

# Superfund Cleanup in the Hudson River: Where Are We?

An Update through the 2014 Season

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**Hudson River PCB Forum**  
Marist College, Cornell Boathouse

# Hudson River Superfund – An Overview

- Location & Timing of GE's Contamination of Hudson River
  - GE factories in Hudson Falls and Fort Edward, NY
  - Dumped *at least* 1.3 million pounds of PCBs in Hudson from 1940s-1970s
- One of the Largest Superfund Sites in the Nation
  - 200 miles of Hudson River designated (Hudson Falls to Battery at NYC)
  - BUT: GE cleanup limited to 40 miles of Upper Hudson River (Fort Edward/Hudson Falls to Federal Dam in Troy) – NO remediation south of Troy Dam
- Legal Timeline
  - 1984 – Site Designation
  - 2002 – Record of Decision (ROD)
  - 2006 & 2009 – Consent Decrees
  - 2012 – Five Year Review

# Hudson River

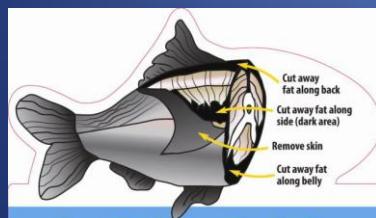
## NYSDOH Fish Consumption Advisory

### **WARNING!**

Fish and crabs from these waters contain chemicals and may be harmful to eat, especially for women and children.



**Learn more!**  
Call NYS Department of Health  
518-402-7800  
800-458-1158



#### **Cut the Fat to Cut PCBs**

- PCBs are chemicals in the fat of some fish you catch.
- Don't pan-fry! Broil, grill or bake so fat drips away.
- Don't eat the green stuff in crabs.

Special advice for women and children: [www.health.ny.gov/fish](http://www.health.ny.gov/fish)  
(518) 402-7800 or 1-800-458-1158

2798

New York State Department of Health

8/11



#### **HUDSON FALLS TO TROY DAM**

#### **DO NOT EAT FISH FROM THIS PART OF THE WATER**

DEC "catch and release" regulations apply:

All fish caught must be returned to the water unharmed

#### **TROY DAM TO CATSKILL**

#### **WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING YEARS AND CHILDREN UNDER 15: DO NOT EAT FISH**

Other people:

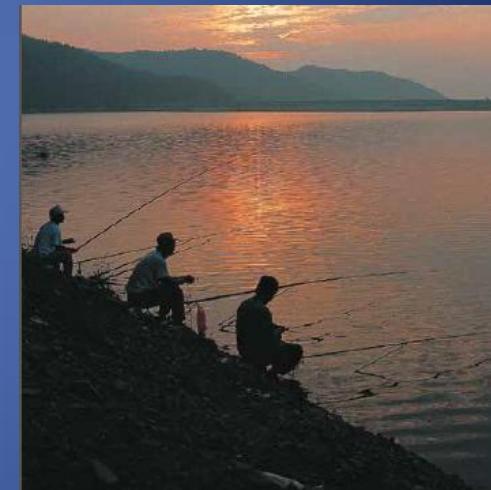
- Species that can be eaten once a month: alewife, blueback herring, rock bass, yellow perch
- Do not eat any other fish caught in this area

#### **CATSKILL TO NEW YORK CITY BATTERY**

#### **WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING YEARS AND CHILDREN UNDER 15: DO NOT EAT FISH**

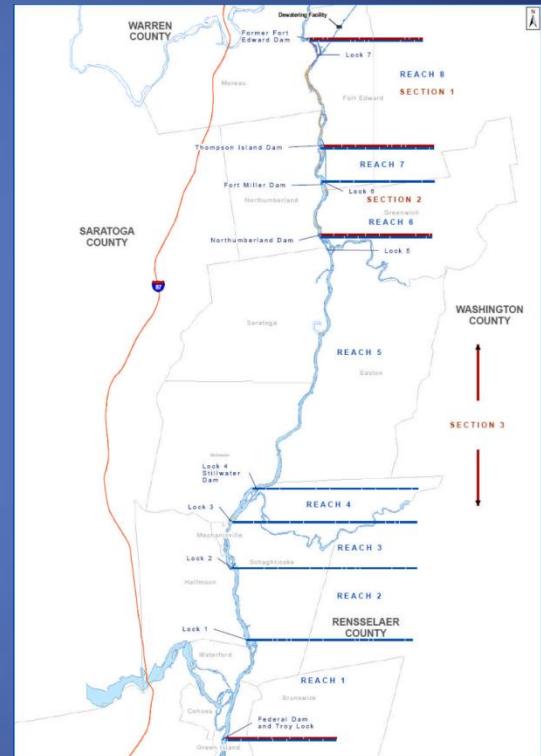
Other people:

- Do not eat white catfish, gizzard shad nor channel catfish; do not eat crab hepatopancreas and crab cooking liquid
- Species that can be eaten once a month: Atlantic needlefish, brown bullhead, carp, goldfish, largemouth bass, rainbow smelt, smallmouth bass, striped bass, walleye, white perch
- All other species can be eaten once a week including blue crab meat (six crabs per week)



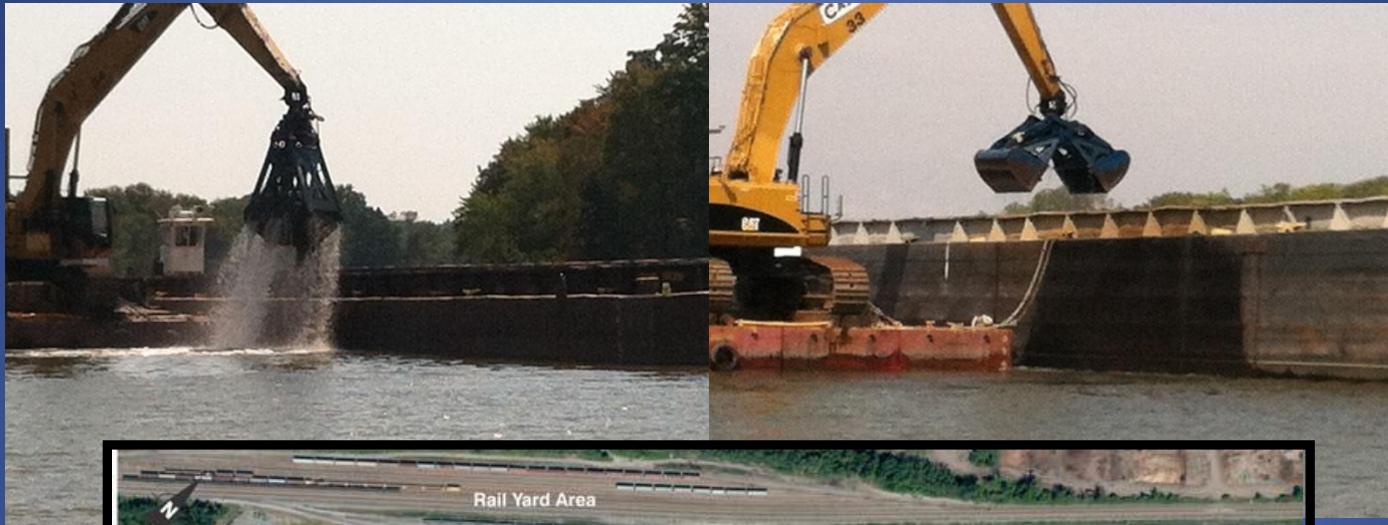
# Remedial Plan for the Hudson River

- 2.65 million cubic yards of PCB-sediment to be dredged
- 2 Phases & 3 River Sections
- Varying Target Cleanup Levels
- Dredging of “Hot Spots” Only
- Limited Capping
- Habitat Restoration
- Engineering and QOL Performance Standards



# GE Remediation of Hudson River

## Dredging Practices & Dewatering Facility



# GE Remediation of Hudson River

## By the Numbers

- 5 Years, 2 Phases of dredging
- 2.5 million cubic yards dredged
- 75% dredged materials = TSCA
- 95 of 100 CUs completed
- 7.3% capped overall
- 31 acres total habitat seeded/replanted

(As of October 30, 2014)

# GE Remediation of Hudson River:

## So Where Are We?

- “Success” so far . . .
  - Greatly exceeded the expected amount of contaminated sediment to be dredged; Years ahead of schedule
  - Very little to no exceedances of water quality and air quality

### **BUT**

- Navigation channel remains unmaintained for 30+ years
- Adverse impacts to both the recovery of the health of the river and the river-based commercial and recreational economic development opportunities
- Fish Consumption Advisories still in effect with no end date in sight
- Hindrance to the remedial objectives
- 136 acres of highly contaminated hot spots left behind hindering NRDA projects & leading to potential transport



# GE Remediation of Hudson River: Where Do We Need to Go?

1. Remediation of Floodplains Area
2. 136 Acres & Navigational Dredging
3. Natural Resources Damages Assessment (NRDA)

# For More Information on the Hudson River Superfund Cleanup

- **US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):**  
[www.epa.gov/hudson/](http://www.epa.gov/hudson/)
- **Community Advisory Group (CAG):**  
<http://www.hudsoncag.ene.com/>
- **NYS Dept. of Health (DOH):**  
[http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/hudson\\_river/](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/hudson_river/)
- **NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC):**  
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8677.html>
- **Hudson River NRDA Federal Trustees:**  
[http://www.epa.gov/hudson/natural\\_resources.html](http://www.epa.gov/hudson/natural_resources.html)