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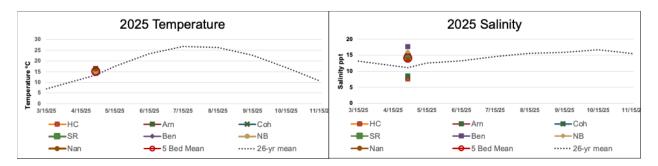
To: Delaware Bay Shellfisheries Council and NJ DEP Bureau of Shellfisheries From: Iris Burt

Date: May 6, 2025

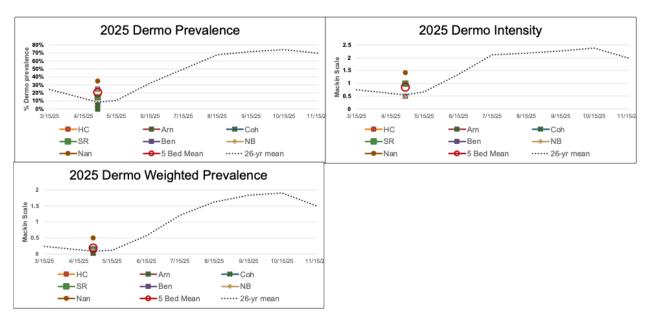
Re: Delaware Bay Seed Bed Monitoring

Oyster samples were collected on April 28, 2025 for the first sampling of our regular monthly monitoring program.

Bottom water temperatures averaged 15° C, (59°F) just above long-term seasonal temperatures. Salinity averaged 14ppt, which is 3ppt above the 26-year mean. Salinity ranged from 7.6ppt at Hope Creek to 17ppt at Bennies. Delaware River discharge has been low throughout the winter season. (see graph below)



Very light dermo levels were detected on ALL beds, including Hope Creek. Both Dermo prevalence and intensity were above the long-term means for the April sampling.

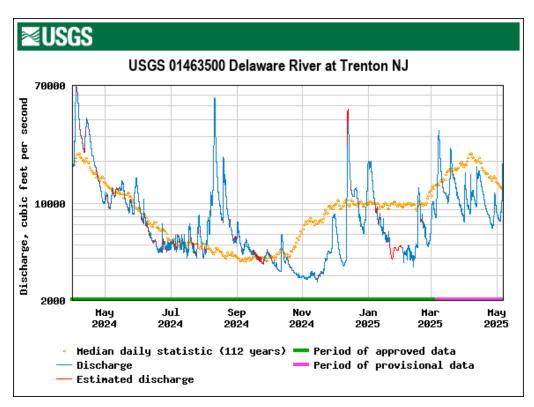




Total box counts and recent box counts are both are light and just below the long-term means.

2025 Total Box Counts		2025 Recent Box Counts						
50% 40% 30% 20% 20% 3/15/25 4/15/25 5/15/25 6/15/25 7/15/25 8/15 		40% 30% 30% 40% 40% 40% 3/15/25 4/ 3/15/25 4/	15/25 5/15/25 HC SR	6/15/25 7/- → Arn → Ben → 5 Bed	15/25 8/15/25 —	9/15/25 ► Coh ► NB ••• 26-yr m	10/15/25	11/15

Shellplanting and intermediate transplant sites were sampled on May 1, 2025. Data for this sampling is not yet available and will be reported in the May report.



Delaware River discharge measured at Trenton, NJ USGS monitoring station 01463500. Blue line represents daily discharge for the past year relative to the 1913-2024 median values shown as a dotted yellow line. <u>Data source:</u>

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoringlocation/01463500/#period=P365D&compare=true&dataTypeId=continuous-00060-0&showMedian=true

