

HUDSON RIVER HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER

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

June 2023

Announcements:

- **HRBYCA general membership meeting will be hosted at Cornwall Yacht Club on Tuesday July 25**
- **Make your Reservation:** Shattemuc will host our summer HRBYCA Rendezvous on July 15. Slips will be available. [See the flyer](#) for details. Or their [web site to register](#)
- **The Ilsa Bierdermann Women's Challenge Cup Hosted at Shattemuc on July 8, 2023**
Ilsa conceived of this idea after a mishap on her family's boat made her realize that she didn't have all the necessary information and skills to take over when her husband wasn't at the helm.
This event is open to all, boats and crew (as long as the boats are helmed, navigated and skippered by women—men are welcome aboard). Crew can just show up at Shattemuc on July 8th and they'll get assigned to a boat. In keeping with Ilsa's original event the food will be amazing and the event is very family friendly, sign up is necessary for a head count. [Please see Flyer](#) OR the [web site](#) for more information.
- **The Plein Air Paint Out** Hosted at Shattemuc YC is on Saturday, August 12 – [See Flyer](#)
- **Hudson Valley Greenway** <https://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/> is a wonderful resource for people interested in walking, cycling and boating in the Hudson River Valley and north to Lake Champlain. Check the link and find many available resources.
- **[The Hudson River Valley Ramble](#)** is an annual event series that celebrates the history, culture and natural resources of the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, as well as the amazing landscape, communities, and trails throughout the region. <https://www.hudsonrivervalleyramble.com/ramble/about>

- Lower Hudson River Sampling and Investigations to Begin this Spring Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site. [Click for details and more information](#)

News from the Hudson River Estuary Program

Each June, biologists from DEC's Hudson River Fisheries Unit study the endangered adult [Atlantic sturgeon](#) when the fish return to the Hudson River to spawn. Atlantic sturgeon, the largest fish species in the Hudson River Estuary, are anadromous, which means they hatch in freshwater, spend most of their lives in saltwater, and return to freshwater to spawn.

Atlantic sturgeon may live more than 60 years, reaching a weight of 800 pounds and a length of fourteen-feet. They are armored with bony plates, evidence of a lineage extending back to the age of dinosaurs. Sturgeon are bottom feeders, using whisker-like barbels on the underside of their snouts to find food - chiefly worms, insects, crustaceans, and small fish - that are sucked up in their tube-like mouths.

The fisheries crew set nets to catch the sturgeon, carefully moving the fish from the nets into a large pen in the Hudson, tied to the boat. Crew members then weigh and measure each fish, determine its sex, and scan them for an electronic tag, called a PIT tag (Passive Integrated Transponder Data tag). If no tag is detected, a crew member inserts one into the base of the dorsal fin. The sturgeon are immediately released back into the Hudson River as soon as they are examined.

PIT tags can be scanned to help learn more about sturgeon movement and behavior while in the Hudson, helping scientists learn what areas they use while in the river and how often they spawn. The tags also can be scanned and detected by other scientists in other rivers along the East Coast. Atlantic sturgeon migrate as far south as Georgia and as far north as Canada's Bay of Fundy, so the tags give scientists clues about where sturgeon migrate from place to place. The Hudson River currently supports the largest population of Atlantic sturgeon along the Atlantic Coast, estimated to be approximately 1,000 fish.

Find out what it's like to go out with the fisheries crew while they work to study Atlantic sturgeon by watching [DEC's Facebook Live](#) post from the Hudson River on June 2nd. The fish are collected under National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) permit #20340.





Attend an Environmental Bond Act Listening Session

Overwhelmingly approved by voters last fall, the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act prioritizes investments in environmental justice, climate change mitigation, shoreline restoration, flood resilience, water quality, open space conservation, recreational resources, and green jobs. This spring and summer, the public and potential funding applicants will be able to learn more about the Bond Act at a series of educational listening sessions. Sessions have been announced across the state:

- **Virtual Meeting: June 26**, 6 - 8 p.m.
- **Saranac Lake: July 14**, 1 - 3 p.m., North Country Community College, Sparks Athletic Complex Alumni Gymnasium
- **Capital Region: July 20**, 1 - 3 p.m. University at Albany, Campus Center Auditorium
- **Virtual Meeting: July 26**, 6 - 8 p.m.
- **Brooklyn: August 9**, 6 - 8 p.m., Brooklyn College
- **Lower Hudson: August 15**, 1 - 3 p.m., Westchester County Center, Little Theater
- **Bronx: August 22**, 6 - 8 p.m., La Central YMCA Gymnasium
- **Brentwood: August 24**, 1 - 3 p.m., Suffolk County Community College

Sessions will feature a presentation on the Bond Act and an opportunity for one-on-one discussion with State experts. Meetings will be open to the public.

To register for these sessions, visit the [Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act webpage](#).

State agencies, local governments, and partners will be able to access Environmental Bond Act funding over a multi-year process. Recognizing that vulnerable populations are disproportionately affected by negative environmental and climate change impacts, at least 35%, with a goal of 40%, of Bond Act benefits will be directed toward disadvantaged communities.

Upcoming in September



www.thelighthouseswim.org

lighthouseswim@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER PLEASURE BOATERS NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE 2023 LIGHTHOUSE SWIM

WHAT: The Lighthouse Swim, a non-profit organization located in Sleepy Hollow, New York dedicated to supporting the health and vitality of our community and raise funds for Feeding Westchester and other local organizations in need will stage the three (3) mile swim across the Hudson River, from Nyack to Sleepy Hollow, New York.

WHEN: September 10, 2023

WHERE: Kingsland Point Park

SWIMMER PARTICIPANTS: Entries will be capped at 150 swimmers

VOLUNTEER PLEASURE BOATS: To support the swimmers across the three-mile course, the event is recruiting experienced pleasure boat owners who will be positioned on the river, lending support to kayakers and swimmers, helping to keep them on the course and assisting where necessary.

SIGN-UP: To sign-up as a volunteer pleasure boater, please register at

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/NY/SleepyHollow/TheLighthouseSwimsleepyhollow>



Hudson River

PCBs SUPERFUND SITE

Region 2: NJ, NY, PR, VI • 290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

Lower Hudson River Sampling and Investigations to Begin this Spring Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site

May 2023

Beginning this spring, the General Electric Company (GE) will sample water, fish and sediment as part of an investigation of the Lower River portion of the Hudson River PCBs Superfund site under a legal agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Lower Hudson River extends from the Troy Dam to the southern tip of Manhattan bordering New York and a portion of New Jersey. Data collection will focus on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), but other contaminants will be evaluated as well.

The results of the sampling will be used to improve EPA's understanding of the Lower River and inform EPA's investigations moving forward. GE remains legally responsible for its PCBs in the Hudson River, including the lower portion of the river. EPA is continuing to evaluate whether others may also be responsible for PCBs, as well as other contamination in the Lower Hudson.

The new data will supplement information collected during EPA's investigation of the Lower Hudson River in the 1990s and GE's periodic monitoring of Lower Hudson River fish and water since 2004. EPA has also been gathering additional information and data about the Lower River in coordination with New York State and other project stakeholders since 2019 to support these efforts.



Hudson River vista (Bear Mountain Bridge)



Boat-based fish collection (netting)

Sampling Workplan

Under the terms of the legal agreement with EPA, GE developed a plan for extensive water, fish, and sediment sampling of the Lower Hudson River. EPA approved the workplan and will oversee all of the work performed by GE and its contractors under the plan.



The Upper Hudson River is freshwater and non-tidal. The entire Lower River is a tidal estuary which means it is influenced by ocean tides. Because the Lower River is tidal, it has distinctly different characteristics, water flows and ecological habitats.

Water Column Sampling

Field staff will sample the water to evaluate the concentration of PCBs and other water quality indicators throughout the Lower River. This will help EPA understand the relationship between water, fish, and sediment in the Lower Hudson.

Field staff will collect water samples from five monitoring stations (Albany/Troy, Catskill, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, and Tappan Zee) on a monthly basis beginning in June 2023. The program targets three freshwater sampling stations and two brackish water stations (where fresh water is mixed with salt water). After one year, EPA will evaluate the data collected to determine where and how often to continue sampling.

Fish Tissue Sampling

The laboratory will measure PCB concentrations from tissue samples of 14 species of fish and crab collected throughout the Lower River. The stations will be located approximately 30 miles apart. They will also collect blue crabs from two of the monitoring stations located closer to New York Harbor.

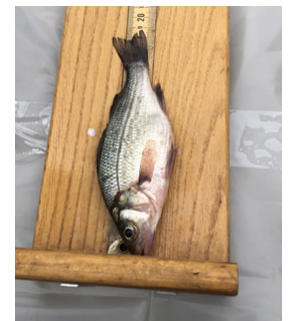
EPA will evaluate the data after the first full round of fish collection to determine if sampling at additional locations is necessary.



Fish collection



Preparing a Striped Bass



White Perch

Sediment Sampling Programs

Field staff will collect samples from different locations and ranges of depths of the river bottom to understand where contamination is present and has deposited over time. The first sampling will take place in 2023. Field staff will collect three different types of samples: recently deposited sediment, shallow sediment, and deep sediment samples.

Recently Deposited Sediment

Field staff will collect the first round of samples in the top portion of river sediment to evaluate PCB concentrations in sediment that has recently deposited in the main stem of the Lower Hudson, as well as 12 major tributaries. The results will be used to evaluate the natural recovery of the Lower River over time.

Field staff will use a shallow sediment sampler to collect sediment samples. In the main stem, they will take 30 to 50 samples of recently deposited sediment, located approximately three to five miles apart.

In each of the 12 major tributaries, they will take seven to ten samples.

Supplemental Sediment Coring

During the second round of sampling in 2024, GE will evaluate the PCB concentrations using equipment that can take core samples deeper into the river bottom, which will provide information about the relationships among fish, water and sediment. As part of this program, field staff will collect sediment using hollow tubes in the same areas where they have collected fish. They will collect a total of 200 sediment samples to a depth of three feet. The cores will be analyzed for PCBs and other contaminants.

High Resolution Sediment Coring

In the third round of sampling, field staff will collect some even deeper samples based, in part, on the results of the first two rounds, to further evaluate how PCBs have deposited in the Lower River over time and to evaluate the rate of recovery in the sediment.

Field staff will collect sediment cores from six initial locations spread throughout the Lower Hudson at a depth of 4-8 feet below the river bottom. Four of the six cores will be collected at the same locations where high-resolution cores were collected in 1992. The laboratory will analyze the samples for PCBs along the length of the core. After EPA evaluates the data from the initial six locations, the agency will decide whether additional cores are needed.



(Top and Bottom) Surface sediment sampling

Lower River Sampling and Investigations Schedule

2023

- Water sampling
- Fish/crab sampling
 - Salt and freshwater species
 - Migratory, local and forage fish
 - Blue crab and eel
- Recently deposited sediment sampling
- Evaluate data

2024

- Water sampling (continued)
- Fish/crab sampling (continued)
- Sediment sampling
 - Supplemental sediment sampling
 - High resolution coring
- Evaluate data

2025

- Collect additional samples as necessary to support the objectives and purpose of the sampling work
- Further data evaluation
- Develop next steps

Site Background

Between the 1940's and 1970's, GE discharged PCBs into the Hudson River from its two former manufacturing plants in Fort Edward and Hudson Falls, New York. These PCBs impacted the river and its sediment from the GE Hudson Falls plant to the New York Harbor, and certain areas of the floodplain along the banks of the river during high water and flood events.

The Hudson River PCBs Superfund site includes the 200-mile stretch from Hudson Falls to the southern tip of Manhattan in New York City. EPA's 2002 cleanup plan addressed the sediment in the 40-mile stretch of the Upper Hudson River between Fort Edward and Troy, New York. Under EPA oversight, GE did extensive dredging and capped some areas in a 40-mile stretch of the Upper Hudson River between 2009 and 2015.

EPA continues to monitor how the river is recovering after the dredging in the upper portion and is evaluating PCB contamination in the Upper Hudson River floodplain. The investigation of the floodplain is being done under a separate legal agreement with GE under EPA oversight.



*The New York State
Department of Health's
(NYSDOH) fish
consumption advisories*

*remain in place throughout the Lower
Hudson River. More information about
the advisories is available on the
[NYSDOH Hudson River Fish Advisory
Outreach Project webpage.](#)*

For more information, contact the EPA Region 2 Hudson River Office. Additional information is also available on the EPA site [webpage](#).

To receive the latest news and updates, you can also sign up for the EPA's Hudson River PCBs site email Listserv. To join the email group, send an email to romanowski.larisa@epa.gov.

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www.epa.gov/hudsonriverpcbs



Hudson River Boat & Yacht Club Association Summer Rendezvous and Barbecue at Shattemuc Yacht Club

July 15, 2023

5:00 PM Social Hour Hors d'oevres

6:00 PM BBQ Dinner, London broil, burgers, hot dogs, chicken,
salads, sides, non-alcoholic beverages, Cash Bar

\$30.00 per person , under 12 yrs \$10.00

Come by boat, FREE SLIP JULY 15 as available for HRBYCA members

Please visit Shattemuc's page on www.dockwa.com to make a slip reservation.

Use coupon code HRBYCAP23 to get night of party free

Marina is located at: Lat 41°09'45N, Long 073°52'15W

To register and pay online go to shattemucyc.org

To register by mail fill out form below and send a check made out to Shattemuc Yacht Club and mail to: Shattemuc Yacht Club, HRBYCA Rendezvous, PO Box 29, Ossining, NY 10562

For more information call or email : Coulter Young 914-262-2029
coultery@optonline.net

Registration closes July 10

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Cell _____ Club _____

Email _____

No. Adults _____ No. Children _____ Total \$ enclosed _____



ILSE BIEDERMANN WOMEN'S CHALLENGE CUP

Shattemuc Yacht Club

Ossining, NY

JULY 8, 2023

Boats shall be skippered, helmed and navigated by women

Men welcome as crew

Dinner and T-shirts available

Info at www.hryra.org



Plein Air Paint Out and Auction

rain or shine

Saturday August 12, 2023

Preview 3:00 PM

Auction 5:00 PM

Refreshments Served

Fund Raiser for Junior Sailing Academy

Shattemuc Yacht Club

47 Westerly Rd

Ossining, New York 10562

www.shattemucyc.org

Information: 914-262-2029, or coultery@optonline.net