HUDSON RIVER HAPPENINGS & INTERCLUB INFORMATION EXCHANGE

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

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From the Board of Directors, HRBYCA

Concerned about the future of Hudson River safety, navigation and operations?

Join HRBYCA SNOC!

It's becoming more important of the need for HRBYCA clubs to fully engage in the issues we face today and into the future. A look to the past at how HRBYCA was organized to be an effective advocate has led your board to ask for your participation on newly-formed standing committee, the Hudson River Boat & Yacht Club Association **Safety, Navigation and Operations Committee** or "**SNOC**."

The purpose of SNOC is to reactivate the goals of the standing committees found in the HRBYCA constitution last updated in 2000, which include Aids to Navigation, Waterways and Access, and Legislative Committees.

The details of the committees are as follows:

> Section 1: The **Aids to Navigation Committee** shall either place aids to navigation in the Hudson River or recommend same to the proper authorities having jurisdiction thereof, keep records of same and report the location and description of same to the Publication Committee.
>
> Section 5: The **Waterways and Access Committee** shall study conditions and make recommendations for improvement of navigation (of) and boating (on) the Hudson River.
>
> Section 8: The **Legislative Committee** shall seek the passage of legislation of navigation and placing of aids to navigation in the Hudson River.

As with all HRBYCA standing committees, SNOC reports to the Board and will be led by VP Scott Croft. However, we are looking for your input and involvement on the issues relevant to clubs, potential advocacy

efforts, and developing and executing strategies to assure results in navigational, waterway access, or legislative issues are favorable to member clubs. It will require continued and regular participation, but how often this committee will meet is not determined yet. It is expected the committee will meet via Zoom, with some potential for local travel.

SNOC is an initiative to reactivate the key 3 standing committees outlined in the 2000 HRBYCA Constitution in a manner to be more efficient and effective. A bylaw change is not requested at this time, but could be in the future.

Four of the 5 remaining HRBYCA standing committees are un-staffed and include: Section 2. Pilot Committee (relates to publication, not ship pilot); Section 4. Legal Committee; Section 6. Goodwill Committee; and Section 7. By-Laws Committee. The Section 3. Publication Committee is currently under-staffed and always looking for volunteers to assist with the annual production of our Hudson River Boating Guide (formerly Journal). Please speak up if you have any interest in participating.

We'll be discussing SNOC further at our July 27, in-person General Membership Meeting at Minisceongo Yacht Club so be sure to attend. Thanks to HRBYCA Secretary Bob Booth who initiated this effort!

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Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday, August 7 will be our HRBYCA Mid-Summer BBQ hosted by Shattemuc Yacht Club

While your editor doesn't have all the details yet, we want to thank Shattemuc Yacht Club (SYC) located in Ossining, New York to host us again for our signature summer HRBYCA event!

You may remember our last fabulous rendezvous at SYC long before that thing called COVID. Hospitality was off the charts. Members of HRBYCA clubs attending the BBQ are again offered free dockage on the night of event (8/7/21), compliments of our host SYC.

We will also be needing help setting up and assisting with BBQ. If you can donate some time helping Board Member Coulter Young run the event, that would be greatly appreciated! Coulter may be reached at coultery@icloud.com.

Cost of the BBQ to be announced. Slip reservations and online purchase of tickets to be available soon. Mark your calendar now!

Governmantal Affairs Scott Croft Vice President

1. DOES YOUR CLUB SUFFER FROM LOW WATER AND SILTATION ISSUES?

Please send an email to HRBYCA's Scott Croft (dscroft3@gmail.com) to let him know. If you have not heard, according to the estimates show the NYS DEP released approximately 8.2 million pounds of solids, equivalent to 294 loads by a 14-ton dump truck, from NYC drinking water resevoirs via the Esopus Creek. These turbid waters not only affect the biology of the river, but they likely add to the siltation issues some clubs face. We know some club members cannot leave the slip at low tide, which reduces access and harms club's ability to operate.

To learn more watch this short video:

Stop the Mud in Lower Esopus Creek

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RARmhKaLMRc

Photo Credit: Randy Landewe

2. HERE'S SOME HELP TO PREPARE YOUR CLUB FOR A FUTURE OF INCREASING STORM ACTIVITY AND SEA LEVEL RISE

The NYDEC "The Flood Resilience Handbook for Hudson River Access Sites" the Flood Resilience Handbook for Hudson River Public Access Sites from Troy to Yonkers is now available on the Hudson River Estuary Program's website:

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/hrfloodhndbk.pdf

(you may have better luck viewing if you cut and paste this URL into browser)

The handbook was developed for municipalities and waterfront park managers, but has some great and relevant information for marinas and boat clubs. It's designed to assist owners and site managers of public river access sites to adapt their facilities to existing and predicated flooding. By planning and implementing resiliency strategies and public outreach plans, site managers can address vulnerabilities and will be able to continue to provide access at the more than 100 public access sites along the estuary for years to come.

Figure 5.13 Kingston Point Park Beach utility shed showing elevated elements and wet floodproofing (Source: DEC)

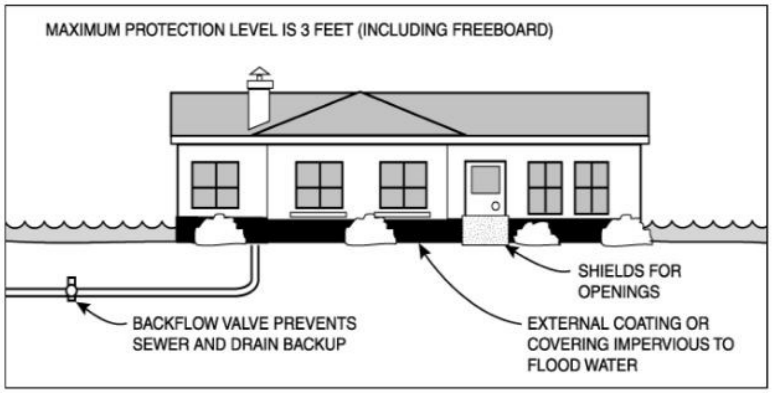

Figure 6.12 Dry Floodproofing Diagram (Source: FEMA 551/FEMA 312)

3. HRBYCA FACEBOOK PAGE HAS 495 MEMBERS! PLEASE SHARE YOU CLUB NEWS AT:

https://www.facebook.com/hrbyc

4. Hudson River Safety, Navigation and Operations Committee (HRSNOC) Report

A proposal to permit a barge mooring off Lasher Park in Germantown to facilitate aggregate shipment was approved by the committee. After HRSNOC action, there was community concern it was too close to a launch ramp and after feedback the mooring applicant has moved the proposed anchorage 1500 feet south and more out in the river in this narrow section pinched by the aggregate loading pier. HRBYCA initially supported the permit, then asked for second vote on the new location which was not taken. The permit is next expected to reviewed by US Army Corps of Engineers and 30-day public comment period offered.

For more information (note this story is dated):

Threat of barges parked in Hudson River again makes waves

https://www.timesunion.com/hudsonvalley/news/article/threat-barges-parked-hudson-river-germantown-16127567.php

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Natural History and other river related topics

From the "Hudson River Almanac" A Project of the Hudson River Estuary Program
Compiled and edited by Tom Lake, Consulting Naturalist

5/22 – Albany, HRM 145: On a beautiful, blue-sky, sunny day, our crew was on the river haul-seining as part of our spawning stock survey for American Shad and Striped Bass. In two different hauls we caught a large northern pike, both of which measured 40-inches-long. In addition to the northern pike, we also caught American shad, gizzard shad, striped bass, and common carp. (*Photo of northern pike courtesy of Amanda Higgs*)
- DEC Hudson River Fisheries Unit

[Northern pike (*Esox lucius*) isan iconic periglacial species for our watershed. They were among the first fishes to move into the watershed as the Laurentide Ice Sheet wasted away and glacial lakes formed at the end of the Ice Age. As one of the pioneer fishes in the watershed, they link us to the deep time of the Hudson River dating back 15,000 years.

Prior to Colonial times, the Albany area was the undisputed homeland of the indigenous Mohican Indians. Fishing was a large part of their economy and the Mohican people, as evidenced by palm-sized stone netsinkers found on beaches, seined at the very spot where Amanda and Jessica caught their northern pike. The Mohicans fashioned seines, hundreds of feet-long, out of natural cordage. The oral traditions of the Mohicans tell us that even though they were a part of their diet, the great northern pike (*Kwnoosaw*) is a sacred fish. Tom Lake]

5/28 – Saugerties, HRM 102: We have not seen the male harbor seal since April 24. That was his Day 620 in residence in what has been a remarkable, unprecedented saga. On May 14, a healthy and curious harbor seal was spotted just inside the mouth of the Roeliff-Jansenkill nine miles upriver. That may have been "our" seal. (*Photo of harbor seal courtesy of Jim Yates*)
- Patrick Landewe

[This male harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*), carrying a white tag on its rear flipper (#246) was rescued on April 28, 2018, from Lower Goose Island, Harpswell, Maine. The pup had been abandoned by its mother for reasons unknown, although it was suspected the pup may have been a premature birth. Medical rehabilitation followed at the Mystic (Connecticut) Aquarium Animal Rescue Program and a satellite tag was applied before being released at Charlestown, Rhode Island, on January 17, 2019.

Once released, the satellite tag imagery revealed that the seal traveled 81 miles up the Connecticut River to the Holyoke Dam, the first impassable barrier. The seal then reversed its course exiting downriver into Fishers Island Sound, across Long Island Sound, to the Peconic Bays before going offshore. The seal then traveled down along the south shore of Long Island into the New York Bight and eventually into the Hudson River estuary where he found a home, for no less than 620 days, in the freshwater of Esopus Creek, river mile 102. Tom Lake]

Follow-up Information

Several months ago several large "fish kills" were observed on the Hudson River and related waterways. (No specific reason had been identified at that time.)

Our thanks to one of our association's club members who sent us this explanatory article from the New Jersey DEC (summary part is below)

Menhaden Mortality and FAQs

April 27, 2021

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection continues to investigate large menhaden die-offs impacting the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers of Monmouth County. These mortality events appear to be only affecting Atlantic Menhaden, also known as bunker, an extremely abundant member of the herring family primarily harvested for bait and non-food commercial purposes. Similar largescale die-offs have been reported since the fall in coastal areas from Rhode Island to New Jersey.

Tests by the Division of Fish and Wildlife indicate that the bacterium causing these mortalities is *Vibrio anguillarum*, one of numerous Vibrio species that commonly occur in marine and estuarine environments. The DEP continues to work on better understanding the disease caused by this Vibrio infection in bunker and is working with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and other states in the region to better understand these mortalities. Bunker appear to be the only species impacted at this time and it is believed that they may be more susceptible to the impacts of this bacterium. This is likely driven by stressors present during the spring, including fluctuating water temperatures which may suppress the fish's immune system combined with the abundance and dense schooling nature of these fish, which enhances transmission of the bacterium.

Menhaden are typically not eaten by people or fished recreationally. There is no indication that any other fish, shellfish, bird or wildlife species are being impacted by this bacterium. It is safe to continue eating other species of fish that prey on menhaden. However, it is always advised to properly cook all fish or shellfish before consuming and to never collect and consume dead fish or any that appear ill.

This bacterium is generally not known to be harmful to humans. However, contact with water in areas where fish die-offs are occurring should be avoided as a precaution. Handling of dead or unhealthy appearing fish should be avoided, including collecting for bait. If handling is necessary for disposal purposes, wear appropriate protection, including gloves.

Menhaden die-offs are expected to continue in the near term. The DEP will continue to provide information to local governments as appropriate and provide any public advice or advisories as necessary. The fish will naturally decompose and become part of the nutrient cycle in affected waterways. Local governments, at their discretion may remove fish from their riverbanks.

To report a fish die-off, contact the DEP's hotline at 877-WARN-DEP (877-927-6337).

INTERCLUB INFORMATION EXCHANGE

FOR SALE…….2007 Holby Bristol Skiff…….$8,500

Call 973-896-7569

17’ center console

Bimini top

Boat cover

Console cover

Depth finder

Stereo

40 hp Honda 4 stroke

Galvanized trailer with new tires

Ravena Coeymans Yacht Club

Things may look a little different this year, but the party is back!
Join Us for Our Famous

Steak and Lobster Bake
August 27-29, 2021

Full Weekend Price Includes: Soda, Wine, & Beer; Friday Night Dinner, Saturday Breakfast, Lunch, & Steak Dinner, and Sunday Breakfast

Weekend Prices
Adult: $80 ($75 if prepaid by August 1; + $12 with Lobster)
Youth ages 12-20: $50 (+ $12 with Lobster)
Children 11 and under: free

Saturday Only Prices
Adult: $50 (+ $12 with Lobster)
Youth: $30 (+ $12 with Lobster)

Live Music Friday Night
Hourly Door Prizes
50/50 Raffles
Raffle for Great Prizes
Games for Kids
...and much more!

Reservations

Space is limited: Book early!

Make a reservation online and pay by credit card or check: Go to www.rcyachtclub.com

Or make a reservation via email or mail; mail a check payable to **RCYC**:

Bob Baldwin, 30 Windham Hill Road, Glenmont, NY 12077
More information or questions? Contact Bob at rcb54@nycap.rr.com or 518-439-6050.

Include: your boat's or RV's name, length, and club affiliation, if applicable.

Your reservation is not finalized until payment is received.

HOW'S THE WATER?

People ask, "Where is it safe to swim in the Hudson River?" Riverkeeper's monitoring program provides data to help inform decisions.

Find all the data, and learn more at riverkeeper.org/water-quality

Safe swimming

Good water quality gives us what we want – a Hudson River safe for recreation, and healthy for wildlife. People swim, bathe, jet-ski, tube and enjoy other activities in the Hudson River and its tributaries – and not just at the estuary's four public beaches where water quality is routinely monitored and lifeguards are on duty.

Water quality is only one way to define the safety of a location for swimming, and these data describe only one important aspect of water quality, fecal contamination. Other pollutants, as well as boating traffic, currents, tides, weather and other factors can make open water swimming unsafe.

How's the water?

Since 2008, Riverkeeper, Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, and CUNY Queens College have monitored water quality at 74 sites in the Hudson River Estuary, the tidal portion of the river that stretches from Troy to New York Harbor. We compare our data to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recreational water quality criteria, which are designed to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act, and protect public health for recreational users. Of the 74 sites sampled, 30 meet EPA safe swimming criteria, demonstrating the historic success of cleaning up the Hudson River. Of the 44 that fail, 15 fail both of two EPA criteria, and 29 fail one of the two. If a site fails to meet either criterion, water quality must be improved. Most failures are caused by the inability of aging and outdated infrastructure to perform in rain.

Sources of bacteria

Source of the fecal indicator bacteria we measure may include:

- combined sewage overflows (CSOs)
- other leaks or overflows from aging sewer pipes, pump stations and wastewater treatment plants;
- illicit connections between sanitary and stormwater sewers;
- failing septic systems;
- urban stormwater;
- runoff from agriculture;
- wildlife;
- contaminated sediment and biofilms

OUR MISSION: Riverkeeper envisions a Hudson River teeming with life, flowing with clean, swimmable waters from end to end, and healthy and abundant drinking water for all New Yorkers.

Riverkeeper, our partners and funders, provide these data so those who use the river can make informed choices relative to water quality, but provide no warranties to third parties about the data. Riverkeeper, our partners and funders accept no liability for choices individuals make.

Making choices based on water quality patterns

Even if there is no data for a particular location where one may enter the water, the data show patterns that can guide decisions. These pie charts show the percentage of sites sampled in each category that are ● generally safe, ● unsafe after rain and ● generally unsafe.

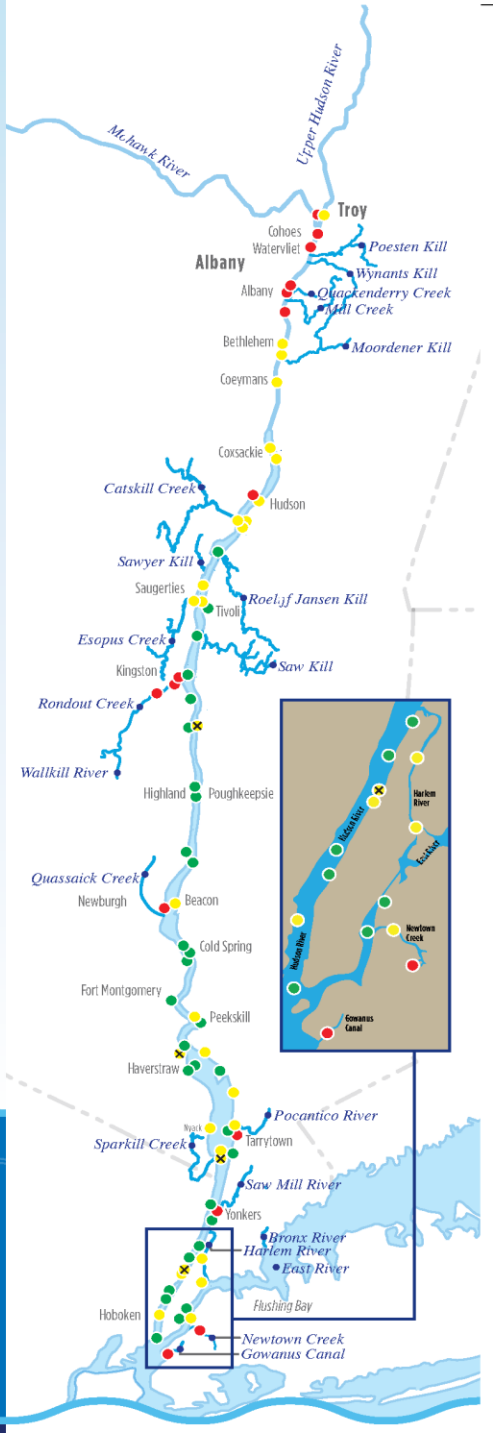
MID CHANNEL: The deeper, well-mixed part of the river away from its shores would have generally met safe swimming criteria, except near and downstream from combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in the Capital District and New York City.

NEAR SHORE: Water quality near city and village waterfronts is most likely to be affected by street runoff and sewer overflows, while shorelines that are less developed generally have shown less impact from rain.

TRIBUTARIES: The smaller creeks and rivers that feed the Hudson have had more risky water quality, both in their tidal portions and at their confluence with the river. Tributary water quality has often been dramatically affected by rain, particularly where CSOs are present.

Hudson River tributaries

The tributary data above are based on 16 sample sites in the tidal portions of tributaries, or at their mouths. Riverkeeper and more than 180 community scientists, and more than 40 partner organizations have sampled more than 325 additional locations around New York City and in the Hudson River tributaries noted on the map. Tributaries vary greatly in the magnitude of bacteria present. Most sites sampled do not meet EPA safe swimming criteria. Find the data at riverkeeper.org/water-quality



What You Can Do

Become a Member
Each sample costs about $10 in material costs. Become a Riverkeeper member by sponsoring a sample for $10 or a sampling location for $60.

Volunteer
Join a community science project to measure water quality, or get involved in another volunteer project.

Take action
Riverkeeper helps individuals send messages to decision makers at strategic moments when your voice will make the most difference.

Visit
riverkeeper.org/get-involved

Is it getting better?

The historic gains in water quality achieved starting a generation ago by New York's Pure Waters Bond Act and the U.S. Clean Water Act had stalled until recent investments by New York State. We still have important progress to make, particularly in preventing contamination from combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and other sewage infrastructure failures. Combined sewers carry both sewage and stormwater in the same pipe, and are designed to overflow after rain. They are present in many old cities, including the Capital District, New York City, Yonkers, Newburgh and Kingston, where water quality impacts from overflows are evident in the data. To comply with the Clean Water Act, cities are implementing longterm plans to reduce overflows.

In 2018 alone, more than $320 million was committed to improving sewers to improve water quality in the Hudson River watershed, in large part thanks to the landmark New York State Clean Water Infrastructure Act, which provides needed grant funding to communities to support local investments. But the need remains great, at well over $1 billion north of New York City, and billions more in New York City.

About EPA recreational water quality criteria

Enterococcus (Entero) is a group of bacteria whose abundance in water correlates with the risk of exposure to fecal pathogens. Untreated sewage threatens recreational water quality, but other pollutants may also make water unsafe for swimming. There are two primary EPA Recreational Water Quality Criteria based on Entero:

GEOMETRIC MEAN: The concentration of the indicator bacteria (Entero) based on a weighted average of multiple samples should not exceed this threshold. There is often significant variation in water quality at the same location, reflecting greater or lesser risk in each sample. The geometric mean provides a measure of average water quality.

STATISTICAL THRESHOLD VALUE: If the concentration of indicator bacteria (Entero) in 10% or more of samples exceeds this threshold, water is not considered safe for swimming due to the frequency of contamination events, even if "average" (geometric mean) levels are low.

Key

Sampling locations are color-coded according to analysis of nearly 5,000 samples from 2008-2018 to indicate the likely relative risks associated with swimming. However, good or poor water quality may occur at any location depending on local conditions.

- Generally safe for swimming
  Location would have met both EPA criteria for safe swimming. While it would meet criteria, water quality varies significantly over time. This site is not free of risk, and may have riskier water quality after rain, or during rainy seasons.
- Unsafe after rain
  Location has had poor water quality for up to 3 days after rain, and would have met only one of two EPA criteria for safe swimming. Water quality improvements are needed.
- Location has had poor water quality for up to 3 days after rain, and would have met only one of two EPA criteria for safe swimming. It also shows evidence of poor water quality in dry weather. Water quality improvements are needed.
- Generally unsafe for swimming
  Location has not met either EPA criteria for safe swimming. Water quality improvements are needed.

Data presented here were gathered by Riverkeeper, Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and CUNY Queens College over 11 years with the financial support of Riverkeeper members, and many foundations, agencies and corporations, including M&T Bank.

M&T Bank
Understanding what's important®

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY | EARTH INSTITUTE

Queens College
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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For more information, visit
www.riverkeeper.org

Spring 2019