

Cooperative Real-time Monitoring Network

In 2003, NJDEP began operation of four automated water quality monitoring buoys. The sensors measure conditions such as dissolved oxygen, salinity, temperature, pH and turbidity. They continually measure these parameters every 15 minutes and send this information to computers at the Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring. Those computers process the data, graph the results, and post the information on the Bureau's web page (<http://www.nj.gov/dep/wmm/bmw/sensorhome.htm>) - see example below. The buoys are operational from March through December. The buoy mounted sensors are removed during the winter to avoid possible ice damage.

Updates to the data occur once every two hours. Through a cooperative agreement with the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program and Rutgers University, two new real-time sensors became part of this network in 2005. The location of these two sensors, along with NJDEP's four sensors, is shown in the figure on the next page. Through a similar agreement with Monmouth University, two additional sensors are being planned for startup in 2006 in northern Barnegat Bay.



