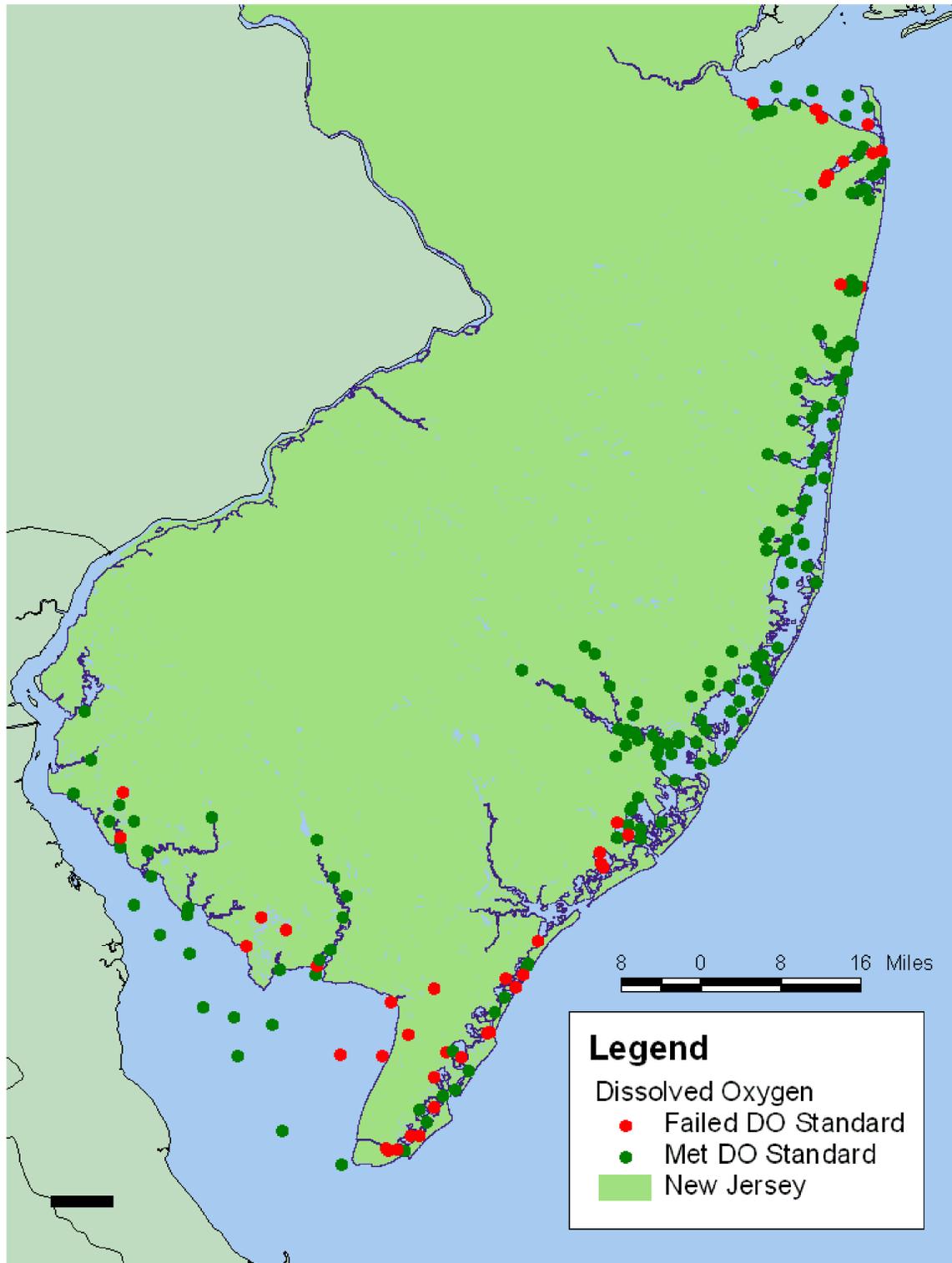




# NJDEP Water Monitoring & Standards

## Marine Water Monitoring

### Coastal Water Quality Monitoring for Ecological Health



There are 260 Ecological Health-Related Monitoring stations in New Jersey marine waters. These stations are sampled yearround on a quarterly basis and in addition to nutrients, are tested for the following parameters:

- Chlorophyll a
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Salinity
- Total Suspended Solids
- Nitrate
- Total Nitrogen
- Ammonia
- Orthophosphate
- Total Phosphorus
- Enterococcus

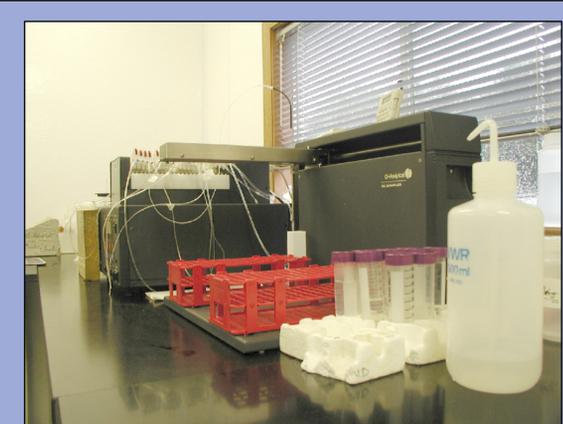
In order to measure the ecological health of New Jersey's coastal waters, the Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring collects samples from the coastal waters and analyzes them at its laboratory facilities at Leeds Point, NJ. The data from this monitoring project are used for NJ's Integrated Water Monitoring and Assessment Report. Additional information regarding the ecological health on New Jersey coastal waters may be found via EPA's National Coastal Assessment (NCA) website ([www.epa.gov/emap/nca/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/emap/nca/index.html)).

The chart to the left shows the results of monitoring dissolved oxygen conditions in New Jersey's estuarine waters from 1996 - 2006. The red dots show locations that have failed New Jersey's Surface Water Quality Standards for dissolved oxygen. The green dots met the standards during that same time frame. The question now is whether these low oxygen levels or any other conditions are impacting the health of the coastal ecosystem. In recent years, data on the health of the benthic community in New Jersey's estuarine waters has been collected to complement ongoing dissolved oxygen measurements and to provide a more complete picture of the health of the state's estuarine waters.

Assessment of dissolved oxygen in ocean waters revealed that all of the state's ocean waters (at the bottom only) do not meet the state's surface water criterion (not shown on adjacent map). DEP, EPA and Rutgers University are in the process of conducting studies to better understand ocean dissolved oxygen levels and the factors influencing them.



Boat Captain Retrieving Water Samples



Auto-Analyzer for Nutrient Analysis of Water Samples

**For further information please contact:**

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