CATALOG DOCUMENTATION
NATIONAL COASTAL ASSESSMENT DATABASE
2003 NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY HARBOR SYSTEM
BENTHIC BIOMASS DATA BY REPLICATE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. DATA SET IDENTIFICATION
2. INVESTIGATOR INFORMATION
3. DATA SET ABSTRACT
4. OBJECTIVES AND INTRODUCTION
5. DATA ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING METHODS
6. DATA MANIPULATIONS
7. DATA DESCRIPTION
8. GEOGRAPHIC AND SPATIAL INFORMATION
9. QUALITY CONTROL/QUALITY ASSURANCE
10. DATA ACCESS
11. REFERENCES
12. TABLE OF ACRONYMS
13. PERSONNEL INFORMATION

1. DATA SET IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Title of Catalog document

National Coastal Assessment Database
2003 New York/New Jersey Harbor System
Benthic Biomass Data by Replicate

1.2 Author of the Catalog entry

Melissa M. Hughes, Raytheon

1.3 Catalog revision date

June 29, 2012

1.4 Data set name

Benthic Biomass Data by Replicate

1.5 Task Group

Regional Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program

1.6 Data set identification code

NA

1.7 Version

NA

1.8 Requested Acknowledgment

If you plan to publish these data in any way, EPA requires a standard statement for work it has supported: "Although the data described in this article have been funded wholly or in part by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency through its EMAP-Estuaries Program, it has not been subjected to Agency review, and therefore does not necessarily reflect the views of the Agency and no official endorsement should be inferred."

2. INVESTIGATOR INFORMATION

2.1 Principal Investigator

Ms. Darvene A. Adams
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region II

2.2. Investigation Participant

Ms. Sandi Robinson
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - ORD/NHEERL/AED

3. DATA SET ABSTRACT

3.1 Abstract of the Data Set

The BENTHIC BIOMASS data set presents data on the biomass of groups of benthic organisms identified in each acceptable grab collected at a station. Biomass is recorded in g. Each group is identified by latin name.

3.2 Keywords for the Data Set

benthic species, benthic species biomass

4. OBJECTIVES AND INTRODUCTION

4.1 Program Objective

The project was designed to support resource management decisions related to pollution control and remediation throughout the New York/New Jersey (NY/NJ) Harbor and to assist the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program (HEP) in developing a contaminant monitoring strategy to be included in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the NY/NJ Harbor system.

4.2 Data Set Objective

To provide an overview of the abundance and biomass of benthic organisms in the NY/NJ harbor region based on random sampling.

4.3 Data Set Background Discussion

The New York/New Jersey Harbor System has been susceptible to toxic contamination due to surrounding land uses. Harbor sediments are contaminant reservoirs which can function as a secondary source of these land use contaminants. Contaminated sediments pose a substantial threat to Harbor resources and are a management challenge. Adverse changes in the biota of the system have been documented with increasing frequency, and many of these changes have been linked to toxic contamination.

4.4 Summary of Data Set Parameters

The Benthic Biomass data set values were based on groups of organisms identified in the replicate samples.

5. DATA ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING METHODS

5.1 Data Acquisition

5.1.1 Sampling Objective

Collect sediment grab samples suitable for the identification of benthic organisms.

5.1.2 Sample Collection Methods Summary

The grab sampler was lowered through the water column; the grab penetrated the sediment by gravity releasing a trigger allowing the jaws to close. When the grab was pulled from the sediment using the winch, the jaws closed, encapsulating the sediment sample.

Three macroinvertebrate grabs per sampling station were collected using the 0.04-m2 Young-modified van Veen grab. Benthic grabs were alternated with sediment chemistry/toxicity grabs. Benthic samples were gently washed through a 0.5 mm mesh sieve. The material was preserved in a 10% buffered formaldehyde-rose bengal solution.

5.1.3 Sampling Start Date
July 1, 2003

5.1.4 Sampling End Date
September 25, 2003

5.1.5 Platform
Sampling was conducted from the U.S.EPA research vessel, the R/V CLEAN WATERS.

5.1.6 Sampling Gear
A 0.04-m2 or 0.1-m2, stainless steel, Young-modified Van Veen Grab sampler was used to collect sediment grabs. This grab sampled an area of 440 cm2 and a maximum depth of penetration in the sediment of 10 cm.

5.1.7 Manufacturer of Sampling Equipment
Young's Welding, Sandwich, MA

5.1.8 Key Variables
No data were recorded at the time of sample collection.

5.1.9 Collection Method Calibration
The sampling gear did not require any calibration. It required inspection for deformities incurred due to mishandling or impact on rocky substrates.

5.1.10 Sample Collection Quality Control
A successful grab had relatively level, intact sediment over the entire area of the grab and a sediment depth at the center of at least 5 centimeters. Unacceptable grabs included those with grossly slumped surfaces and those completely filled to the top, where the sediment was in direct contact with the hinged top.

The van Veen Grab was rinsed with ambient seawater between grabs at a station to remove remaining organisms. It was thoroughly cleaned with detergent and water between stations.

5.1.11 Sample Collection Method Reference
Reifsteck, D.M., C.J. Strobel and D.J. Keith. 1993. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program - Near Coastal Component: 1993 Virginian Province Field Operations and Safety Manual. U.S. EPA NHEERL-AED. Narragansett, RI.

5.2 Data Preparation and Sample Processing

5.2.1 Sample Processing Objective
Process benthic sediment samples to accurately identify and enumerate benthic infauna.

5.2.2 Sample Processing Methods Summary
Three replicate grabs for benthic macroinvertebrate community structure

were obtained at each station. Invertebrates from two of these were sorted and identified; the third replicate was archived. The macrobenthos were identified to the lowest practical taxonomic category.

5.2.3 Sample Processing Method Calibration
NA

5.2.4 Sample Processing Quality Control
Rare or previously undocumented specimens from the Harbor were put aside in a reference collection.

5.2.5 Sample Processing Method Reference
Adams, D. 1998. Quality Assurance Project Plan for Environmental Monitoring, A 5-year Revisit of Sediment Quality in the NY/NJ Harbor. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2, Edison, NJ.

5.2.6 Sample Processing Method Deviations
NA

6. DATA MANIPULATIONS

NA

6.1 Name of new or modified values

NA

6.2 Data Manipulation Description

NA

6.3 Data Manipulation Examples

NA

7. DATA DESCRIPTION

7.1 Description of Parameters

Attribute Name	Description
DATA GROUP	Group conducting sampling
SAMPLING YEAR	Year of sampling
STATION	Station identifier
SAMPLING DATE	Sample collection date
LATITUDE	Latitude (decimal degrees)
LONGITUDE	Longitude (decimal degrees)
REPLICATE #	Number of replicate
LATIN NAME	Latin name of biomass group
BIOMASS	Biomass (g) of defined group of organisms
SIEVE	Sieve Size (mm)

7.1.6 Precision to which values are reported
The biomass is reported to four decimal places.

7.1.7 Minimum value in data set
Replicate biomass 0

7.1.8 Maximum value in Data Set
Replicate biomass 58.7712

7.2 Data Record Example

7.2.1 Column Names for Example Records

Data Group,Sampling Year,Station,Sampling Date,Latitude,Longitude,
Replicate #,Latin Name,Biomass,Sieve

7.2.2 Example Data Records

R-EMAP Region 2 2003,2003,JB301,7/31/2003,40.629,-73.759,1,
Ampelisca spp,0.0006,0.5
R-EMAP Region 2 2003,2003,JB301,7/31/2003,40.629,-73.759,1,
Decapoda,0.0253,0.5
R-EMAP Region 2 2003,2003,JB301,7/31/2003,40.629,-73.759,1,
Gastropoda,0.003,0.5

8. GEOGRAPHIC AND SPATIAL INFORMATION

8.1 Minimum Longitude

-74 Degrees 17.4 Minutes 48.00 Decimal Seconds

8.2 Maximum Longitude

-73 Degrees 45 Minutes 0.54 Decimal Seconds

8.3 Minimum Latitude

40 Degrees 25.2 Minutes 36.00 Decimal Seconds

8.4 Maximum Latitude

40 Degrees 51.6 Minutes 42.00 Decimal Seconds

8.5 Name of area or region

New York/New Jersey Harbor System:
Four sub-basins were sampled in the New York/New Jersey Harbor, including: Upper Harbor, Newark Bay, Lower Harbor (includes Raritan and Sandy Hook Bays) and Jamaica Bay. For purposes of this study, the region includes the lower portions of the Hudson, Passaic, Harlem, Hackensack and Raritan Rivers, upstream to a near-bottom salinity of 15 ppt, the East River to Long Island Sound and Lower Harbor to the Atlantic Ocean.

9. QUALITY CONTROL AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

9.1 Data Quality Objectives

Quality assurance goals were developed and followed for each sample type.

9.2 Quality Assurance/Quality Control Procedures

Ten percent of all samples were reprocessed and subjected to a second QA evaluation. Taxonomic identifications were verified using reference organisms obtained from EMAP's reference collection.

9.3 Quality Assessment Results

These in-house QC measures met the requirements established in the QA Plan.

9.4 Unassessed Errors

NA

10. DATA ACCESS

10.1 Data Access Procedures

Data can be downloaded from the WWW server.

10.2 Data Access Restrictions
Data can only be accessed from the WWW server.

10.3 Data Access Contact Persons
Ms. Darvene A. Adams
U.S. EPA Region II

10.4 Data Set Format
Tab-delimited

10.5 Information Concerning Anonymous FTP
Data cannot be accessed via ftp.

10.6 Information Concerning WWW
Data can be downloaded from the WWW servers.

10.7 EMAP CD-ROM Containing the Data Set
Data are not available on CD-ROM

11. REFERENCES

Adams, D. 1998. Quality Assurance Project Plan for Environmental Monitoring, A 5-year Revisit of Sediment Quality in the NY/NJ Harbor. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2, Edison, NJ.

Adams, Darvene and Sandra Benyi. 2003. Final Report: Sediment Quality of the NY/NJ Harbor System - A 5-Year Revisit. EPA/902-R-03-002. USEPA-Region 2, Division of Science and Assessment. Edison, NJ. December, 2003.

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12. TABLE OF ACRONYMS

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