

Hudson River Water Quality Report

First sampling patrol of 2012 - May 15 through May 20

Of 74 sampling locations:

9 (12%) were “unacceptable”

5 (7%) were “possible risk”

60 (81%) were “acceptable”

Compare this with May of 2011 when 59 sample sites (80%) were “unacceptable.” Why the enormous difference? May 2011 was really wet and this May was much drier. Rain enters and overloads sewer systems in a number of ways causing overflows and discharges of raw sewage. We’ll have to prevent stormwater from entering our sewers and we’ll have to repair aging/failing infrastructure to achieve consistent good water quality.

John Lipscomb
Riverkeeper patrol boat "R. Ian Fletcher"

Some Highlights

NY Harbor (day 1): I know I just wrote that this patrol was drier...but not day one. It started raining steadily in Newtown Creek but the CSOs hadn't really gotten going when we sampled there. There is a delay between the start of rain and the start of CSO discharges. Stormwater runoff quickly began to hurt the Creek, the sewage came later.



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By the time we got to the Gowanus Canal it was another story. We got our highest count of the patrol there (>24196), near a CSO at the entrance to the Canal.



Yonkers to Port Ewen (day 2 and 3): Dry weather returns. No samples were “unacceptable.” Nice, the way we like it.

Kingston to Hudson/Athens (day 4): Still no rain, almost all “acceptable”. The highest *Enterobacteriaceae* count in Rondout Creek was at the Kingston sewer plant outfall which I sampled at low tide, when the outfall was above and separate from the Creek water. At **365 *Enterobacteriaceae* per 100ml**, this sample was second highest in the entire Estuary during this patrol, second only to the Gowanus Canal sample.



A family swimming off their boat in Catskill Creek

Gay’s Point Park to Waterford (day 5): Continued dry weather. Still, two sites were “unacceptable” - one in Albany, the other in Troy - these two fail about 50% of the times we sample. Also, it’s interesting to note the difference between the Hudson Headwaters sample and the Mohawk River sample. **The Hudson passed at 11 *Enterobacteriaceae* /100ml and the Mohawk failed at 238/100ml** (Federal guidelines recommend against swimming in fresh water with a count over 61/100ml). These two sample sites are only about 300 yards apart at the confluence of the Hudson and the Mohawk at Waterford. The Mohawk fails about twice as often as the Hudson here. So

it really does matter where you swim.



Kids in the water at Troy



A CSO in Troy

May 2012 Sampling Data

For River Mile 0 to River Mile 44, the following standards apply:

■ Enterococcus count (under 35/100ml) is acceptable by EPA standards*


■ Enterococcus count (between 35 and 104/100ml), if sustained over time, would be unacceptable by EPA standards*


■ Enterococcus count (over 104/100ml) is unacceptable by EPA standards*


River Mile	Site Name	Sample Date	Enterococcus Count	Quality
-1	Gowanus Canal	May 15, 2012	>24196	Unacceptable
0.1	The Battery midchannel	May 15, 2012	<10	Acceptable
2.5	East River midchannel at 23rd St.	May 15, 2012	<10	Acceptable
2.6	Newtown Creek- Dutch Kills	May 15, 2012	20	Acceptable
2.7	Newtown Creek- Metropolitan Ave. Bridge	May 15, 2012	146	Unacceptable
4	East River at Roosevelt Island	May 15, 2012	10	Acceptable
4.7	Castle Point, NJ	May 15, 2012	20	Acceptable
6	Pier 96 Kayak Launch	May 15, 2012	30	Acceptable
7	79th St. midchannel	May 15, 2012	86	Possible Risk
7.9	125th St. Pier	May 15, 2012	272	Unacceptable
8	125th St. WWTP Outfall	May 15, 2012	108	Unacceptable
8.1	Harlem River- Willis Ave. Bridge	May 15, 2012	< 10	Acceptable
12	GW Bridge midchannel	May 15, 2012	10	Acceptable
12.1	Harlem River- Washington Ave. Bridge	May 15, 2012	10	Acceptable
14	Dykeman Street Beach	May 15, 2012	10	Acceptable
17.5	Yonkers WWTP Outfall	May 16, 2012	10	Acceptable
18.4	Saw Mill River	May 16, 2012	10	Acceptable
18.5	Yonkers midchannel	May 16, 2012	<10	Acceptable
25.9	Irvington Beach	May 16, 2012	<10	Acceptable
26	Piermont Sewage Treatment Plant	May 16, 2012	20	Acceptable

	Outfall			
26.1	Piermont Pier	May 16, 2012	41	Possible Risk
27	Tarrytown Marina	May 16, 2012	31	Acceptable
27.5	TZ Bridge midchannel	May 16, 2012	<10	Acceptable
28	Kingsland Point Park and Pocantico River	May 16, 2012	20	Acceptable
28.1	Nyack Launch Ramp	May 16, 2012	<10	Acceptable
34	Ossining Beach	May 16, 2012	<10	Acceptable
35	Croton Point Beach	May 16, 2012	<10	Acceptable
35.5	Haverstraw Bay midchannel	May 16, 2012	<10	Acceptable
38	Furnace Brook	May 16, 2012	<10	Acceptable
39	Emeline Beach - Haverstraw	May 16, 2012	<10	Acceptable
40	Cedar Pond Brook	May 16, 2012	<10	Acceptable
40.5	Stony Point midchannel	May 16, 2012	20	Acceptable
43	Peekskill Riverfront Green Park	May 16, 2012	41	Possible Risk
44	Annesville Creek	May 16, 2012	10	Acceptable

For River Mile 45 north, the following standards apply:

 Enterococcus count (under 33/100ml) is acceptable by EPA standards*

 Enterococcus count (between 33 and 61/100ml), if sustained over time, would be unacceptable by EPA standards*

 Enterococcus count (over 61/100ml) is unacceptable by EPA standards*

River Mile	Site Name	Sample Date	Enterococcus Count	Quality
46	Fort Montgomery	May 18, 2012	<1	Acceptable
52.5	West Point Sewage Treatment Plant Outfall	May 18, 2012	5	Acceptable
53.5	Cold Spring Harbor	May 18, 2012	<1	Acceptable
54	Little Stony Point	May 18, 2012	<1	Acceptable
60	Newburgh Launch Ramp	May 18, 2012	8	Acceptable
61	Beacon Harbor	May 18, 2012	2	Acceptable
66.5	Wappingers Creek	May 18, 2012	7	Acceptable
68	Marlboro Landing	May 18, 2012	2	Acceptable
75	Poughkeepsie Launch Ramp	May 18, 2012	3	Acceptable
77	Poughkeepsie Drinking Water Intake	May 18, 2012	1	Acceptable
84.5	Norrie Point midchannel	May 18, 2012	2	Acceptable
85	Norrie Point Yacht Basin	May 18, 2012	28	Acceptable
88	Port Ewen Drinking Water Intake	May 18, 2012	12	Acceptable
92	Kingston Point Beach	May 19, 2012	4	Acceptable
92.1	Kingston Sewage Treatment Plant Outfall	May 19, 2012	365	Unacceptable
92.2	Kingston Public Dock	May 19, 2012	57	Possible Risk
92.3	Eddyville Anchorage	May 19, 2012	22	Acceptable
97	Ulster Landing Beach	May 19, 2012	5	Acceptable
99	Tivoli Landing	May 19, 2012	4	Acceptable
102	Esopus Creek Entrance	May 19, 2012	21	Acceptable

102.1	Esopus Creek West	May 19, 2012	9	Acceptable
103	Malden Launch Ramp	May 19, 2012	11	Acceptable
108.5	Inbocht Bay	May 19, 2012	11	Acceptable
113	Catskill Launch Ramp	May 19, 2012	15	Acceptable
113.1	Catskill Creek – East End	May 19, 2012	2	Acceptable
113.2	Catskill Creek – First Bridge	May 19, 2012	<1	Acceptable
116.5	Hudson (Town of) – boat ramp	May 19, 2012	26	Acceptable
117	Athens STP Outfall	May 19, 2012	66	Unacceptable
122.5	Gay's Point Midchannel	May 20, 2012	19	Acceptable
124	Coxsackie Waterfront Park	May 20, 2012	49	Possible Risk
133	Coeymans Landing	May 20, 2012	11	Acceptable
137	Castleton- Vlockie Kill	May 20, 2012	20	Acceptable
138	Bethlehem Launch Ramp	May 20, 2012	21	Acceptable
142	Island Creek/Normans Kill	May 20, 2012	16	Acceptable
144.5	Dunn Memorial Bridge - Albany	May 20, 2012	187	Unacceptable
146	Albany Rowing Dock	May 20, 2012	20	Acceptable
151.5	Congress St. Bridge - Troy	May 20, 2012	24	Acceptable
152.5	Hudson River above Troy Lock	May 20, 2012	96	Unacceptable
155	Mohawk River	May 20, 2012	238	Unacceptable
155.1	Hudson above confluence with Mohawk River	May 20, 2012	11	Acceptable

To learn more about Riverkeeper's Water Quality Program, and to view historic sampling data, please visit www.riverkeeper.org/water-quality/hudson.

[View other monthly water quality reports, May 2010 to present](#)

[View sampling data sorted historically by individual sampling location.](#)