



CAPE MAY TO MONTAUK

A Coastal Protection Report Card

November 2002

GLOSSARY

Buffer Transition area around wetlands, streams, rivers, or other receiving waterways that provides natural filtration and other forms of protection.

Catch Basin An inlet to a storm or combined sewer equipped with a sediment sump, and sometimes a hood, on its outlet pipe to the sewer. Catch basins prevent clogging of sewers by sediment and debris washed off streets, and provide a water seal against the venting of sewer gases. Catch basins must be cleaned out regularly so that they may function properly.

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) During rainfalls the volume of stormwater entering a combined sewer system often is far greater than the capacity of the sewage treatment plant. The excess flow is diverted from the plant and, as a result, untreated sewage and stormwater empty directly into receiving waters through designated overflow points.

Combined Sewer System Sewer system that carries both sewage and stormwater runoff.

Eutrophication Nutrient enrichment (nitrogen, phosphorus, and carbon) from sewage effluent, runoff, or atmospheric deposition to surface waters. This process can increase the growth potential for algae and aquatic plants. Excessive eutrophication can leave waterbodies devoid of most life, impede navigation, and result in aesthetic nuisances.

Hood Apparatus inside a catch basin of a storm sewer that provides added protection to prevent sewer gases from escaping to the atmosphere and to trap large objects, such as floatable debris, from entering the outlet pipe to the sewer.

Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Occurs in a sewer collection system when cracks or leaks permit raw sewage and other debris to migrate into and out of the pipes.

Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Locally prepared, detailed land use plan that sets forth design as well as locational and environmental standards for all development along a municipality's waterfront.

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) A provision of the Clean Water Act that prohibits discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States unless a special permit is issued by the EPA, a state, or (where delegated) a tribal government and/or Indian reservation.

PCS Permit Compliance System; a database with information on pollution discharged to surface waters, as regulated by the NPDES permit system, established by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972.

STP Sewage treatment plant.

Sanitary Sewers Underground pipes that carry only domestic or industrial waste.

Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Wastewater entering sanitary sewers may be so great, because of blockages, a lack of capacity, inflow and infiltration, or other reasons, that the collection system or sewage treatment plant cannot handle the increased flow. As a result, untreated sewage empties directly into receiving waters, often from manholes or up through sewer connections.

Sanitary Survey Assessment of septic systems to determine areas in need of being connected to the sewage collection system. A sanitary survey also identifies failing septic systems and those in need of repair or replacement.

Sewage Collection System A series of channels or conduits that carry wastewater and stormwater runoff from their source to a sewage treatment plant or receiving waterway.

Sewer System Evaluation Study (SSES) Survey of sewage collection systems to determine the amount of inflow and infiltration into the system.

Shoreline Survey Method to detect illegal sewer connections to a stormwater collection system. During dry weather, locations along the shoreline where storm drains empty into a waterway are examined for flow. Since stormwater pipes should not flow during dry weather, presence of flow suggests an illegal sewage connection to a stormwater pipe.

State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) New York Environmental Conservation Law Art. 8. The New York State SEQRA law requires the preparation of environmental impact statements by all state, county, and local agencies for actions that they propose or approve “which may have a significant effect on the environment.”

Storm Sewer A system of pipes that carry stormwater runoff from the surfaces of buildings, paved surfaces, and land.

TRI Toxics release inventory; a database of individual toxic chemicals released from facilities; facilities are required to submit TRI reports to the EPA.



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ACRONYMS

ACOE (Corps)	Army Corps of Engineers (Philadelphia and New York Districts)
BOD	Biological Oxygen Demand
CAFRA	Coastal Area Facility Review Act
CEHA	Coastal Erosion Hazard Area
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
CSS	Combined Sewer System
CWA	Clean Water Act
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPF	Environmental Protection Fund
ESA	Endangered Species Act
DMR	Daily Monitoring Record
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HEP	Harbor Estuary Program
HWG	Habitat Work Group
LWRP	Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
NJ DEP	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (state agency)
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	Nonpoint Source Pollution
NRC	National Research Council
NYDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (state agency)
NYDEP	New York City Department of Environmental Protection (city agency)
NYDOS	New York Department of State
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PCS	Permit Compliance System
PEER	Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
SEQRA	State Environmental Quality Review Act
SSO	Sanitary Sewer Overflow
TDR	Transfer of Development Rights
TRI	Toxics Release Inventory
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey