

Marine Water Monitoring

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Water Quality Sensors

What are they?

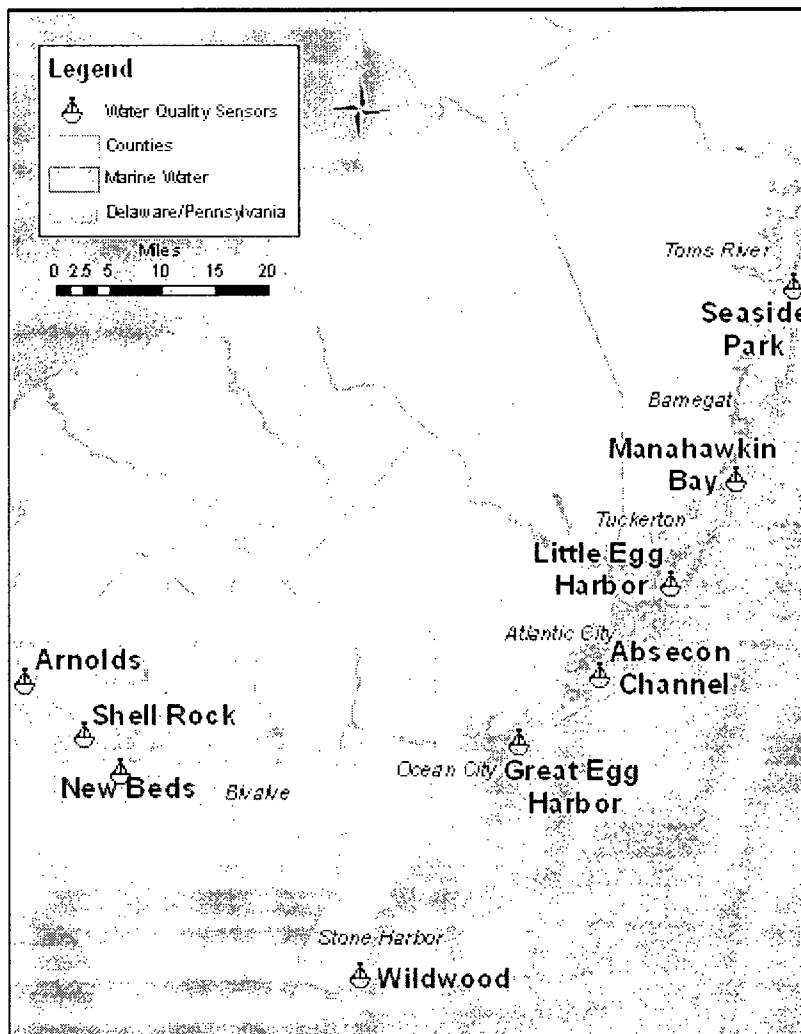
There are nine buoys in the coastal waters of New Jersey that contain water quality sensors. The three buoys in Cumberland County are updated bi-monthly; the remaining buoys are automatically updated (when operational). The automated buoys have a solar power source and telemetry for transmitting the data to a base station operated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

What do they measure?

Each buoy is equipped with sensors to measure water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity and chlorophyll a. Temperature and salinity are very basic measurements that determine what types of marine animals and plants could thrive in the location. Dissolved oxygen and pH provide information how favorable the waters could be for the plants and animals that are present. Turbidity tells us how far light can penetrate into the water for plants to use. Chlorophyll a is a measure of the amount of plant material suspended in the water. Typically this suspended plant material is microscopic plants called phytoplankton.

Where are they?

County	Location	Operational?
Ocean County	Seaside Park	Operational
Ocean County	Manahawkin Bay	Operational
Ocean County	Little Egg Harbor	Not Operational
Atlantic County	Absecon Channel	Operational
Cape May County	Great Egg Harbor	Operational
Cape May County	Wildwood	Not Operational
Cumberland County	New Beds	Not Operational
Cumberland County	Shell Rock	Not Operational
Cumberland County	Arnolds	Not Operational



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