FACT SHEET
HUDSON RIVER
FRESHWATER MUSSELS

HUDSON RIVER TRUSTEES
ASSESSING AND RESTORING YOUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Past and continuing discharges of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have contaminated the natural resources of the Hudson River. The Hudson River Natural Resource Trustees – New York State, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Department of the Interior – are conducting a natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) to assess and restore those natural resources injured by PCBs.

As part of the NRDA, the Trustees conducted a pilot freshwater mussel survey in the Fort Miller and Stillwater Pools in the 2013 Remedial Injury Pilot Study. Based on the 2013 investigations, the Trustees decided to continue these studies with a freshwater mussel survey in additional pools of the Upper Hudson River where remediation had yet to commence, revisit pools following remediation, and sample upstream reference pools. This second phase of the study collects information about freshwater mussel communities and habitats affected by the dredging and subsequent capping/backfilling of the Upper Hudson River.

Trustees published a second work plan, "Population Assessment and Potential Functional Roles of Native Mussels in Multiple Sections of the Upper Hudson River." This work plan stated work would occur in Summer 2014, yet work is now expected to occur in Summer 2015. Trustees published an amendment to the work plan to detail these changes. The work proposed in 2015 is consistent with the work set forth in the 2014 Study Plan with the following modifications:

1. The survey will be implemented in 2015 instead of 2014.
2. The first study objective "Quantify freshwater mussel assemblages in areas that are targeted for dredging ("to be remediated") to estimate the potential loss of freshwater mussels and some of the potential services provided by these mussels in areas that will be dredged" may not be achievable if dredging of the Lower Mechanicville Pool (Certification Units 94-96) proceeds in advance of the mussel survey.
3. Where "to be remediated" areas have been dredged prior to commencement of the mussel survey, sampling will consist of "unremediated areas" and "remediated areas" rather than unremediated areas and "to be remediated" areas.

Learn More about the Hudson River

NOAA: www.darrp.noaa.gov/northeast/hudson/index.html
NYSDEC: www.dec.ny.gov/lands/25609.html
FWS:www.fws.gov/contaminants/restorationplans/HudsonRiver/index.html

To add yourself to the Hudson River Natural Resource Damage Assessment electronic mailing list, send a blank e-mail to Hudson-nrda-join@list.woc.noaa.gov