



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

News Release

For immediate release
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DEC AND MONROE COUNTY ANNOUNCE VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING TO FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS TO ROCHESTER EMBAYMENT 'AREA OF CONCERN'

Jan. 28 Meeting to Update Public on Restoration of Area's Natural Resources

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Monroe County Department of Public Health will co-host a [virtual public meeting](#) on Jan. 28, from 12 to 1 p.m. to provide an update to the public on ongoing efforts to restore natural resources and to propose removing the Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) from the Rochester Embayment Area of Concern (AOC).

DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said, “Thanks to Federal, State, and local collaboration and resources, the Rochester Embayment is a waterway on the road to recovery. Input from the public and our partners is a critical component of these efforts and DEC encourages the public’s continued participation in the restoration of this incredible resource.”

“Working with many partners, we have made significant progress addressing these serious environmental concerns. This long-term commitment to being better stewards of our natural resources is contributing to a better quality of life for us all,” **said Dr. Michael Mendoza, Commissioner of Public Health for Monroe County.**

In 1987, the Rochester Embayment was designated as an AOC by the U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, indicating it had experienced environmental degradation. The Rochester Embayment AOC is an area formed by the indentation of the Monroe County shoreline between Bogus Point in the town of Parma and Nine Mile Point in the town of Webster. The southern boundary includes approximately six miles of the Genesee River that is influenced by lake levels, from the river's mouth to the Lower Falls.

This BUI was originally designated as impaired due to the documented presence of contaminants within the Rochester Embayment AOC at levels known to be toxic to native fish and wildlife populations. Recent research has confirmed that contaminant levels have been reduced to a point where this BUI designation can be removed.

The Monroe County Department of Public Health has led an initiative for many years known as the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) process to address the root problems associated with all the identified BUIs.

The RAP identified 14 impairments for the AOC. Impairments included items such as degradation of fish and wildlife populations, restrictions on dredging, and aesthetics. Each impairment has associated criteria that must be met in order for it to be removed from the list. There are three additional BUIs remaining. They are: Bird/Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems, Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations, and Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat.

To participate in this meeting online, [click on this link](#) or go to <https://on.ny.gov/3srcS8>. To participate by phone, call 1-518-549-0500 and enter Access Code 178 363 6269 followed by the # sign.

Health and environmental officials are also seeking input on the Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations BUI removal effort via e-mail from individuals who may not be able to make it to a meeting but want to stay informed, receive updates, and obtain documents to review. To be placed on this list, send an e-mail to juliephilipp@monroecounty.gov with the subject "RAP" and a message containing your full name, e-mail address, and town of residence.

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