



NOVEMBER 2010

FACT SHEET MINK INJURY INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE HUDSON RIVER NRDA 2010-2011

HUDSON RIVER NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Past and continuing discharges of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have contaminated Hudson River natural resources. While the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is continuing with cleanup plans, federal and state trustee agencies - the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and New York State - are conducting a natural resource damage assessment (NRDA). These agencies are responsible for evaluating the injuries associated with hazardous substance contamination to natural resources and determining appropriate actions to restore those resources. Natural resource damage payments provide a means for the Trustees to restore injured public resources to the condition they would have been in but for the release of hazardous substances to the environment, and to compensate the public for lost services provided by those resources.

This fact sheet provides information on a proposed field investigation of Hudson River mink being conducted as part of the Hudson River NRDA.

WHY STUDY HUDSON RIVER MINK?

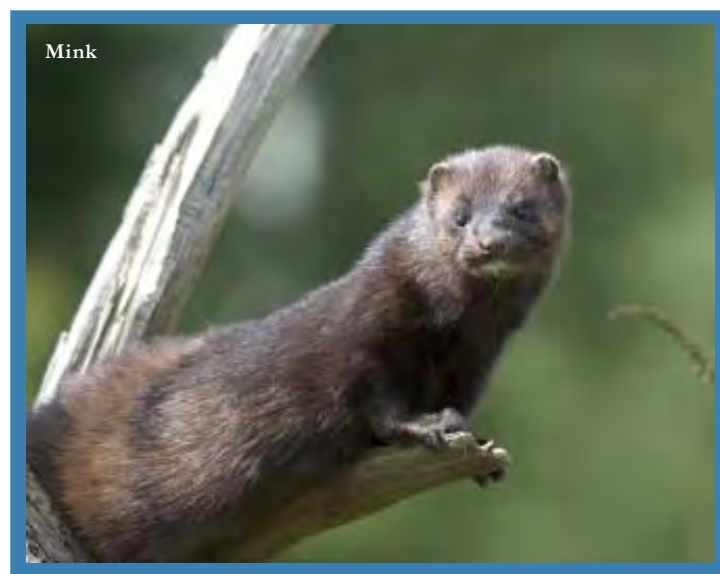
Many species of mammals, including mink, rely on the Hudson River and its floodplain for food and shelter. Previous studies have shown that PCBs can injure mink, reducing kit survival and causing jaw lesions, among other effects. Hudson River mink are exposed to elevated levels of PCBs. Mink collected by trappers in the vicinity of the river contain relatively high concentrations of PCBs in their bodies.

MINK FIELD STUDY

The Trustees plan to assess mink occupancy in the Upper Hudson River and Mohawk River watersheds through the use of scent stations and digital cameras to document mink visitation. Scent stations are open-ended boxes baited with a scent lure specifically designed to attract mink. Mink visits will be recorded using non-destructive measures such as track paper: no mink will be trapped during the course of the

study. From time to time during the study, scientific personnel will be present at the stations for maintenance purposes (e.g., to replace lures and track papers).

Pursuant to the Hudson River NRDA plan,¹ a formal work plan will be developed and released to the public. Once completed, the results of this study will be peer reviewed and will also be released to the public.



Dave Brotherton/Dreamstime

MORE INFORMATION

When ready, draft and final work plans, as well as reports of the study, will be available on the following Trustee websites. These websites also contain a variety of additional reports and documents relating to the overall Hudson River NRDA.

- <http://www.fws.gov/contaminants/restorationplans/HudsonRiver/index.html>
- <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/25609.html>
- <http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/northeast/hudson/>

To add yourself to the [Hudson-NRDA](#) listserv:

1. Send a message to: requests@willamette.nos.noaa.gov
2. Write in subject: [Subscribe hudsonnrda](#)

¹ Available for download here: <http://www.fws.gov/contaminants/restorationplans/HudsonRiver/docs/HudsonRiverNRDASept2002.pdf>



The Hudson River Trustees—assessing and restoring your natural resources

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If you have questions about natural resource damages, or want to submit a restoration project or be placed on the Hudson River NRDA mailing list, please contact one of the individuals listed below:

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