

# NYC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S Harbor Survey Program

## History

The New York City Harbor Survey Program has continuously monitored water quality since 1909. Scientists check the water for oxygen, temperature, bacteria and salinity levels to see if the harbor is healthy. These data can tell us many things about the water and aquatic life of the harbor.



DEP scientists collect and analyze more than 600 samples each year to determine the amount of dissolved oxygen (DO) in the water. DO levels indicate the ability of water to support life.

## New York Harbor Today

Data is collected from water monitoring sampling sites located throughout New York's waterways. This information helps public health officials and scientists determine if the water is safe for aquatic life and public use. New technology in wastewater treatment and on-going water conservation efforts have helped improve water quality. Waterfowl, fish, shellfish and other aquatic life are returning to the harbor. In addition, hands-on education and improved waterfront access help make the harbor an important resource for all New Yorkers.



DEP's *Osprey* is a floating water quality laboratory. Data indicates that the City's aquatic environment is flourishing. Populations of marine and bird species (including the Osprey, or fish-hawk) are increasing in and around the Harbor.



Students learn about aquatic organisms found in New York Harbor. Hands-on experiences help promote interest in and respect of the environment and the life found there.

