

FACT SHEET

HUDSON RIVER

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2015



The Hudson River Natural Resource Trustees – the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), the [U.S. Department of the Interior](#), and [New York State](#) (the Trustees) – continue to determine how PCBs released from the General Electric Company (GE) plants at Fort Edward and Hudson Falls, New York harmed the Hudson River’s natural resources. Our accomplishments for 2015 include:

Injury to Groundwater:

- The Trustees distributed an [Injury Determination Report on Hudson River Groundwater Resources](#), a [Groundwater Injury Determination Report Fact Sheet](#) and a [Press Release](#) in September 2015, confirming groundwater contamination is an injury to natural resources.

Injury to Fish:

- The Trustees released an [Injury Determination Report on Hudson River Fishery Resources: Fishery Closures and Consumption Restriction](#), a [Fish Consumption Advisory Fact Sheet](#) and a [Press Release](#) in April 2015, confirming that the public’s use of the Hudson River fishery has been severely curtailed for decades throughout at least 200 miles of the Hudson River.

Injury to Mink:

- A [publication](#) by the Trustees’ mink injury (field study) investigators “Modelling non-Euclidean movement and landscape connectivity in highly structured ecological networks,” was published in *Methods of Ecology and Evolution* in February 2015.
- A [presentation](#) by the Trustee’s mink injury (field study) investigators, “Estimating American mink, *Neovison vison*, density in complex river networks using spatial capture-recapture” ([abstract](#)) was given at the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference, April 19-21, 2015.

Freshwater Mussel/Remedial Injury Assessment:

- The Hudson River Natural Resource Trustees issued an amended [Study Plan for Freshwater Mussel Injury Determination- Population Assessment and Potential Functional Roles of Native Mussels in Multiple Sections of the Upper Hudson River](#). An associated [Fact Sheet on Hudson River Freshwater Mussels](#) details the changes in the study plan. This study will assess freshwater mussel populations and ecosystem services affected by the dredging and subsequent capping/backfilling of the Upper Hudson River.

Injury to Birds:

- In May 2015, the Trustees issued a [Fact Sheet](#) on the Gray Catbird Egg Exposure Investigation, to inform members of the public about egg collection activities.



Concerns about PCB Contamination:

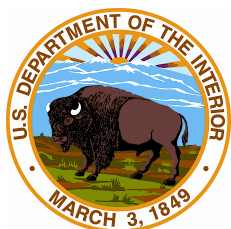
- In November 2015, Federal Hudson River Trustees asserted that the Hudson River dredging has not addressed nor compensated the public for injuries to natural resources in a [statement](#) on GE's Hudson River Demobilization Plan.
- Federal Hudson River Trustees urged EPA to assess the adequacy of the dredging remedy in their [comments](#) on the Phase 2 Sediment Processing Facility Demobilization and Restoration Plan in September 2015.
- The Trustees demonstrated a lower decay rate for sediment PCBs and decades longer recovery of Lower Hudson River fish.
 - [Using Model Emulation to Update Projections of Future Fish Tissue PCBs in the Lower Hudson River](#), presented at the Eighth International Conference on Remediation and Management of Contaminated Sediments, New Orleans, Louisiana; January 13, 2015.
 - [Re-Visiting Model Projections of Lower Hudson River Fish PCBs Using Model Emulation And Recent Data](#), presented at the Hudson River Foundation, New York, New York, on May 19, 2015

Coordination with EPA:

- The EPA and the Trustees have separate responsibilities under the "Superfund" law. A [Fact Sheet](#) developed jointly by the EPA and the Trustees, released in April 2015, explains those roles and responsibilities.

We appreciate the cooperation and interest of the public in this investigation to assess the effects of PCBs upon Hudson River natural resources. In addition to the work noted above to determine injury to birds, mink, fish, groundwater and other natural resources, Trustees continue to determine the injuries related to the remedial actions (such as dredging) and the effects of PCBs on Hudson River fish, sediment-dwelling organisms, amphibians, reptiles, and waterfowl, and habitats such as water, sediment, and floodplains.

The goal of the Hudson River NRDA is to restore injured natural resources. Our assessment and restoration planning actions focus on ensuring the fullest restoration of those injured natural resources. In conducting restoration activities, we will be engaging with local partners, as we believe an informed and educated public is essential to successful conservation and restoration.



Department of
Environmental
Conservation