On the Waterfront

Millions of people live, work and play along New York's rivers and harbor. Here, a snapshot of the marine traffic on one recent day—March 22—shows the amazing range of activity

KEY

- Container ship
- Ferry/cruise ship
- Fishing boat
- Oil tanker
- Pleasure craft
- Police patrol boat
- Tugboat/service vessel
- Container ship port
- Cruise ship port
- Fishing spot
- Kayak/canoe launch site
- River/harbor cruise dock

375,000/year immigrants passing through Ellis Island Immigration Station, 1892-1924

3 million/year visitors to Ellis Island Museum of Immigration

Some 200 shipwrecks in lower Hudson riverbed (first 150 miles, to Troy)

433 Coast Guard search-and-rescue missions in New York Harbor in an average year

Ruins of Dreamland, one of Coney Island's biggest amusement parks, which burned down in 1911

Thirty turbines installed in the East River in 19?? generate power for 9,500 New York City residents.

Massive man-made explosions in 1885 cleared reefs, making Hell Gate easier and safer to navigate.

Beaver and coyotes have returned to the banks of a restored Bronx River, the city's only freshwater river.

AVERAGE WATER TEMPERATURE IN 2016
74° F
UP 2° FROM 1998

Water depths

Waterfront parks

Original streams

1776 Coastline

1 MILE

CRUISES

The number of cruise ship passengers continues to rise, and NYC is now the third largest cruise market in the US.

CRUISE PASSENGERS

2006	370,000
2015	1,200,000

CARGO

Cargo capacities are also increasing at NYC area container ports. The NYC area ports are the busiest on the East Coast, and the third largest by tonnage in the US.

TONS OF GENERAL CARGO

2006	31,200,000
2015	36,800,000

CRUISE SHIPS

The Port Authority of NY/NJ operates three cruise terminals, two of which were built in the mid-2000s in order to handle increased cruise passenger visits.

CONTAINER SHIPS

Ships carrying 10,000 TEU are the largest to dock at NYC area ports. Raising a bridge in NJ by 60' will allow 14,000 TEU ships to dock by the end of the year.

Norwegian Escape 1,069' / 4,266 passengers
(WILL BEGIN DOCKING IN 2018)

LARGEST SHIPS TO DOCK IN NYC PORTS

Zim Tianjin 1,145' / 10,070 TEU

RECREATION

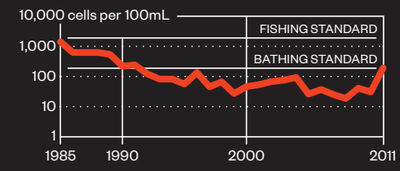
As the quality of the waterways have improved, water-based recreation of all forms —boating, fishing, conoeing, kayaking, jetskiing, surfing, and even swimming—has gained in popularity.

- **520** miles of coastline. More than Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, and Seattle combined
- **14** miles of public beaches
- **7** sailing schools
- **15** fishing charters
- **8** canoe/kayak clubs
- **6** jetski tour operators
- **5** new ferry routes to open in 2017 connecting Manhattan Brooklyn and Queens.

CLEANER WATERS

After nearing extinction in city waters, almost 20 million oysters have been reintroduced into NY Harbor in an effort to improve water quality.

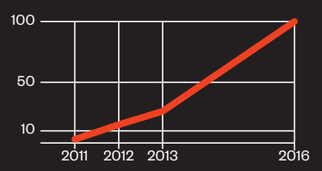
Bacterial Counts of Fecal Coliform in NY Harbor



MORE WHALES

In recent years, sightings of whales and dolphins have been on the rise, with many taking place in Lower NY Bay.

Humpback whale sightings in NY Harbor



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