



New York Marine Debris Emergency Response Guide: Field Reference Guide

NOAA Marine Debris Program
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
April 2023

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This *Field Reference Guide* condenses information contained in the *New York Marine Debris Emergency Response Guide: Comprehensive Guidance Document (Guide)* to facilitate use during emergency response operations. While the *Comprehensive Guidance Document* serves as a complete reference for marine debris response in New York, the *Field Reference Guide* includes agency contacts and the most pertinent information for quick reference in the field and during times of crisis. Both documents and subsequent versions will be posted on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Marine Debris Program website at <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/our-work/emergency-response>

The purpose of this document is to improve preparedness for response and recovery operations following a disaster that generates marine debris in coastal New York, including the Great Lakes. The *Comprehensive Guidance Document* and complementary *Field Reference Guide* outline existing response structures at the local, state, and federal levels to facilitate a coordinated, well-managed, and immediate response to marine debris incidents impacting the state of New York. Individual organization roles and responsibilities are presented in a consolidated one-page [flowchart](#), which functions as a decision tree for waterway debris response. Organization jurisdictions are presented in a [map](#) in this document. A dynamic version of the jurisdiction map is also available [online](#). Additionally, environmental compliance requirements for marine debris removal have been synthesized in a one-page reference [handout](#).

1.2 Scope of *Guide*

The *Comprehensive Guidance Document* and *Field Reference Guide* address both natural and anthropogenic marine debris incidents affecting New York’s coastal areas. In 33 U.S.C. § 1956(3), marine debris is defined as any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or Great Lakes. Although vegetative debris is not included in the legal definition for marine debris, stakeholders have identified it as a common debris stream of concern following natural disasters. Therefore, in this document, the term marine debris is used more generally and

includes vegetative material and debris that could be exposed to or release oil, hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants that enters a waterway following an acute incident and poses a threat to the natural or built environment. This also includes shoreline and wetland debris and debris in some inland, non-tidal waterways. This Guide specifically addresses marine debris resulting from episodic incidents, such as disaster debris, and may not apply to chronic marine debris issues.

2 New York Marine Debris Response Flowchart

The “New York Marine Debris Response Flowchart” included in this section provides a visual one-page representation of organization roles and responsibilities. The flowchart functions as a decision tree for marine debris response with color-coded endpoints. Yellow endpoints represent response to marine debris that is exposed to or has the potential to release oil, hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. Blue endpoints represent response to debris that is not exposed to and does not have the potential to release oil, hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. Endpoints within the green shaded area indicate that response may occur under Stafford Act authorities and/or funding.

3 New York Marine Debris Response Map

The “New York Marine Debris Response Map,” available [online](#) in the Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA), displays relevant agency jurisdiction boundaries. [Figure 1](#) shows a screenshot of the online New York map with a legend on the right-hand side. After a marine debris incident, the agency (or agencies) responsible for removing debris will vary depending on where the debris is located. This map includes information that may be important in determining jurisdiction within the state.

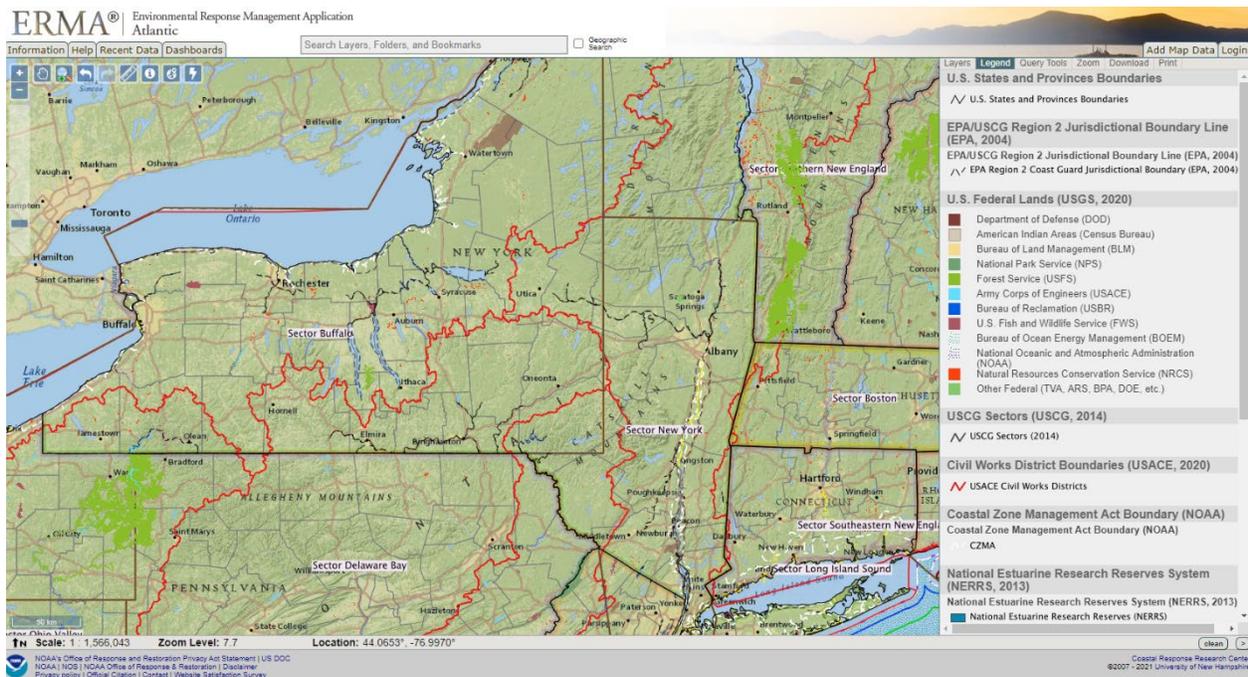


Figure 1. Screenshot of New York Marine Debris Response Map in the Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA). Note description of included layers in legend on right side bar.

4 Environmental Compliance Requirements in New York

The “Environmental Compliance for Marine Debris Removal in New York” handout on the following page synthesizes permitting and compliance requirements that must be met before waterway debris removal operations begin. The top portion of the one-pager outlines the process to follow to stay in compliance, while the bottom portion highlights specific state and federal agency requirements with general contact information.

Environmental Compliance for Marine Debris Removal in New York

- In New York, a New York State (NYS) Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) permit, a NYS Department of General Services (OGS) permit, and/or a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit may be required if debris removal involves excavating, dredging, the discharge of fill or dredge material, or involves structures or work impacting navigable waterways and wetlands or state-owned lands under water. Applicants must submit applications to all permitting agencies and the NYS Department of State (DOS) for federal consistency, separately.
- The **lead federal agency** is responsible for compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), DOS, and consulting with resource agencies including New York's State Historic Preservation Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries as required.

Federally Funded Removal

(for example, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding under Stafford Act declaration)

No Federal Funding

(for example, state, local, or privately funded removal)

Compliance Process when Permit is Required



Federal Agency Coordination
Coordinate with federal funding agency regarding environmental compliance requirements before applying for NYS DEC, NYS OGS, and/or USACE permit

Permit Application
Complete and submit separate permit applications to NYS DEC, NYS OGS, and USACE

Permit Issued
Review all permit conditions including resource agency requirements

Debris Removal Begins
All permit conditions and resource agency requirements must be followed during debris removal activities

- Lead federal agency is responsible for NEPA compliance, federal consistency with NYS DOS, and consultations with NY State Historic Preservation Office, USFWS, and NOAA Fisheries as required.
- FEMA is the lead federal agency under Stafford Act declaration.
- Debris removal under Stafford Act declaration may trigger emergency permitting processes.

If USACE permit is required, USACE is the lead federal agency and will ensure NEPA compliance, federal consistency with NYS DOS, and consults with New York's State Historic Preservation Office, USFWS, and NOAA Fisheries as required.

About NEPA
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to follow a specific planning process to ensure environmental consequences of a federally funded action are considered.

Agency Requirements and Legislation Details

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Buffalo District Regulatory Branch, District Office
716-879-4330
New York District Regulatory Branch, District Office
917-790-8511

- Permit(s) may be required for debris removal if the activity involves dredging, the discharge of dredged or fill material, or involves structures or work impacting the navigability of a waterway. One or more permits may be needed depending on the work to be conducted.
- Depending on where the removal project will take place, applicants may need to consult with either Buffalo or New York Districts
- Buffalo and New York Districts each have their own Regional General Permits that may be used for debris removal projects
- In the case of an emergency, permitting procedures may be expedited

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Division of Environmental Permits
518-402-9167

- Issues permits for projects that may negatively impact coastlines, tidal and non-tidal wetlands, and/or tidal and non-tidal waters
- A freshwater wetland, tidal wetland, and/or a coastal erosion management permit may be required for debris removal projects that involve excavating, dredging, the discharge of fill or dredge material, or involve structures or work impacting wetlands or coastal erosion hazard areas

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
NOAA Fisheries
ESA: 978-281-9306
EFH: 978-281-9102

- Consultation required if debris removal involves federal permits and/or funding (USACE permit, FEMA funding, etc.) to comply with:
 - Endangered Species Act (ESA) to ensure actions do not adversely affect listed threatened or endangered species or critical habitat for marine species
 - Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act to consider the effects of projects that might result in modification of natural streams or bodies of water on fish and wildlife development
 - Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act to ensure actions do not adversely affect essential fish habitat

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
State Historic Preservation Office
518-237-8643

- Assists state and federal agencies in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 14.09 of the New York State Historic Preservation Act
- Consultation required if debris response involves a state or federal agency directly or through funding and/or issuance of permits (NYS DEC, NYS OGS or USACE permits, FEMA funding, etc.) and has potential to affect historic properties or cultural resources

NYS Office of General Services (OGS)
Bureau of Land Management
518-474-2195

- Issues permits for activities that may disturb state-owned lands under water such as building or altering structures and utilities, including fill

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
New York Field Office
607-753-9334
Long Island Field Office
631-286-0485

- Consultation with New York or Long Island Field Office required if debris removal involves federal permits and/or funding (USACE permit, FEMA funding, etc.) to comply with:
 - ESA to ensure actions do not adversely affect listed threatened or endangered species or critical habitat for land and freshwater species and certain marine species such as manatee
 - Coastal Barrier Resources Act to ensure actions do not encourage development on coastal barriers along the Atlantic coast

5 Organization Contact Information

Local Agencies/Organizations

Agency	Division	Topic	Point of Contact	Phone
New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services	-	Green Book, City of New York Online Directory	Green Book Online	NYC 311 (212-639-9675)
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation	Parks	Debris in NYC parks	NYC Parks main page	NYC 311 (212-639-9675)
	Trees	Wood debris removal	Wood Debris Removal main page	
New York City Office of Emergency Management	-	-	General Contacts	NYC 311 (212-639-9675)
	Recovery	Report damages following an emergency	Report Damage in NYC Online Form	-
		Relief & recovery resources	Relief and Recovery Resources	-

State Agencies

Agency	Division	Topic	Point of Contact	Phone	Email
New York Department of State (DOS)	Office of Planning and Development	Coastal Management	State Coastal Management Program	-	-
New York State Bridge Authority	-	Bridge facilities	Contacts for each bridge facility	-	info@nysba.ny.gov
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)	Division of Environmental Permits	Permits for debris removal projects	General Contact	518-402-9167	-
	Emergency Management	Emergency response	General Contact	-	emergency.management@dec.ny.gov
			Corey Lehman	518-903-1149	corey.lehman@dec.ny.gov
	Division of Environmental Remediation	Oil spill reporting	NYS Spill Hotline	1-800-457-7362	-

State Agencies Continued

Agency	Division	Topic	Point of Contact	Phone	Email
New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT)	Emergency Transportation Operations and System Security Bureau	Debris removal operations	Rodney Delisle, P.E., Director	518-457-4039	rodney.delisle@dot.ny.gov
New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES)	Office of Emergency Management	Emergency Response	Matt Franklin	518-402-4480	matt.franklin@dhSES.ny.gov
	Office of Disaster Recovery Programs	Disaster Recovery	Rayana Gonzales	518-402-2157	rayana.gonzales@dhSES.ny.gov
New York State Office of General Services (OGS)	State Assets and Land Management	Lands now or formerly underwater	Lands now or formerly underwater	518-474-2195	landunderwater@ogs.ny.gov
		Permitting	Thomas LaLiberte Jr.	518-474-2195	thomas.lalibertejr@ogs.ny.gov
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	State Historic Preservation Office	Section 106 environmental review	Online tools for submitting projects	518-237-8643	-
New York State Police	Specialty Units	Marine Detail	Specialty Units main page	-	nyspmail@troopers.ny.gov
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey	Port Authority	Marine terminals	New York marine terminals	718-330-2950	-
		Tunnels and bridges	New York tunnels, bridges, and terminals	800-221-9903	-

Federal Agencies

Agency	Division	Topic	Point of Contact	Phone	Email
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	Marine Trash and Debris Program	Planning and Coordination	James Sinclair, Marine Ecologist	504-736-2789	james.sinclair@bsee.gov
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	-	External Affairs	General Contact	-	FEMA-R2-ExternalAffairs@fema.dhs.gov

Federal Agencies Continued

Agency	Division	Topic	Point of Contact	Phone	Email
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	National Marine Fisheries Service or NOAA Fisheries	EFH Consultation	General Contact	978-281-9102	-
			Karen Greene, Regional EFH Coordinator	978-559-9871	karen.greene@noaa.gov
			Jessie Murray, Marine Habitat Resource Specialist	845-600-0537	jessie.murray@noaa.gov
		ESA Consultation	General Contact	978-281-9306	nmfs.gar.esa.section7@noaa.gov
			Edith Carson-Supino	978-282-8490	edith.carson-supino@noaa.gov
			William Barnhill, Fishery Biologist	978-282-8460	william.barnhill@noaa.gov
	National Ocean Service, Office of Response and Restoration	Oil/Pollution Emergency Response	Frank Csulak, USCG District 5 Scientific Support Coordinator	732-872-1005	frank.csulak@noaa.gov
			Rachel Pryor, USCG District 9 Scientific Support Coordinator	202-557-6801	rachel.l.pryor@noaa.gov
			John Tarpley, Regional Operations Branch Chief	206-526-6338	john.tarpley@noaa.gov
		Marine Debris Response Capabilities and Coordination	Katie Morgan, Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator	240-215-7047	katie.morgan@noaa.gov
			Sarah Lowe, Great Lakes Regional Coordinator	419-779-5337	sarah.lowe@noaa.gov
National Ocean Service, Office of Coast Survey	Navigation and Preparation Response	Ryan Wartick, Navigation Response Team Regional Manager	571-305-0995	ryan.wartick@noaa.gov	
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program	EWP Information	EWP National Website	-	-
			Paula Bagley, EWP NY Program Manager	607-761-5969	paula.bagley@usda.gov
			Ronald Young, EWP NY Program Coordinator	315-430-7686	ronald.young@usda.gov

Federal Agencies Continued

Agency	Division	Topic	Point of Contact	Phone	Email
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Buffalo District	Public Affairs	General Contact	1-800-833-6390	public.affairs@lrb01.usace.army.mil
		Regulatory Program	Buffalo District Office New York Section	716-879-4330	lrbregInquiries@usace.army.mil
			Auburn Field Office	315-255-8090	lrb.newyork.regactions@usace.army.mil
	New York District	Operations	Jodi M. McDonald, Deputy Chief	917-273-8582	jodi.m.mcdonald@usace.army.mil
		Physical Support	Richard Thorsen, Chief	201-309-2350	richard.thorsen@usace.army.mil
		-	William Lyness, Marine Superintendent	201-309-2360	william.f.lyness@usace.army.mil
		Regulatory Program	Main Office	917-790-8511	-
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)	-	Oil or Hazardous Material Release	National Response Center (NRC)	800-424-8802	-
	Sector Buffalo		General Contact Sector Buffalo	716-843-9315	-
	Sector Long Island Sound		General Contact Sector Long Island Sound	203-468-4472	-
	Sector New York		General Contact Sector New York	718-354-4037	-
			Brendan Dolan, Port Recovery Specialist	718-354-2126	brendan.m.dolan@uscg.mil
			Thomas Walker, Port Security Specialist	978-618-3426	thomas.j.walker@uscg.mil
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Region 2	Planning and Coordination	Steve Touw, Regional Response Team Coordinator	908-420-4458	touw.steve@epa.gov
		Potential to release oil or hazardous substance	National Response Center (NRC)	800-424-8802	-
			EPA Region 2 Regional Emergency Operations Center	732-906-6850	-
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Ecological Services Program	Long Island Field Office	General Contact	631-286-0485	fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov
		New York Field Office	General Contact	607-753-9334	fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov



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