melanoleuca	Х				
Sanderling, Calidris alba			Х		
Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina</i>			Х		
Short-billed Dowitcher, Limnodromus griseus	Х				
Laridae (gulls and terns)					
Bonaparte's Gull, Chroicocephalus philadelphia		Х			
Laughing Gull, Leucophaeus atricilla	Х	Х			
Ring-billed Gull, Larus delawarensis	Х	Х	Х		
Herring Gull, Larus argentatus	Х	X	Х		
Great Black-backed Gull, Larus marinus	Х	Х	Х		

Table 5.3-1 (*continued*)

Avian species observed during the October and December 2009 small boat coastal surveys¹.

Family		2009			
Common Name, Scientific name	06 October	01 December ²	18 December		
Laridae (gulls and terns)					
Caspian Tern, Hydroprogne caspia	X				
Common Tern, Sterna hirundo	X				
Forster's Tern, Sterna forsteri	X	X			
Royal Tern, Thalasseus maximus	X				
Rallidae (swallows)					
American Coot, Fulica americana	X				
Cardinalidae (cardinals, grosbeaks and tanagers)					
Scarlet Tanager, Piranga olivacea	X				

All birds identified to species during avian surveys are included, whether in-zone or out-zone

5.3.2.2 Avian Abundance

The monthly number of individual birds/km (i.e., number of individuals detected on one side of and within 300 m of the ship from the beam forward) observed on the coastal surveys increased from October 2009 (10.45) to November 2009 (18.65), and decreased slightly in December 2009 (15.40) (**Table 5.3-2**). Increased abundance values from October to November 2009 were attributed to increased presence of migrant waterfowl, loons, and Northern Gannets. Between November and December 2009 waterfowl abundance increased while the abundance of loons, Northern Gannets, and gulls and terns decreased (**Table 5.3-2**).

The five most numerous species for each month of coastal transect surveys are presented in **Table 5.3-3**. The only two species represented in the top five for multiple months were Northern Gannet (November and December) and Herring Gull (all months). Laughing Gull was the most numerous species recorded in October, representing 60 percent of all individuals recorded. Northern Gannet was the most numerous species recorded in November, representing 37 percent of all individuals recorded. Black Scoter was the most numerous species recorded in December, representing 29 percent of all individuals recorded. The top five species together represented 92, 77, and 74 percent of all individuals recorded in October, November, and December, respectively.

Coastal avian abundance (**Table 5.3-2**) remained relatively high throughout the season, with October numbers accounting for more than half of both the November and December numbers. In addition, waterfowl accounted for a much higher percentage of bird numbers, as is expected of these primarily coastal migrants. During the primary loon-migration season (November and December), loons accounted for fairly similar percentages of all birds between offshore (11.5 percent) and coastal (16.7 percent).

5.3.2.3 Avian Density

Methods

The methods for determining avian density are identical to the ship-based surveys (Section 5.1.1.2.3).

Results

Per NJDEP request, the coastal survey results were discussed with the ship-based avian densities (Section 5.1.1.2.3).

The small boat coastal survey scheduled for November 2009 was completed on 01 December 2009

³ New Jersey Endangered Species

Table 5.3-2 In-zone avian species abundance observed during October, November, and December 2009 small-boat coastal surveys.

Family	October 2009		November 2009		December 2009	
Common Name, Scientific Name	No. ¹ Abun. ¹	No. ¹			No. ¹ Abun. ¹	
Total Birds	1,364	10.45	2,584	18.65	2,144	15.40
Anatidae (swans, geese, and ducks)	59	0.45	608	4.38	1,242	8.92
Canada Goose, Branta canadensis					5	0.04
Wood Duck, Aix sponsa	1	0.01				
American Wigeon, Anas americana	4	0.03				
American Black Duck, Anas rubripes	5	0.04	18	0.13	2	0.01
Northern Pintail, Anas acuta	31	0.24				
Green-winged Teal, Anas crecca	7	0.05				
Greater Scaup, Aythya marila					7	0.05
Common Eider, Somateria mollissima			53	0.38	2	0.01
Surf Scoter, Melanitta perspicillata			222	1.6	157	1.13
White-winged Scoter, Melanitta fusca					42	0.3
Black Scoter, <i>Melanitta nigra</i>	11	0.08	115	0.83	632	4.54
Scoter, dark-winged (unknown), <i>Melanitta</i> sp.			50	0.36		
Scoter (unknown), Melanitta sp.					1	0.01
Long-tailed Duck, Clangula hyemalis			146	1.05	392	2.82
Red-breasted Merganser, Mergus serrator			4	0.03	2	0.01
Gaviidae (loons)	1	0.01	439	3.17	352	2.53
Red-throated Loon, Gavia stellata			395	2.85	174	1.25
Common Loon, <i>Gavia immer</i>	1	0.01	44	0.32	178	1.28
Podicipedidae (grebes)					1	0.01
Horned Grebe, <i>Podiceps auritus</i>					1	0.01
Sulidae (gannets)	14	0.11	959	6.92	198	1.42
Northern Gannet, Morus bassanus	14	0.11	959	6.92	198	1.42
Pelecanidae (pelicans)	37	0.28				
Brown Pelican, Pelecanus occidentalis	37	0.28				
Phalacrocoracidae (cormorants)	6	0.05	61	0.44	3	0.02
Double-crested Cormorant, Phalacrocorax auritus	6	0.05	61	0.44	3	0.02
Falconidae (falcons)	1	0.01				0.0=
Peregrine Falcon, Falco peregrinus	1	0.01				
Rallidae (rails)	1	0.01				
American Coot, Fulica americana	1	0.01				
Scolopacidae (sandpipers)	12	0.09			88	0.63
Greater Yellowlegs, Tringa melanoleuca	7	0.05				
Sanderling, Calidris alba					43	0.31
Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina</i>					45	0.32
Short-billed Dowitcher, Limnodromus griseus	5	0.04				
Laridae (gulls and terns)	1,232	9.43	517	3.74	260	1.87
Bonaparte's Gull, Chroicocephalus philadelphia	,		228	1.65		
Laughing Gull, Leucophaeus atricilla	820	6.27	16	0.12		
Ring-billed Gull, Larus delawarensis	2	0.02	72	0.52	45	0.32
Herring Gull, Larus argentatus	107	0.82	175	1.26	197	1.42
Great Black-backed Gull, Larus marinus	177	1.35	22	0.16	18	0.13
Gull, large (unknown)	1	0.01				
Common Tern, Sterna hirundo	4	0.03				
Forster's Tern, Sterna forsteri	112	0.86	4	0.03		
Royal Tern, <i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	9	0.07				
Cardinalidae (cardinal and allies)	1	0.01				
Scarlet Tanager, Piranga olivacea	1	0.01				

Includes avian observations within the 300-m x 300-m survey strip transect when the ship was traveling ≥7 knots (kts)
 Detected abundance = No. birds/km and within the 300-m x 300-m survey strip transect when the ship was traveling ≥7 kts

Table 5.3-3
The most abundant in-zone avian species during the October through December 2009 small-boat coastal transect surveys.

iotai traniocot cai voyor	
2009 Small Boat Coastal In-z	one ¹
Number	Abundance ²
820	6.27
177	1.35
112	0.86
107	0.82
37	0.28
2009 Small Boat Coastal In-	zone ¹
Number	Abundance ²
959	6.92
395	2.85
228	1.65
222	1.60
175	1.26
2009 Small Boat Coastal In-	zone ¹
Number	Abundance ²
632	4.54
392	2.82
198	1.42
197	1.42
178	1.28
	Number 820 177 112 107 37 2009 Small Boat Coastal In-Number 959 395 228 222 175 2009 Small Boat Coastal In-Number 632 392 198 197 197

¹ Includes avian observations within the 300-m x 300-m survey strip transect when the ship was traveling ≥7 kts

5.4 SUPPLEMENTAL AVIAN OFFSHORE AND ONSHORE SURVEYS

Supplemental shipboard avian surveys were scheduled for October, November, and December 2009. Two types of supplemental surveys, offshore ship sawtooth transects and sea watch/transect, were conducted. Since this is a new task, a general overview of the methods for both surveys is provided. The sampling design and a detailed survey and analysis methodology will be provided in the Final Draft Report.

5.4.1 Field Survey Methodology

5.4.1.1 Offshore Sawtooth Ship Transect Surveys

Two to three survey dates were scheduled for each available week between 01 October and 08 December 2009. Survey methodology was identical to that of the shipboard avian surveys.

5.4.1.2 Sea Watch and Transect Surveys

Concurrent sea watch and strip-transect surveys were conducted between 20 October and 04 December 2009. Land-based surveys were conducted from Barnegat Light (39°45'30.21"N, 74°05'42.08"W) and Avalon, NJ (39°06'35.13"N, 74°42'29.78"W). Southbound birds were recorded in 15-minute (min)

² Detected abundance = No. birds/km and within the 300-m x 300-m survey strip transect when the ship was traveling ≥7 kts

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increments. Parameters recorded included species (to lowest identifiable taxon), flock size and composition, and distance from shore (within or outside 2 km). Shipboard strip-transects were conducted simultaneously with each sea watch along three 20-km lines spaced 1.5 NM apart at their coastal origins and running perpendicularly from the coast to the offshore boundary of the project area. Surveys were conducted from the North-facing side of the vessel. All southbound birds crossing the transect line were recorded. Parameters recorded included species (to lowest identifiable taxon), flock size and composition, and bearing and distance to each sighting.

5.4.2 Survey Effort

5.4.2.1 Ship Sawtooth Transect Surveys

A sawtooth survey was attempted on 12 October 2009 but could not be initiated because of unacceptable weather conditions. Sawtooth surveys were conducted on 22 and 26 October 2009 (see **Figure 5.1-1**), 08 November 2009 (see **Figure 5.1-2**), and 07 and 08 December 2009 (see **Figure 5.1-3**).

5.4.2.2 Sea Watch/Transect Surveys

Sea watch/transect surveys were conducted on 20 and 22 October 2009 (Figure 5.4-1), 09 and 10 November 2009 (Figure 5.4-2), and on 02 December 2009 (Figure 5.4-3).

5.4.3 Survey Results

5.4.3.1 Ship Sawtooth Transect Surveys

Survey data are currently being analyzed. Survey results will be presented in the Draft Final Report.

5.4.3.2 Sea Watch/Transect Surveys

Survey data are currently being analyzed. Survey results will be presented in the Draft Final Report.

5.5 RADAR SURVEYS

5.5.1 Data Collection

The land-based Mobile Avian Radar System (MARS $^{\circ}$) was moved from Island Beach State Park, New Jersey on 02 October 2009 (where it had been deployed since 15 September) to Brigantine Beach, New Jersey. MARS $^{\circ}$ operated from 05 – 26 October at Brigantine Beach and then relocated to Sea Isle City, New Jersey, where it operated from 26 October to 16 November 2009 (**Figure 5.5-1**).

Land-based ground truth surveys were conducted from 16 September to 02 October 2009 at Island Beach State Park for a total of 25.25 hrs. At Brigantine Beach, land-based ground truthing surveys were conducted from 06 – 23 October 2009 for a total of 28.25 hrs. A boat-based ground truth survey was conducted on 22 October for a total of 6 hrs. Land-based groundtruthing surveys were conducted from 26 October to 15 November 2009 at Sea Isle City for a total of 32.25 hrs. A combined total of 85.75 hrs of ground truth data were collected over the duration of fall 2009 radar surveys.

5.5.2 Data Analysis

The radar and ground truth survey data are currently being processed and analyzed.

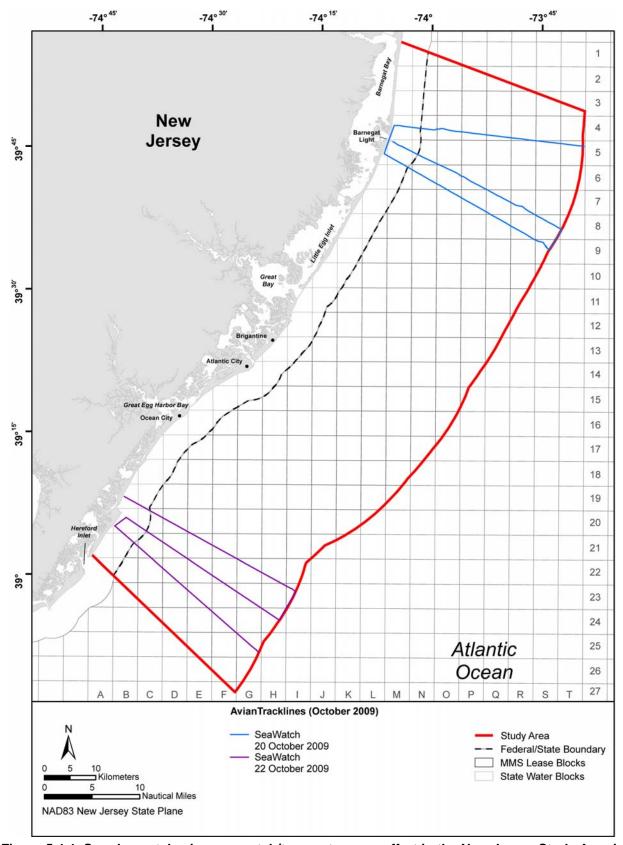


Figure 5.4-1. Supplemental avian sea watch/transect survey effort in the New Jersey Study Area in October 2009.

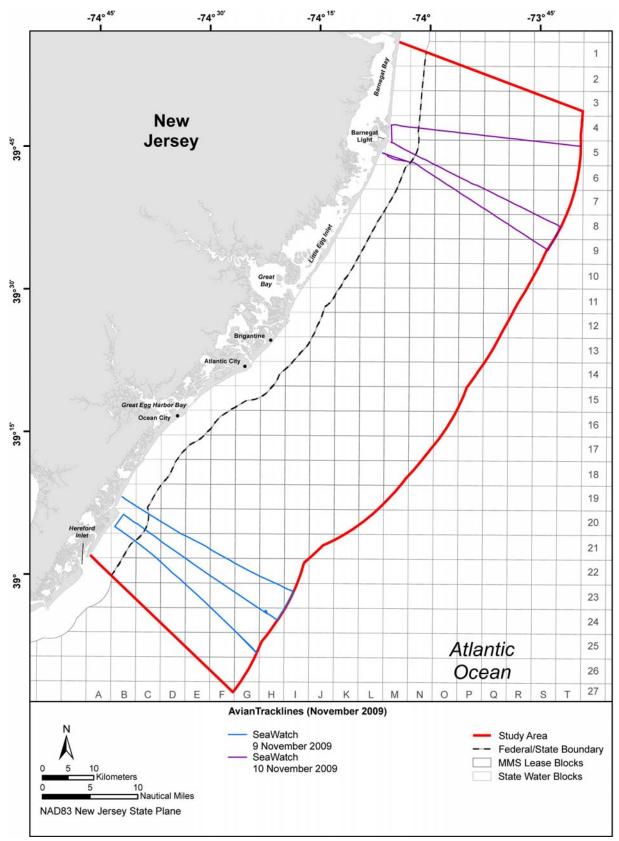


Figure 5.4-2. Supplemental avian sea watch/transect survey effort in the New Jersey Study Area in November 2009.

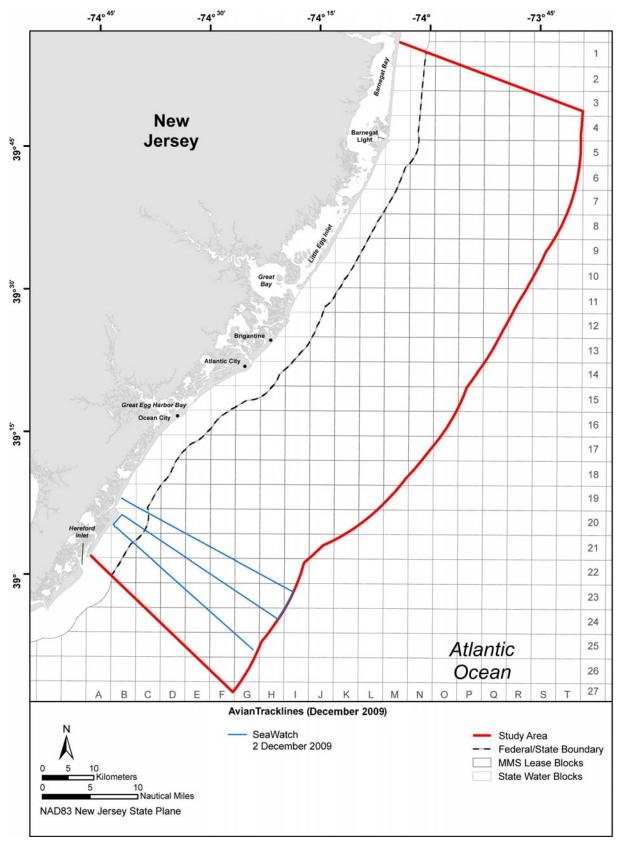


Figure 5.4-3. Supplemental avian sea watch/transect survey effort in the New Jersey Study Area in December 2009.

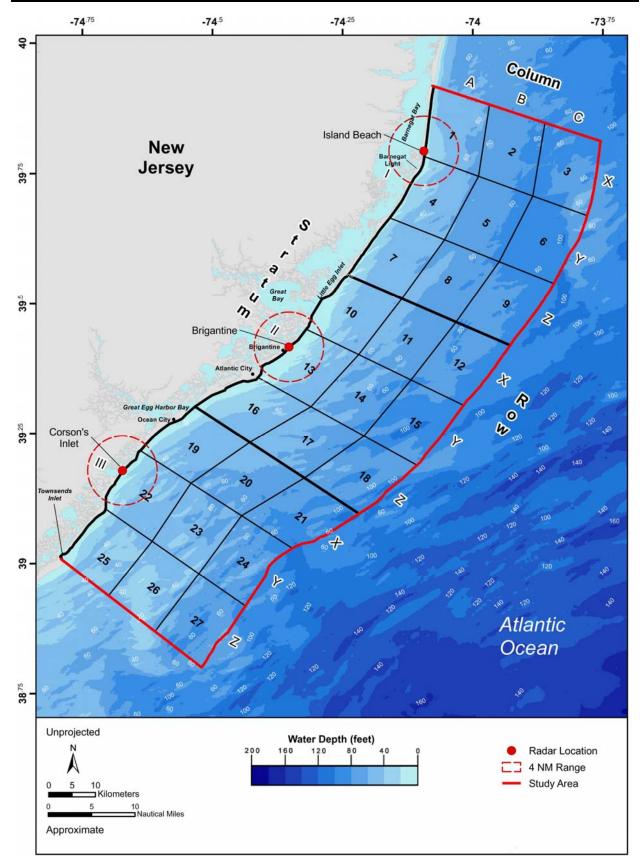


Figure 5.5-1. Radar Grid and Site Location for October and November 2009.

5.6 THERMAL SURVEYS

5.6.1 Data Collection

For the land-based radar system, recording was conducted at Brigantine Beach on 20 October 2009. Following the relocation of the land-based system to Sea Isle City recording was conducted on 03, 06, and 08 November 2009.

5.6.2 Data Analysis

The thermal imaging data are currently being analyzed at GMI's Millville, New Jersey office.

5.7 NEXRAD ANALYSIS

5.7.1 Data Collection

Level-II WSR-88D ($\underline{\mathbf{W}}$ eather $\underline{\mathbf{S}}$ urveillance $\underline{\mathbf{R}}$ adar – 19<u>88</u> $\underline{\mathbf{D}}$ oppler) radar data were collected from the Fort Dix, New Jersey weather station (KDIX) for a 5-year period (fall 2004 – spring 2009). These data were obtained from a radar data archive at the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) in Asheville, NC, and the archive has Level-II data from 04/26/1995 to present for the KDIX station.

5.7.2 Data Analysis

The NEXRAD data are currently being analyzed at GMI's Millville, NJ office.

5.8 ACOUSTIC SURVEYS

This report presents an update on the autonomous acoustic recorder deployment in August 2009, recovery operations in October and December 2009, and on details regarding the status of data processing and analyses for the duration of the project.

5.8.1 August 2009 - Pop-Up Deployment Update

Six pop-ups were deployed on 11 August 2009, each with an 1/8th stainless steel cable connector between the pop-up and its anchor. Two pop-ups (S#4 and S#5, see **Figure 5.8-1**) used the acoustic burn unit and were each affixed with an Argos Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking beacon. These units were recovered on 26 October 2009 in weather conditions that would preclude a diver-assisted recovery of the other units. The sea height ranged from 2 ft to 4 ft for swell with a 2-ft to 4-ft wind-driven chop. The weather deteriorated and the remaining four recorders were delayed in recovery until December.

Four pop-ups (at S#1b, S#3a, and S#2 (two units), see **Figure 5.8-1**) were shackled directly to their anchor and the acoustic burn unit was bypassed. Thus, these units required diver-assisted recovery: divers recovered all four units on 07 December 2009. The units were shipped to Bioacoustics Research Program (BRP) with the master data to be sent to GMI for processing by 15 December 2009

The pop-ups deployed at Station (S) number (#) 1b, 2, 3a, and 5 were loaded with a 2-kilohertz (kHz) sample rate and continuous duty cycle. The units deployed at S#4 and S#2 (second unit here) were deployed with a 31.25-kHz sample rate and 5 min on/25 min off duty cycle.

5.8.2 Data Analyses/Processing

Data analysis details refer to data collected from late March 2008 through December 2009, unless otherwise noted and for comparison purposes. Data analysis details are presented per deployment for ease of reference. Daily presence of fin whales (**Table 5.8-1**), North Atlantic right whales (**Table 5.8-2**), and delphinid species (**Table 5.8-3**) are presented for all deployments. Only presence of identified

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species and date of presence have been documented for these analyses. Data from each deployment are being opportunistically examined for vocalizations of species other than North Atlantic right whales, fin whales and delphinid species, as guided by survey data for other species identified during transect surveys.

5.8.2.1 March 2008 Deployment

Data from four pop-ups were collected at a 2-kHz sample rate facilitating an examination of baleen whale vocalizations that might have been made from late March 2008 through 16 June 2008. Data from each popup were examined using automated detection algorithms for Fin whale and North Atlantic right whale calls. Results for baleen whale species presence and date of presence are presented in **Tables 5.8-1** and **5.8-2**, respectively.

5.8.2.2 June 2008 Deployment

Data from four pop-ups were collected: two at a 2-kHz sample rate (continuous duty cycle) facilitating an examination of baleen whale vocalizations and two at a 31.25-kHz sample rate (5 min on/25 min off duty cycle) facilitating an examination of toothed whale calls. The lower sample rate data have been analyzed for presence of fin and North Atlantic right whale calls using a preset data template detector in Xbat (Extensible Bioacoustic Tool) and BRP's ISRAT call detection, respectively. Results for species presence and date of presence are presented in **Tables 5.8-1** and **5.8-2**, respectively. Toothed whale (likely a dolphin species) vocalizations have been detected in the data from both high-frequency data sets (**Table 5.8-3**). Little research has been conducted to definitively identify different delphinid species via frequency-modulated (FM) or amplitude-modulated (AM) calls alone; thus, identification to species based on call detection has been reserved although survey data suggest these calls to be from either bottlenose dolphins or common dolphins. Whistles, squawks, chirps, clicks, whines, brays, pops, and claps were all detected from various days of recordings.

5.8.2.3 September 2008 Deployment

Data from three pop-ups were collected: two at a 2-kHz sample rate (continuous duty cycle) for baleen whale vocalizations and one at a 31.25-kHz sample rate (5 min on/25 min off duty cycle) for toothed whale calls. The lower sample rate data have been analyzed for presence of fin and North Atlantic right whale calls using a preset data template detector in Xbat and BRP's ISRAT call detection, respectively. Results for species presence and date of presence are presented in **Tables 5.8-1** and **5.8-2**, respectively. Toothed whale (likely a dolphin species) vocalizations have been detected in the data from the high-frequency data set (**Table 5.8-3**), though fewer days presented delphinid calls for this third deployment as compared with the second (summer) deployment. A resident group of bottlenose dolphins frequents the waters of the New Jersey coastline during the summer months (Brown 2007), suggesting that these calls are likely from bottlenose dolphins.

5.8.2.4 December 2008 Deployment

Data from two pop-ups were recovered, though much later than planned (in June 2009 as opposed to the March recovery dates, see previous quarterly report for details). Data from two pop-ups have been analyzed: one at the high frequency (31.25 kHz) sample rate and one at the low frequency (2 kHz) sample rate. Fin whales were observed each month during this winter deployment (**Table 5.8-1**) while North Atlantic right whales were observed once during January, on several days in February and on a couple of days in March (**Table 5.8-2**). These data for the North Atlantic right whales extends scientific knowledge for the distribution of this endangered species during winter months along the United States (U.S.) east coast. Dolphins were observed infrequently during the winter months (**Table 5.8-3**), which supports previous studies suggesting that smaller delphinids are not in the area with colder water temperatures.

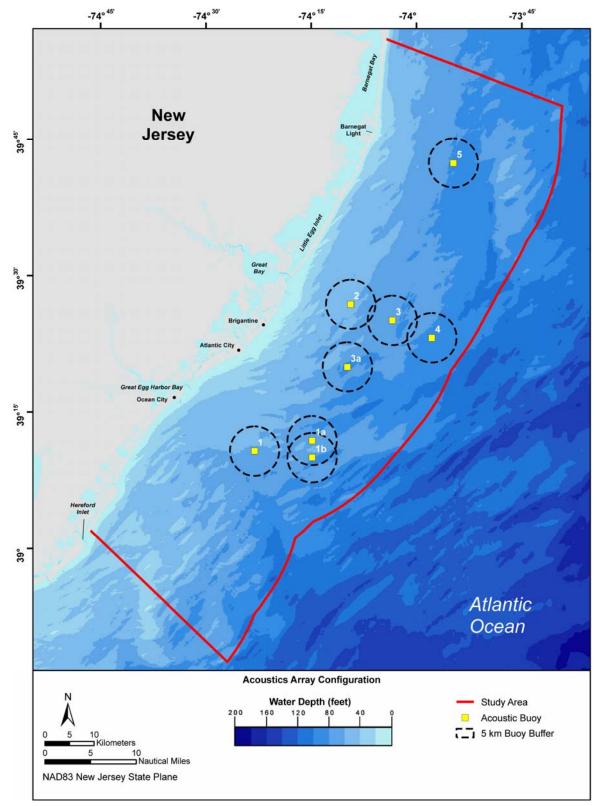


Figure 5.8-1. The array configuration for acoustic data collection with passive acoustic monitoring. The yellow squares represent a recording unit and station numbers are indicated next to each yellow square. Units deployed at S#1b and S#3a were shifted from the original location to affect greater distribution converge in assessment of the Study Area.

Table 5.8-1
Fin whale pulses detected by date and station are presented in chronological order. Pop-up ID (PU###) and Station (S#) within array configuration are provided. Dates of detection are presented per month per popup. PU179 was deployed only in December 2008, but was not recovered. Thus, this unit is not presented in the table below.

Month Deployed	PU081 (S#4)	PU063 (S#3)	PU134 (S#5/2)	PU086 (S#2)	PU202 (S#3)	PU203 (S#5)	PU002 (S#1a)	PU171 (S#2)	PU182 (S#4/2)	PU145 (S#1b)	PU153 (S#4)	PU160 (S#3a)	PU162 (S#5)
March 2008	29 th	29 th	29 th	29 th , 30 th	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
April 2008	4 th 6 th 7 th 9 th 10 th 12 th 27 th	4 th 9 th	4 th 9 th 13 th 15 th 27 th	1 st 5 th 7 th 8 th 15 th	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
May 2008	19 th 20 th 21 st 22 nd 23 rd	None	2 nd	4 th 5 th 9 th 18 th 19 th 22 nd	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
June 2008	4 th 10 th 11 th 15 th 16 th	2 nd 4 th	6 th 8 th 9 th 10 th 11 th 12 th 13 th 14 th 16 th 17 th 24 th - 30 th	No data	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
July 2008	High frequency code	None	1 st 6 th 11 th 13 th 16 th 17 th 19 th 20 th 21 st 22 nd 26 th – 31 st	High frequency code	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
August 2008	High frequency code	6 th 8 th – 14 th 18 th 19 th 24 th 28 th 31 st	1 st - 12 th 17 th 18 th 23 rd 24 th 25 th 27 th - 31 st	High frequency code	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
September 2008	High frequency code	3 rd 10 th - 12 th 14 th	1 st – 4 th 6 th 7 th 12 th 13 th	High frequency code	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
October 2008	Lost	Lost	Not in use	High frequency code	4 th 5 th 8 th 10 th 12 th 13 th 18 th 23 rd 27 th 28 th	19 th 27 th	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
November 2008	lost	Lost	Not in use	High frequency code	3 rd 4 th 7 th 8 th 13 th 14 th 16 th	2 nd 14 th	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
December 2008	lost	lost	deployed	High frequency code	1 st 16 th 18 th 20 th 21 st 24 th 26 th 28 th – 31 st	1 st 2 nd	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
January 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	Lost	1 st 2 nd 4 th 6 th 9 th – 31 st	Lost	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use

Table 5.8-1 (continued)

Fin whale pulses detected by date and station are presented in chronological order. Pop-up ID (PU###) and Station (S#) within array configuration are provided. Dates of detection are presented per month per popup. PU179 was deployed only in December 2008, but was not recovered. Thus, this unit is not presented in the table below.

Month Deployed	PU081 (S#4)	PU063 (S#3)	PU134 (S#5/2)	PU086 (S#2)	PU202 (S#3)	PU203 (S#5)	PU002 (S#1a)	PU171 (S#2)	PU182 (S#4/2)	PU145 (S#1b)	PU153 (S#4)	PU160 (S#3a)	PU162 (S#5)
February 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	Lost	1 st to 5 th 8 th 9 th 13 th – 17 th 22 nd 25 th 26 th	Lost	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
February 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	Lost	1 st to 5 th 8 th 9 th 13 th – 17 th 22 nd 25 th 26 th	Lost	Not in use	Not in use			Not in use		
March 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	Lost	1 st 4 th 6 th - 8 th 10 th - 14 th 20 th 22 nd	Lost	30 th 31 st	hardware error	29 th – 31 st	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
April 2009	N/A	N/A	Not in use	N/A	Not in use	N/A	1 st 2 nd 8 th 19 th	hardware error	8 th 19 th	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
May 2009	N/A	N/A	Not in use	N/A	Not in use	N/A	8 th – 11th	hardware error	$11^{th} - 16^{th}$ $18^{th} - 20^{th}$	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
June 2009	N/A	N/A	Not in use	N/A	Not in use	N/A	none	hardware error	none	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
August 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		Analyses ongoing	High frequency code	Analyses ongoing	Analyses ongoing
September 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Analyses ongoing	Analyses ongoing	High frequency code	Analyses ongoing	Analyses ongoing
October 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Analyses ongoing	Analyses ongoing	High frequency code	Analyses ongoing	Analyses ongoing
November 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not in use	Analyses ongoing	Not in use	Analyses ongoing	Analyses ongoing
December 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not in use	Analyses ongoing	Not in use	Analyses ongoing	Analyses ongoing

Table 5.8-2

North Atlantic right whale calls detected by date and station are presented in chronological order. Pop-up ID (PU###) and Station (S#) within array configuration also provided. Dates of detection are presented per month per popup. PU179 was deployed only in December 2008, but was not recovered. Thus, this unit is not presented in the table below.

Month Deployed	PU081 (S#4)	PU063 (S#3)	PU134 (S#5/2)	PU086 (S#2)	PU202 (S#3)	PU203 (S#5)	PU002 (S#1a)	PU171 (S#2)	PU182 (S#4/2)	PU145 (S#1b)	PU153 (S#4)	PU160 (S#3a)	PU162 (S#5)
March 2008	27 th 28 th 29 th	27 th 28 th	27 th	26 th 27 th 28 th	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
April 2008	6 th 20 th 25 th 27 th 28 th	20 th 21 st 25 th 26 th 27 th	20 th 22 nd 26 th 27 th	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 19 th 20 th 29 th	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
May 2008	5 th 6 th 15 th 17 th	2 nd 6 th 15 th 17 th	1 st 2 nd 5 th 6 th 15 th 16 th 17 th	2 nd 3 rd 6 th 10 th 11 th 15 th 21 st 22 nd 28 th 29 th	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
June 2008	11 th	11 th	10 th	No data	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
July 2008	High frequency code	27 th ?	20 th 24 th	High frequency code	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
August 2008	High frequency code	None	3 rd 5 th 24 th 28 th	High frequency code	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
September 2008	High frequency code	None	14 th – 17 th	High frequency code	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
October 2008	Lost	Lost	Not in use	High frequency code	None	None	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
November 2008	Lost	Lost	Not in use	High frequency code	16 th 17 th 19 th 26 th	11 th 12 th	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
December 2008	Lost	Lost	deployed	High frequency code	1 st	none	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
January 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	High frequency code	6 th 19 th	Lost	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use

Table 5.8-2 (continued)

North Atlantic right whale calls detected by date and station are presented in chronological order. Pop-up ID (PU###) and Station (S#) within array configuration also provided. Dates of detection are presented per month per popup. PU179 was deployed only in December 2008, but was not recovered. Thus, this unit is not presented in the table below.

Month Deployed	PU081 (S#4)	PU063 (S#3)	PU134 (S#5/2)	PU086 (S#2)	PU202 (S#3)	PU203 (S#5)	PU002 (S#1a)	PU171 (S#2)	PU182 (S#4/2)	PU145 (S#1b)	PU153 (S#4)	PU160 (S#3a)	PU162 (S#5)
February 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	High frequency code	14 th 15 th 17 th 18 th 19 th 24 th	Lost	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
March 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	High frequency code	13 th 22 nd	Lost	none	hardware error	25 th	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
April 2009	N/A	N/A	Not in use	N/A	Not in use	N/A	none	hardware error	13 th 23 rd	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
May 2009	N/A	N/A	Not in use	N/A	Not in use	N/A	none	hardware error	10 th 12 th 19 th 21 st	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
June 2009	N/A	N/A	Not in use	N/A	Not in use	N/A	none	hardware error	none	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
August 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Analyses ongoing	Analyses ongoing	High frequency code	Analyses ongoing	Analyses ongoing
September 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Analyses ongoing	Analyses ongoing	High frequency code	Analyses ongoing	Analyses ongoing
October 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Analyses ongoing	Analyses ongoing	High frequency code	Analyses ongoing	Analyses ongoing
November 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not in use	Analyses ongoing	Not in use	Analyses ongoing	Analyses ongoing
December 2009	N/A	N/A	High frequency code	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not in use	Analyses ongoing	Not in use	Analyses ongoing	Analyses ongoing

Table 5.8-3

Toothed whale calls detected by date and station are presented in chronological order. No calls identified for first deployment (26 March 08 – 17 June 08) since the sample rate was too low to detect toothed whale calls. Pop-up ID (PU###) and Station (S#) within array configuration also provided. Dates of detection are presented per month per popup. PU179 was deployed only in December 2008, but not recovered and is not presented in the table below.

Month Deployed	PU081 (S#4)	PU063 (S#3)	PU134 (S#5/2)	PU086 (S#2)	PU202 (S#3)	PU203 (S#5)	PU002 (S#1a)	PU171 (S#2)	PU182 (S#4/2)	PU145 (S#1b)	PU153 (S#4)	PU160 (S#3a)	PU162 (S#5)
June 2008	25 th – 30 th	low frequency code	low frequency code	26 th 27 th 29 th 30 th	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
July 2008	All files examined, calls present every day	low frequency code	low frequency code	1 st to 7 th , 9 th to 25 th , 27 th – 31 st	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
August 2008	All files examined, calls present every day	low frequency code	low frequency code	1 st – 16 th (unit stopped early)	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
September 2008	Up early, no data	low frequency code	low frequency code	none	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
October 2008	lost	lost	Not in use	6 th 8 th 22 nd 24 th 30 th	low frequency code	low frequency code	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
November 2008	lost	lost	Not in use	1 st 8 th 12 th 17 th 24 th 27 th 29 th 30 th	low frequency code	low frequency code	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
December 2008	lost	lost	14 th 18 th 19 th 21 st 24 th 26 th 27 th 29 th – 31 st	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	low frequency code	low frequency code	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
January 2009	N/A	N/A	1 st - 6 th 10 th 12 th 13 th 25 th 26 th	lost	low frequency code	lost	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
February 2009	N/A	N/A	2 nd 5 th 15 th - 17 th 22 nd	lost	low frequency code	lost	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use

Table 5.8-3 (continued)

Toothed whale calls detected by date and station are presented in chronological order. No calls identified for first deployment (26 March 08 – 17 June 08) since the sample rate was too low to detect toothed whale calls. Pop-up ID (PU###) and Station (S#) within array configuration also provided. Dates of detection are presented per month per popup. PU179 was deployed only in December 2008, but not recovered and is not presented in the table below.

Month Deployed	PU081 (S#4)	PU063 (S#3)	PU134 (S#5/2)	PU086 (S#2)	PU202 (S#3)	PU203 (S#5)	PU002 (S#1a)	PU171 (S#2)	PU182 (S#4/2)	PU145 (S#1b)	PU153 (S#4)	PU160 (S#3a)	PU162 (S#5)
March 2009	N/A	N/A	7 th 14 th	lost	low frequency code	lost	low frequency code	System error	low frequency code	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
April 2009	N/A	N/A	Not in use	N/A	low frequency code	N/A	low frequency code	System error	low frequency code	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
May 2009	N/A	N/A	Not in use	N/A	Not in use	N/A	low frequency code	System error	low frequency code	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
June 2009	N/A	N/A	Not in use	N/A	Not in use	N/A	low frequency code	System error	low frequency code	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use	Not in use
August 2009	N/A	N/A	Analyses ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	low frequency code	low frequency code	13 th 24 th	low frequency code	low frequency code
September 2009	N/A	N/A	Analyses ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	low frequency code	low frequency code	3 rd 6 th 22 nd	low frequency code	low frequency code
October 2009	N/A	N/A	Analyses ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	low frequency code	low frequency code	Analyses ongoing	low frequency code	low frequency code
November 2009	N/A	N/A	Analyses ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	low frequency code	N/A	low frequency code	low frequency code
December 2009	N/A	N/A	Analyses ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	low frequency code	N/A	low frequency code	Low frequency code

5.8.2.5 March 2009 Deployment

Three pop-ups were deployed and recovered; however, data from the high frequency unit were not recorded with proper gain to facilitate analysis. Thus, only data from two pop-ups (PU002, PU182), both with the 2-kHz sample rate, were available for analysis. Fin whales continued to be observed acoustically during each month of deployment (**Tables 5.8-1**), while North Atlantic right whales were not documented by the southern-most pop-up (PU002), but were observed on six days for the eastern-most pop-up (PU182, see **Table 5.8-2**).

5.8.2.6 August 2009 Deployment

Two pop-ups (PU162 and PU153) were recovered on 26 October 2009 with data extracted and analyzed. PU162 had a low frequency sample rate (2 kHz) while PU153 was loaded with the high frequency sample code (31.25 kHz). Delphinid calls were detected infrequently during this 6th deployment (**Table 5.8-1**). Data from PU162 are currently still being analyzed; however the trend suggests one similar to 2008 with fin whales being documented each month, in fact each week. Examination of the data for North Atlantic right whales is ongoing.

The remaining four pop-ups (PU134, PU145, PU160, PU182) were recovered on 07 December 2009 and data analyses are currently ongoing. One unit was loaded with high frequency sampling while the remaining three units had a 2 kHz sample code loaded. Details on data processing will be included in the final report for this project.

Sample sound files (.wav or .mp3) are available on request for any listed sound type (e.g., North Atlantic right whale, fin whale, or delphinid calls).

5.9 OCEANOGRAPHIC SURVEYS

Surface Mapping System (SMS), Conductivity-Temperature-Depth (CTD), and Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) measurements were conducted at point locations in the NJDEP Study Area off the coast of New Jersey during the fourth quarter (October-December) of 2009 (**Figures 5.9-1** through **5.9-4**).

5.9.1 Surface Mapping System (SMS)

For the SMS, measured static parameters include the measurement date and time, water depth (ft or m), and lon-lat location. Measured climatic parameters include windspeed (knots [kts]), wind direction (deg), air temperature (degrees Celsius [°C]), relative humidity (%), and atmospheric barometric pressure (millibars [mbar]). Measured dynamic oceanographic parameters include water temperature (sea surface temperature [SST], °C), salinity (practical salinity units [psu]), fluorometric chlorophyll and CDOM (Turner raw), and Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR; quanta second [s $^{-1}$]). Turner units are a spectral measurement of fluorescent material in the water at specific wavelengths. Chlorophyll has an absorption peak in the blue spectral region (440 nanometers [nm]) and a strong fluorescent peak at red wavelengths (670 nm), whereas Colored Dissolved Organic Matter (CDOM) absorbs strongly in the blue region (412 nm) and has a broad fluorescent peak at green-yellow wavelengths (530 nm). The PAR is measured with a PRR-600 light meter (spectral photometer) and is calculated from the spectral integration of light intensity measured at the following wavelengths: 443, 490, 510, 555, and 656 nm (spectral units: microwatts (μ W) per square centimeter (cm 2) per nanometer (nm).

These SMS measurements were conducted and recorded every 10 s on the following dates:

- October 2009: 12:13 AM on 9-23 through 9:01 PM on 9-23; 6:46 AM on 9-28 through 7:16 AM on 9-28; 8:17 AM on 9-28 through 10:43 PM on 9-28; 9:05 AM on 9-30 through 12:25 AM on 10-3.
- November 2009: 11:34 PM on 11-18 through 1:52 AM on 11-23.
- December 2009: 1:00 AM on 12-7 through 6:35 PM on 12-8; 2:54 PM on 12-9; 8:24 AM on 12-12; 9:42 AM on 12-12 through 12:04 PM on 12-12; 12:40 PM on 12-12 through 12:56 PM on 12-12; 1:17 PM on 12-12 through 1:51 PM on 12-12; 2:29 PM on 12-12 through 11:47 PM on 12-12; 12:10 AM on 12-13 through 1:27 PM on 12-13.

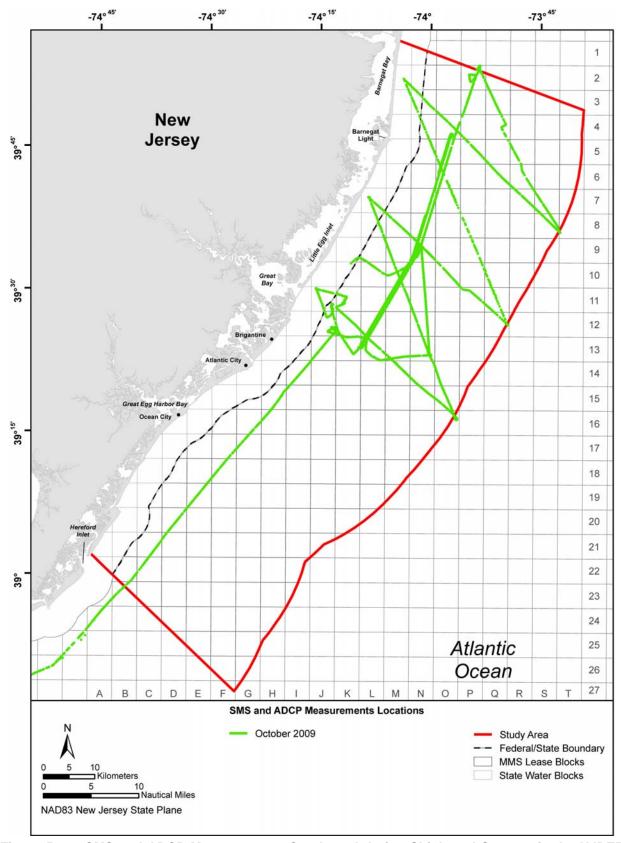


Figure 5.9-1. SMS and ADCP Measurements Conducted during Shipboard Surveys in the NJDEP Study Area off the Coast of New Jersey in October 2009.

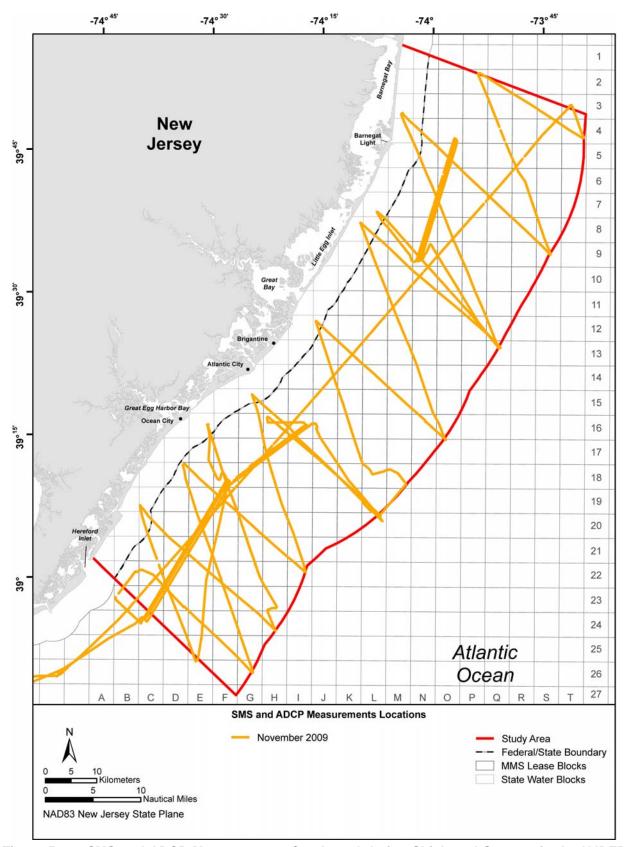


Figure 5.9-2. SMS and ADCP Measurements Conducted during Shipboard Surveys in the NJDEP Study Area off the Coast of New Jersey in November 2009.

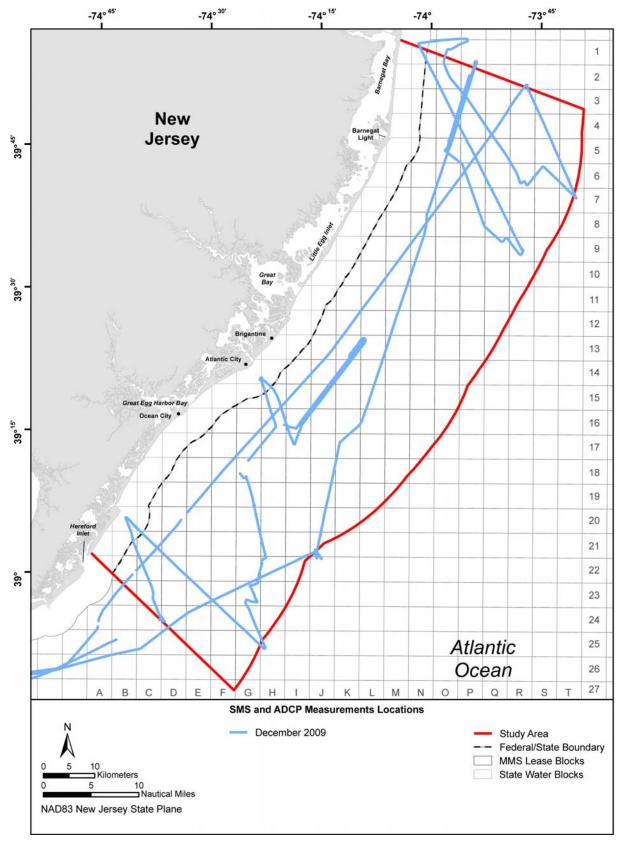


Figure 5.9-3. SMS and ADCP Measurements Conducted during Shipboard Surveys in the NJDEP Study Area off the Coast of New Jersey in December 2009.

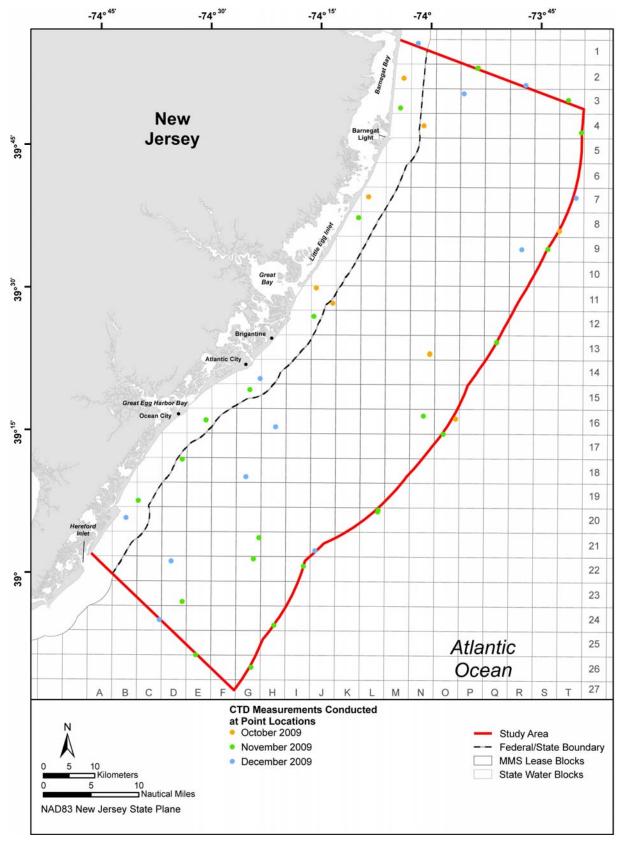


Figure 5.9-4. CTD Measurements Conducted at Point Locations in the NJDEP Study Area off the Coast of New Jersey from October through December 2009.

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Data values of these parameters for each 10-s interval were written to text files ("yymmddhh.txt"), and separate text files were generated for each hour ("hh") of data collection. For example, data collected during the 20th hour on 07 December 2009 were recorded to the text file "09120720.txt".

5.9.2 Conductivity-Temperature-Depth (CTD) Measurements

In addition to water surface properties, water depth profiles (extending from the surface down to a depth corresponding to 30 decibels [db] pressure) were generated for water temperature (°C), salinity (psu), dissolved oxygen (milligrams per liter [mg/L]), and conductivity (voltage) using CTD instruments. Depth profiles of these four parameters were combined into a single plot for each set of measurements. Graphical plots of these depth profiles were saved as Excel files "CTDxxx.cnv" (where "xxx" = site number: "001", "002", etc.). Other CTD data files that were generated include BL files ("*.bl"), CON files ("*.con"), HDR files ("*.hdr"), HEX files ("*.hex"), ROS files ("*.ros"), and WMF Image files ("*.wmf"). The CON files contain the sensor calibrations: Voltage: 0 = fluorometer (Wetlabs ECO), 1=transmissometer, 2=oxygen (SEB 43), 3=free, 4=transmissometer (C-Star), 5=free, 6=altimeter, 7=free.

The CTD measurements were conducted at 22 sites in October, 24 sites in November, and 13 sites in December. The enclosed map shows the lon-lat locations of the sites of the CTD casts at which data collection occurred. The CTD measurements were conducted on the following dates:

- October 2009 (22 sites): 9-28 through 10-2.
- November 2009 (24 sites): 11-19 through 11-22.
- December 2009 (13 sites): 12-7, 12-8, 12-12, and 12-13.

5.9.3 Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) Measurements

In addition to SMS and CTD, ADCP measurements were conducted at various site locations. The ADCP data were collected and processed using the VM-DAS or WIN-RIVER software programs. The raw ADCP data (generated in files "*.enr") were screened for RSSI and correlated by VM-DAS or WIN-RIVER (files "*.ens") and then bin-mapped and transformed to Earth coordinates. The single-ping ADCP data after this transformation are in the files "*.enx". The text files "*.vmo" contain the option settings for collecting the ADCP data. The general ADCP file format "*" = "ADCPxxx_eeeeee.", where "xxx" = sequence of data collection files (initially "001" at the beginning of the cruise, and then increases by 1 every time the system is turned on and off), and "eeeeee" = ensemble number. The additional labels "yyyymmdd" = date of ADCP pinging, and "hhmmss.ss" = time of ADCP pinging.

The ADCP measurements were conducted on the following dates and times:

October 2009:

- 9-25 (17:17:17 to 23:59:59)
- 9-26 (00:00:00 to 22:09:35)
- 9-27 (00:00:00 to 22:09:35)
- 9-28 (00:00:00 to 07:18:12)
- 9-28 (06:31:16 to 08:25:01)
- 9-28 (08:26:05 to 22:34:34)
- 9-30 (09:16:18 to 23:59:59)
- 10-1 (00:00:00 to 23:59:59)
- 10-2 (00:00:00 to 23:59:59)
- 10-3 (00:00:00 to 00:28:14)

November 2009:

- 11-19 (00:42:45 to 23:59:59)
- 11-20 (00:00:00 to 23:59:59)
- 11-21 (00:00:00 to 23:59:59)
- 11-22 (00:00:00 to 23:59:59)

• 11-23 (00:00:00 to 01:51:28)

December 2009:

- 12-7 (01:06:02 to 23:59:59)
- 12-8 (00:00:00 to 18:35:26)
- 12-12 (09:42:40 to 23:59:59)
- 12-13 (00:00:00 to 17:30:33)

5.10 SIDE-SCAN SURVEYS

5.10.1 October – December 2009 Survey

Side-scan sonar and magnetometer surveys were conducted during the shipboard offshore survey cruise (30 September – 01 October; 19 – 22 November; 07 and 12 December).

5.10.2 Area Surveyed and Transect Parameters

GMI conducted bottom area surveys for the proposed New Jersey Wind Farm project in the Atlantic Ocean off the New Jersey coastline. Transect lines were created to begin 8 miles (mi) off of the Col Regs line and to run parallel to the shore. Transects were developed to provide complete coverage of the project areas. Transects were completed as conditions allowed and were spaced on 0.5-NM parallel lines. A total of 715,733 m (386 NM) were surveyed. All transect lines were run using ship speeds ranging from 3 to 5 kts. Speed was determined by environmental conditions, boat traffic, and towfish altitude. Towfish altitude was a function of ship speed, depth of the water, known obstructions within the tow path, and depth of the pycnocline.

5.10.3 Equipment

- Klein 300 dual frequency Towfish with a K-2 K-Wing Depressor and Transceiver Processing Unit
- Geometrics 882 Cesium Magnetometer
- Hypack and Navigational software

5.10.4 Discussion

Side-scan and magnetometer surveys were completed for all transects. Two unmarked wrecks (a bow section approximately 30 ft long with little altitude and one area of some broken up remains) were located. Other known wrecks were located in the approximate position as they are charted. The bottom topography is uniform with alternating areas of sand, sand waves, shell, and silt/mud. A strong pycnocline/thermocline, found between 10 and 17 m deep, made it difficult at times to obtain clear survey records out to the full 100-m range (200-m swath) of the towfish. The nature of the ships wake interfered with the magnetometer signal but did not prevent the magnetometer from providing adequate data to detect any ferrous anomalies. Furthermore, a deck line was added for the last cruises to help alleviate this problem. There were no ferrous signals of note with the exception being areas of the known wrecks.

6.0 INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FROM OFFSHORE WIND POWER FACILITIES

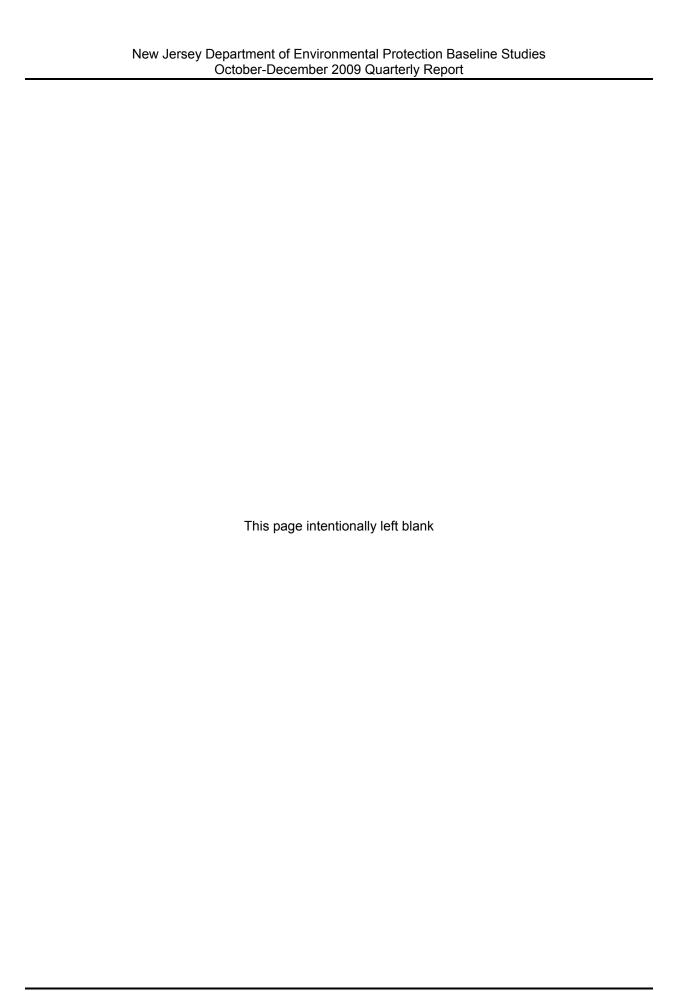
No activity was initiated on this task during this reporting period.

7.0 REPORTING

The sixth quarterly report was presented to NJDEP on 05 October 2009. Responses to comments on the draft QAWP were prepared. The Year 1 Interim Report was submitted on 20 January 2009. Comments were received and addressed in a revised version submitted on 03 March 2009. Coordination and writing is in progress for the Spring 2010 draft submission of the Final Report.

APPENDIX A

REVIEWED LITERATURE



APPENDIX A-1

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APPENDIX A-2

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APPENDIX A-3

MARINE MAMMALS

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APPENDIX A-4

OFFSHORE WIND FARMS

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APPENDIX A-5

SEA TURTLES

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APPENDIX A-6

AVIAN PREDICTIVE/PROBABILITY MODELING

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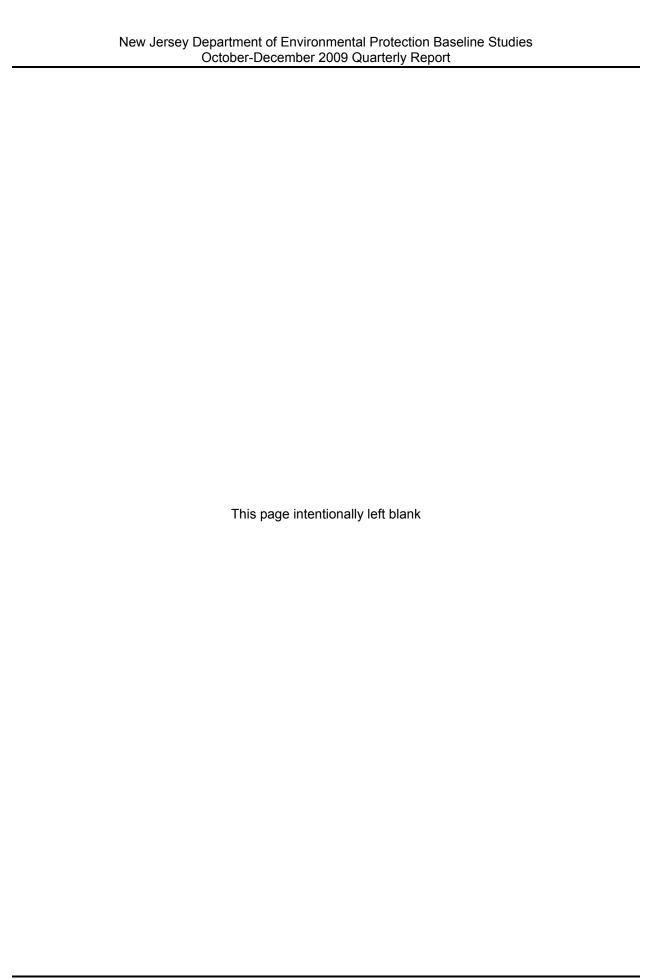
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APPENDIX B

DIGITAL DATA COMPILATION

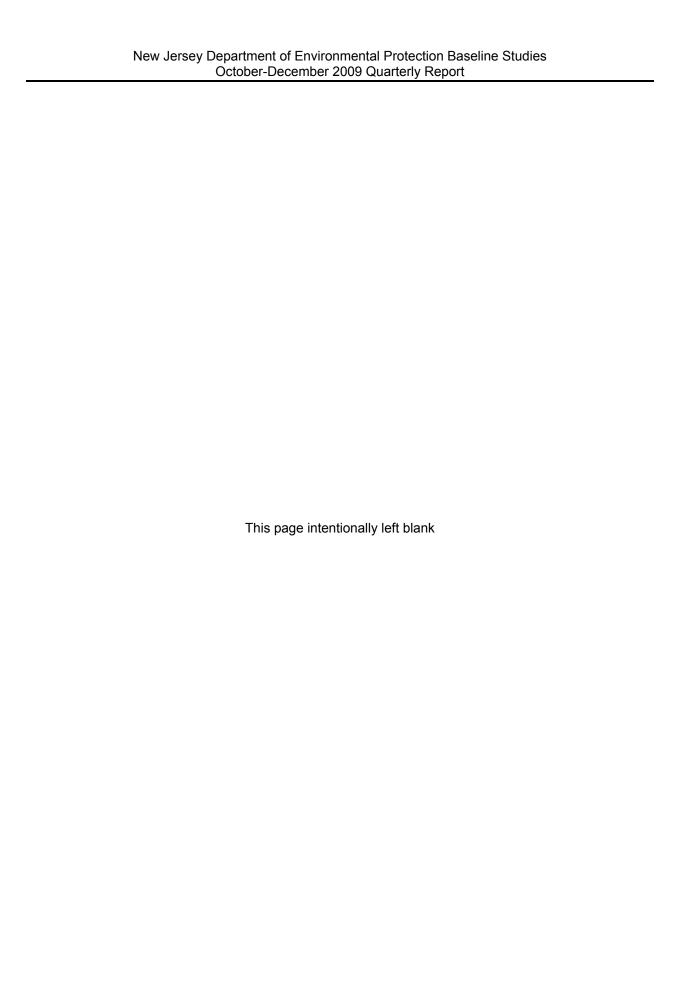


Table B-1
Digital Data Compilation from Multi-Source Data Banks

Agency	Data
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Geophysical Data Center	Bathymetry
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)	Earthquakes Epicentered In New Jersey
	New Jersey Tidal Benchmark Network
	Bedrock-Surface Topography of New Jersey (1:100,000-scale)
	Bedrock Outcrops of New Jersey
	Surficial Geology of New Jersey
NOAA ENC®	Electronic navigational chart
Environmental Protection Agency	Geospatial Data Download Relational Feature Class
Minerals Management Service	Baseline tangent lines and bay closing lines/points
	Preliminary Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Administrative Boundaries
	OCS block outlines
	Continental Shelf Boundary
	Submerged Lands Act boundary line
	Limit of '8(g) Zone'
	Marine Sanctuaries
	MMS Planning Area outlines
	Official Protraction Diagram
NOAA's Marine Protected Areas Center	MPA Inventory
National Pipeline Mapping System	Commercially Navigable Waterways
National Atlas	Hydrography
New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning	Conservation Priority Areas
Council	
	Critical Habitat (Final Draft)
	Conservation Priority Areas (Final Draft)
	Critical Habitat Resource Area (Draft)
	Highlands Open Waters (Draft) - Water Bodies
	New Jersey Highlands Council Final Draft Land Use Capability
	Highlands Open Waters (Draft) - Wetlands
	New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council
	Low Density Residential Land Use (Final Draft)
	Open Space
	Source Water Protection Area (Draft)
	Baseline Transportation & Transit (Final Draft)
NJDEP	2002 Landuse
	2002 Streams Update
	2003 Aerials
	Bald Eagle Foraging
	Beach
	Coastal Area Facilities Review Act Boundary
	Coastal Centers
	Coastal Flooding
	Counties
	Dedicated Open Space
	10-meter Digital Elevation Grid
	Emergent Wetland
	Forest
	Forested Wetland
	Grassland
	Habitat Delineation
	Historical Shorelines
	Known Contaminated Sites
	Lakes
	Landscape Project Endangered Species Habitat

Table B-1 (*continued*) Digital Data Compilation from Multi-Source Data Banks

Agency	Data
NJDEP	Natural Heritage Priority Sites
	Natural Heritage Program Priority Sites
	Hydrography
	NJPDES Ground Water Discharges
	NJPDES Surface Water Discharges
	Open Space
	Place Name Locations
	Roads
	Sewer Service Status
	Shellfish Classification 2007
	Shoreline Structures
	Shoreline Type
	Soil
	South Jersey Marsh
	STORET Water Quality Monitoring Stations
	Stormwater Rule Areas Affected by 300 Foot Buffers
	Streams
	Surface Water Quality Standards
	Tidelines
	Upper Wetlands Boundary
	Urban Peregrine
	USGS Quarter Quad Index
	Water Bodies
	Water Supply Planning Areas
	Watershed Management Areas
	Watersheds
	Wetlands
NJDOT	Roadway Network.
NOAA	National Geodetic Survey's Vector Shoreline
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Region 5, National Wildlife Refuge System	E.B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge Boundary
	Great Swamp NWR
	Cape May
	Supawna Meadows
	Wallkill River NWR
Pinelands Management Areas	Pinelands Management Area Boundaries
NOAA Raster Navigational Chart	Raster Navigational Charts
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources	Soil
USGS Coastal and Marine Geology Program	Coastal Vulnerability
	Erosion and Accretion Rates
	Geology
	Geomorphology
	Sediment Distribution