



## HUDSON RIVER HAPPENINGS & INTERCLUB INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Compiled by the HRBYCA <https://www.hrbyca.org>

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### Gov Affairs and other river related topics

## The Flood Resilience Handbook for Hudson River

### Is Your Club Ready for the Next 25, 50 or 100 years?

Do you club's old-timers notice more frequent flooding events? Is your club prepared for more frequent storms and sea level rise?

Here's a great new resource that can help your club prepare for the future: The Flood Resilience Handbook for Hudson River Public Access Sites from Troy to Yonkers, now available on the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program's website:

[https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation\\_hudson\\_pdf/hrfloodhndbk.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/hrfloodhndbk.pdf)

The handbook was developed to assist owners and site managers of public river access sites to adapt their facilities to existing and predicted flooding.

### Your Hudson River Boat & Yacht Club Association participated in developing this resource.

While it is primarily targeted to towns and waterfront park operators, there is some great information on protecting facilities (marinas, clubs).

By planning and implementing resiliency strategies and public outreach plans, site managers and club leadership can address vulnerabilities and will be able to continue to provide access at the more than 100 public access sites - including HRBYCA and Mohawk Council clubs - along the estuary for years to come.

### Executive Summary

The Hudson River estuary's river access sites offer an incredible network of public amenities for the many towns, cities, and villages that have long lined its banks. Today, more than 100 public access sites provide residents and visitors opportunities for active recreation, educational programming, and quiet appreciation for one of the State's great natural wonders. Over the past 50 years, public investments have resulted in a cleaner river and public access to it in nearly every community along the Hudson estuary from New York City to the Federal Dam at Troy. These parks, preserves, and other river access sites along the shores of the Hudson River estuary provide outstanding recreational, ecological, scenic, and economic value.

Climate models project the estuary's water levels may rise several feet by the end of this century, threatening the condition and viability of many shoreline access sites, along with the communities they serve, including low income, historically disadvantaged and overburdened communities.

1. Sea level has already risen 6 inches in the last fifty years, and many river access sites along the tidal Hudson are already experiencing flooding, even on sunny days.

2. Sites have been severely impacted by storms such as Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, Superstorm Sandy, and seasonal nor'easters, all of which destroyed infrastructure, caused erosion, and damaged recreational resources. Low-lying sites regularly experience flooding during exceptionally high tides or periods of intense rainfall.

This handbook was developed to assist river access site owners and managers in adapting to existing and predicted flooding. The term "river access site" is meant to act as a reference for all parks, preserves, boat launches, marinas, fishing access, trails and other public open spaces that are directly adjacent to the shoreline of the tidal Hudson. By planning and implementing resilience strategies and public outreach plans, managers of such sites can reduce their vulnerability and thrive under changing conditions.

The Hudson River Estuary Program has been actively promoting resilience planning to ensure the long-term health of the Estuary's resources and communities, including convening community-based "Flood Resilience Task Forces" to study climate and flood projections and propose solutions in pilot municipalities. This handbook serves that effort by providing site owners and managers with guidelines to reduce damage, costs, and other consequences associated with the effects of climate change being planning for resilience.

While many aspects of this handbook are relevant to river access sites elsewhere, the geographic focus is on the Hudson River estuary and the tidal portions of its tributaries in the 10 counties of the Hudson Valley: Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, Ulster, and Westchester. In this document, specific risks and projections for the Hudson River are outlined and strategies to plan, design, and build resilient river access sites directly abutting the shoreline and within the geographic floodplain are discussed.

The Hudson's recreational community is also served by numerous marinas and area boat clubs that are likewise facing resiliency challenges and hopefully will benefit from the information provided here as well. Case studies on flood resilience strategies that Hudson river access sites have implemented showcase local challenges and local solutions related to improving resiliency across the estuary.

## **DEC Reminds Water Recreationists to Clean, Drain, and Dry Watercraft and Equipment to Protect New York's Waters from Invasive Species**

### **Boat Stewards to Conduct Boat Inspections and Educate Recreating Public at Boat Launches Statewide**

As this year's boating season officially kicks off, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today reminded water recreationists to do their part in protecting New York's waters from aquatic invasive species (AIS) by remembering to clean, drain, and dry watercraft and equipment. Last year, boater traffic increased by nearly 20 percent at some launches and boat stewards counted more than 390,000 boats at launches across the state, a significant increase from the 276,515 watercraft counted in 2019. DEC anticipates more boaters will hit the water this season and with them an increased risk of introducing AIS to New York's waters. Taking proactive steps such as cleaning off fishing tackle, removing aquatic vegetation from rudders, disinfecting boat hulls and water compartments, and properly disposing of bait, significantly reduces that risk.

"Aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels, spiny waterflea, hydrilla, and others can be easily transported from one waterbody to another on boats, trailers, and fishing equipment," **said Commissioner Seggos.** "Protecting New York's waters is a high priority for DEC. Our lakes and ponds are invaluable in providing wildlife habitat, sustaining our state's fisheries and fishing industry, and offering opportunities for recreation."

Over the last few years, DEC has expanded its boat steward coverage through the Watercraft Inspection Stewardship Program, reaching additional recreationists with the Clean, Drain, Dry message. Boat stewards demonstrate how to conduct boat and trailer inspections prior to launching into a new waterbody and provide basic facts about AIS. In 2020, DEC's boat stewards talked with more than 30,000 boaters who were unfamiliar with the boat steward program. These stewards also intercepted more than 19,000 AIS on boats and equipment, including hydrilla, which was removed from boats headed into Lake Champlain and Lake Ontario. Existing hydrilla infestations in Cayuga, Erie, Tioga, Tompkins, and Westchester counties are currently costing New Yorkers more than one million dollars a year in control and mitigation.

To help protect New York's lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams, visit DEC's website for [more information on AIS](#) and a [step by step guide](#) for ridding boats and equipment of AIS. Today, DEC also released a newly developed public service announcement (PSA) to air across the state reminding boaters to clean, drain, and dry their watercrafts in order to protect state waters. The [PSA is now available on DEC's YouTube page](#).

## NYDEC Releases Draft 2021-2025 Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda 5/26/2021

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today released the draft Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda 2021-2025, a five-year blueprint for conserving and restoring the Hudson River estuary and its watershed.

### **DEC is accepting public comments on the draft through July 9, 2021.**

In addition, DEC released the 2015 - 2020 Hudson River Estuary Program Coordinator's Report, which provides the context for the strategies and actions outlined in the draft Action Agenda.

**"The Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda presents a strategic vision for protecting and restoring the river, its valley and watershed for future generations," said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. "DEC developed the draft Action Agenda with the input of diverse interests throughout the region and I encourage all stakeholders to review it and share their comments. This Action Agenda outlines New York's goals for the Hudson River estuary and sets a course to address the challenges we face, including climate change, environmental justice, and water quality, as well as the protection of fish, wildlife, and habitats."**

The Hudson River Action Agenda is updated every five years to address current trends and opportunities. For example, some of the estuary's signature fisheries, such as shad, are in a trend of decline while others, like Atlantic sturgeon, appear to be recovering. Changing land-use patterns in the watershed affect the region's biological diversity and water resources, and climate change and related tidal flooding are affecting community shorelines and river access sites such as parks and preserves. The proposed actions are built around delivering the key benefits people receive from a strong and vibrant Hudson River Estuary ecosystem.

#### **Highlights of the 2021 - 2025 Action Agenda include:**

- Research and monitoring to improve the sustainability of migratory fishes;
- Restoration of river habitats:

- Long-term plans to bolster progress being made to better manage wastewater discharges into the Hudson;
- Management for habitat and flood resiliency of tributary streams;
- Assistance to help communities adapt to climate-change impacts and address land use changes;
- Outdoor programs and web-accessible content to inform and engage the public; and
- Enhancements to make sites along the Hudson accessible to more people.

The outcomes included in the Action Agenda are measurable and achievable by 2030, and build on a successful record of progress in each of the Hudson River Estuary Program's core areas of expertise. As described in the [2015 - 2020 Hudson River Estuary Coordinator's Report](#), from 2015 - 2020, this DEC program provided technical assistance, grants, research, or other support in 163 watershed communities, including at least 700 specific projects. DEC awarded 156 Estuary Program grants totaling more than \$10 million.

The [Hudson River Estuary Management Advisory Committee](#) helps guide DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program, and includes representatives of the commercial fishing industry, recreational anglers, utility companies, local government, educators, researchers, conservationists and other river users, and helps engage many representatives of the public in working together toward common goals. DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program was created in 1987 and helps people enjoy, protect, and revitalize the estuary and the Hudson River Valley.

Implementation of the Action Agenda is funded through the State's Environmental Protection Fund and carried out through extensive outreach, coordination with state and federal agencies, and public-private partnerships through grants and restoration projects; education, research and training; natural resource conservation and protection; and community planning assistance.

The [Draft Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda 2021-2025](#) is available on DEC's website. Comments can be emailed with "Action Agenda" in the subject line to [hrep@dec.ny.gov](mailto:hrep@dec.ny.gov) or mailed through July 9 to: Hudson River Estuary Program, NYSDEC Region 3, 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, New York 12561.

## **INTERCLUB INFORMATION EXCHANGE-VIRTUAL BULLETIN BOARD**

**No Clubs have submitted any information/flyers about public upcoming events**

**No Clubs have submitted any “boat for sale” information/**