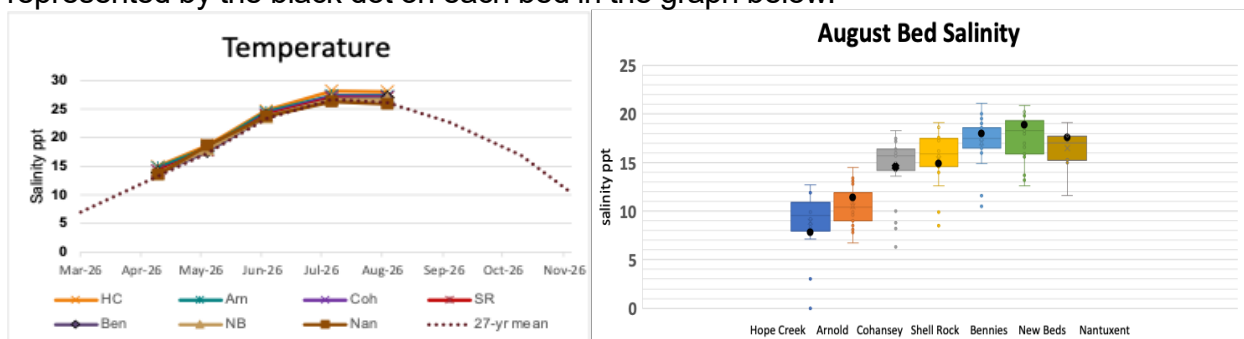
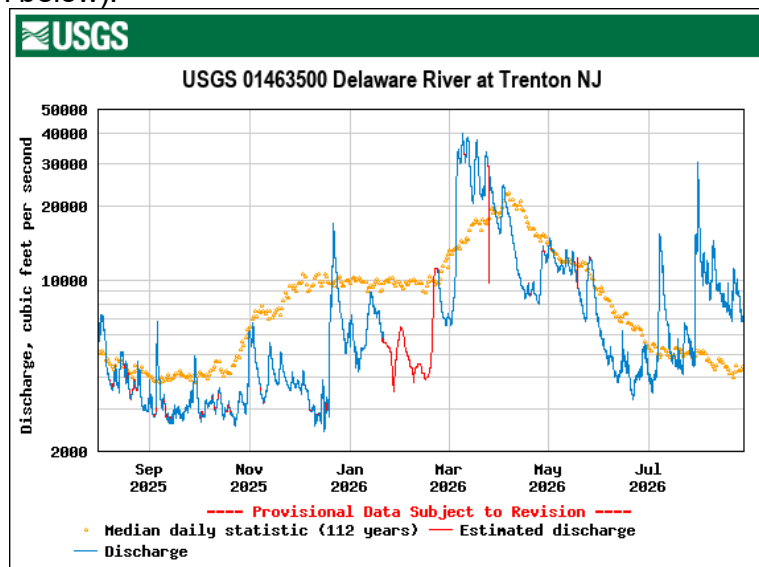


To: Delaware Bay Shellfisheries Council and NJ DEP Bureau of Shellfisheries
From: Iris Burt
Date: August 30, 2026
Re: Delaware Bay Seed Bed Monitoring

Oyster samples were collected on August 17, 2026 for our regular monthly monitoring program. Bottom water temperatures averaged 79.2°F (26.2°C), slightly above the long-term seasonal average. Salinity ranged from 7.8 ppt at Hope Creek to 18.6 ppt at Bennies with an average of 15.8 ppt that is equal to the 27-year mean of 15.6 ppt. August salinities are represented by the black dot on each bed in the graph below.

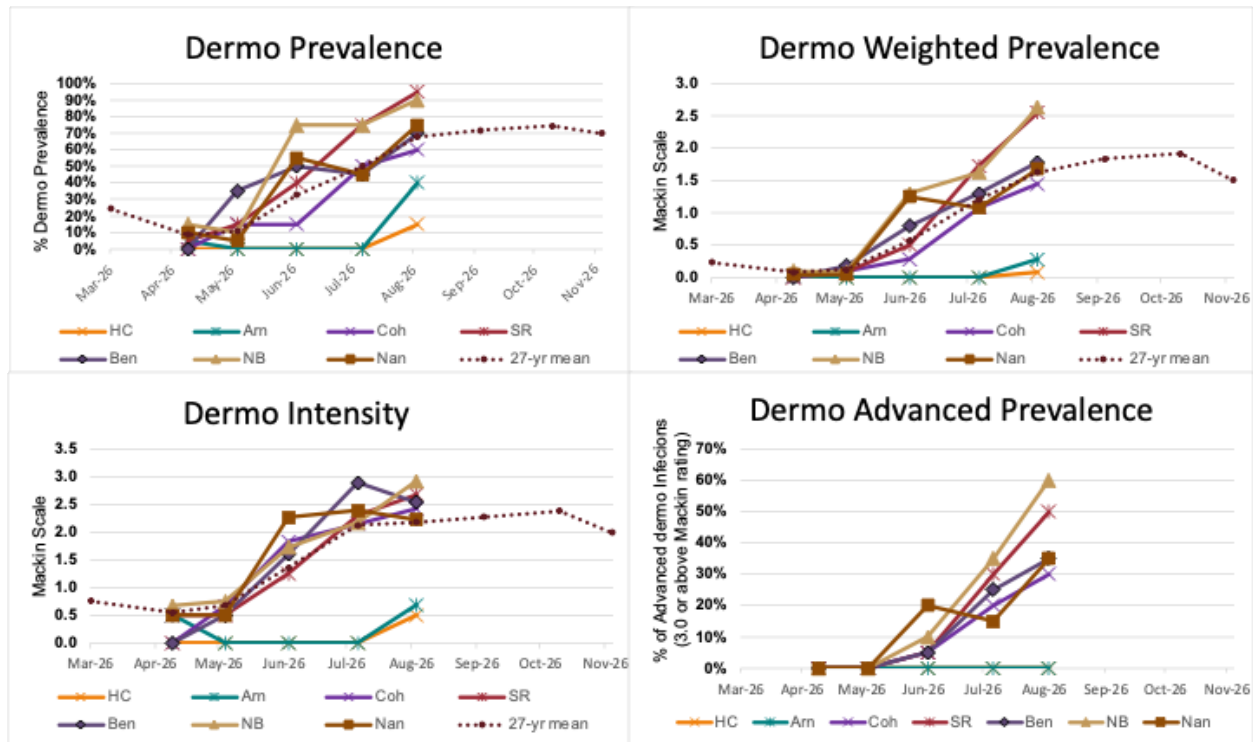


Delaware River discharge measured at Trenton, NJ (USGS monitoring station 01463500) has been lower than usual for the past year but August has seen some increased rainfall. (see USGS graph below).

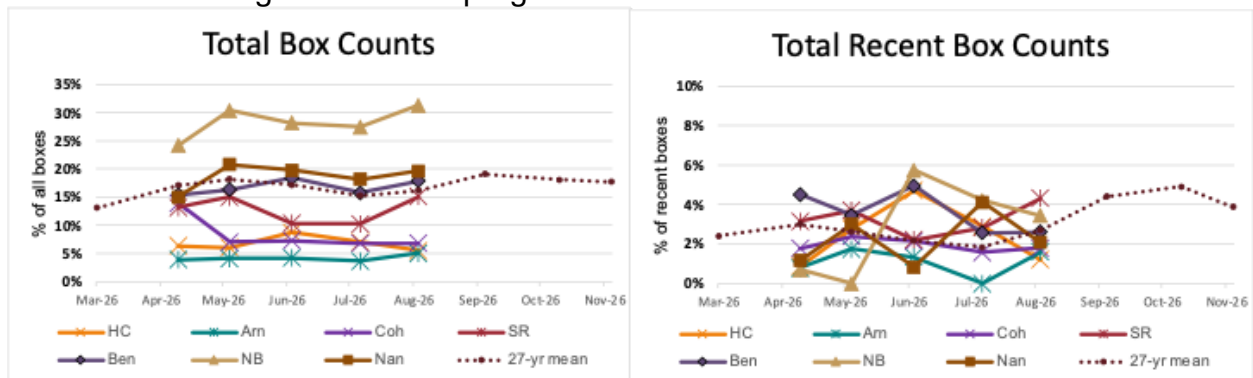


In the graph above, the blue line represents daily discharge for the past year relative to the long-term median values shown as a dotted yellow line. Data source:
https://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv/?ts_id=195092&format=img_stats&site_no=01463500&begin_date=20250801&end_date=20260830

Dermo prevalence, weighted prevalence and intensity all rose above the long-term mean in August and dermo infections were found on all beds including Hope Creek and Arnolds. Advanced infections (3.0 or above on the Mackin scale) were found from Cohansey to New Beds.



Total box counts remained steady and just below the long-term means for August. New box counts remained light for this sampling.



The intermediate transplant sites were sampled on August 24. Total box counts on the 2025 sites ranged from 15 -17% and from 8 –12% on the 2026 sites. Very light new box counts were noted across all sites. Dermo samples were taken but that data is not yet available. Shellplanting sites were also sampled on August 24th but that data is not yet available.