



SEPTEMBER 2018 | ISSUE NO. 4

SURGE WATCH



A Note From the Chairman

The US Army Corps of Engineers has called for public comments on its Harbor and Tributaries Scoping Study (HATS). The Metro SSWG is preparing a deposition outlining a regional approach arguing that it is the only feasible way to protect the 1,000-mile coastlines of New York Harbor, the Hudson River valley, northern New Jersey and southern Long Island for the next 100 years.

York Harbor, the Hudson River valley, northern New Jersey and southern Long Island for the next 100 years.

As the Dutch are fond of saying: we must shorten the coastline if we're going to have any hope at all of protecting our mighty Metropolis. But how do we do that?

We propose a porous system of sea gates that under normal weather conditions will allow the free flow of tides and river discharge to the sea with little impediment. Plus, we have some creative ideas that will greatly improve the water quality in New York Harbor and the lower Hudson River by harnessing the moon's energy to pump clean Long Island Sound water throughout the harbor complex. This will revolutionize pollution abatement in the City's affected waterways.

Our friends at Save the Sound list the following issues to be addressed by the Corps:

- How would the barriers affect migrating fish, oyster beds, boating, and shipping?*
- How much will reduced tidal flow worsen sewage, nitrogen, and PCB pollution in our waterways?*
- If storm surge is diverted from NYC, how will that affect the surrounding area? Will "outside" communities suffer increased flooding? How will the government decide which communities to protect and which to expose?*
- Are there solutions that can address sea level rise as well?*

We agree. We have a team of committed scientists, ecologists, engineers, social scientists and economists working on this. We understand. Stay tuned.

Malcolm Bowman,
Chair, Metropolitan NY-NJ Storm Surge Working Group.

"We need to determine whether harbor-wide protection – such as a storm surge barrier – is feasible. The Army Corps of Engineers should be encouraged to complete this complex study as quickly as possible."

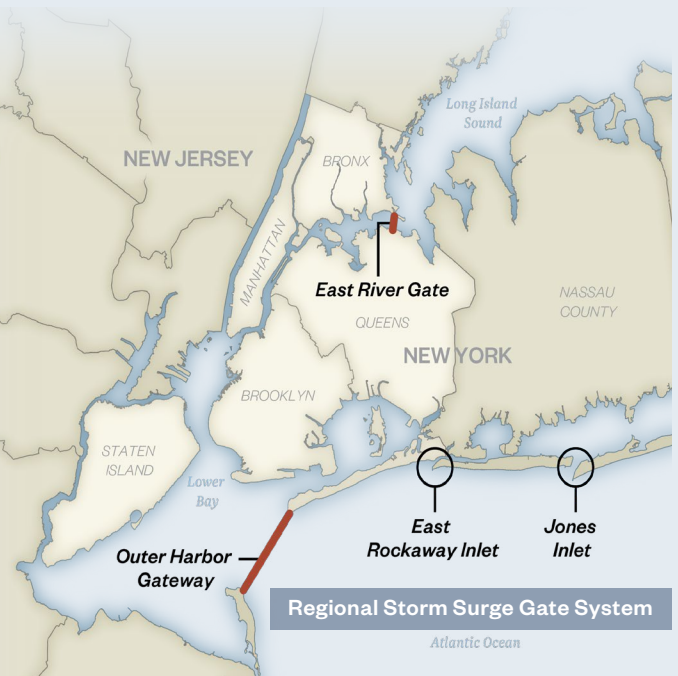
- NYS Senator Brian Kavanagh
Chair of New York State Caucus of Environmental Legislators

USACE Comment Period Extended for the Harbor and Tributaries Scoping Study (HATS)

Due to the interest shown by the public and to allow for meaningful comment on the NEPA scoping phase, the Corps is extending the comment period to **November 5, 2018**.

An additional scoping meeting will also take place on Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 6 PM at the New York Aquarium, Surf Avenue and West 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY.

[Continue Reading...](#)



Levee Wars: How Barriers May Exacerbate Flooding for Neighbors

A Vox+ProPublica collaboration dives into how a structure that's designed to protect us from floods may be making them worse. High levees come at a high cost, often pushing water into communities that can't afford the same protection. To learn more, [Continue Reading...](#)

Extreme-weather Events as Part of the BPCA's Ongoing Efforts

The Battery Park City Authority (BPCA) has hired a consultant team to design resiliency measures intended to protect the ball fields and the Asphalt Green community center against future extreme-weather events. For more on the June 19 meeting of the BPCA board, [Continue Reading...](#)

New Buildings Rising in Flood Zones

One in eight new residential units in New York is being built along the riskiest waterfront. The buildings may be resilient, but what about the neighborhoods? [Continue Reading...](#)

Buried Internet Infrastructure at Risk as Sea Levels Rise

According to a new study, thousands of miles of buried fiber optic cable may be inundated by rising seas. Internet infrastructure in densely populated coastal regions, such as the Meadowlands, may need to be replaced with salt resistant cables. [Continue Reading...](#)



Image Credit: Paul Bartford

Thank you for keeping up with the SSWG. For more information, please visit our [website](#) or www.nichiusa.org

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Image Credit: Shutterstock.com, Marc Bruxelle



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Other Flooding and Climate Change News

Flood insurance premiums are going up again and that's just the beginning. [Continue Reading...](#)
Miami Herald | July 24, 2018

Sea level rise is eroding home value and owners might not even know it. [Continue Reading...](#)
Washington Post | August 20, 2018

Flood insurance saved hours before it was to expire, but future unclear. [Continue Reading...](#)
NorthJersey.com | July 31, 2018

Conference

Weathering the Storm: The Intersection of Finance and Resilience on October 18 at NYU

Registration is officially open! This year's conference explores how architectural and engineering solutions to environmental resilience translate to financial resilience. Experts will prompt attendees to think differently, and with a sharper pencil, about the costs and benefits of resiliency on a large scale.

[For more information...](#)