

Shark River Inlet

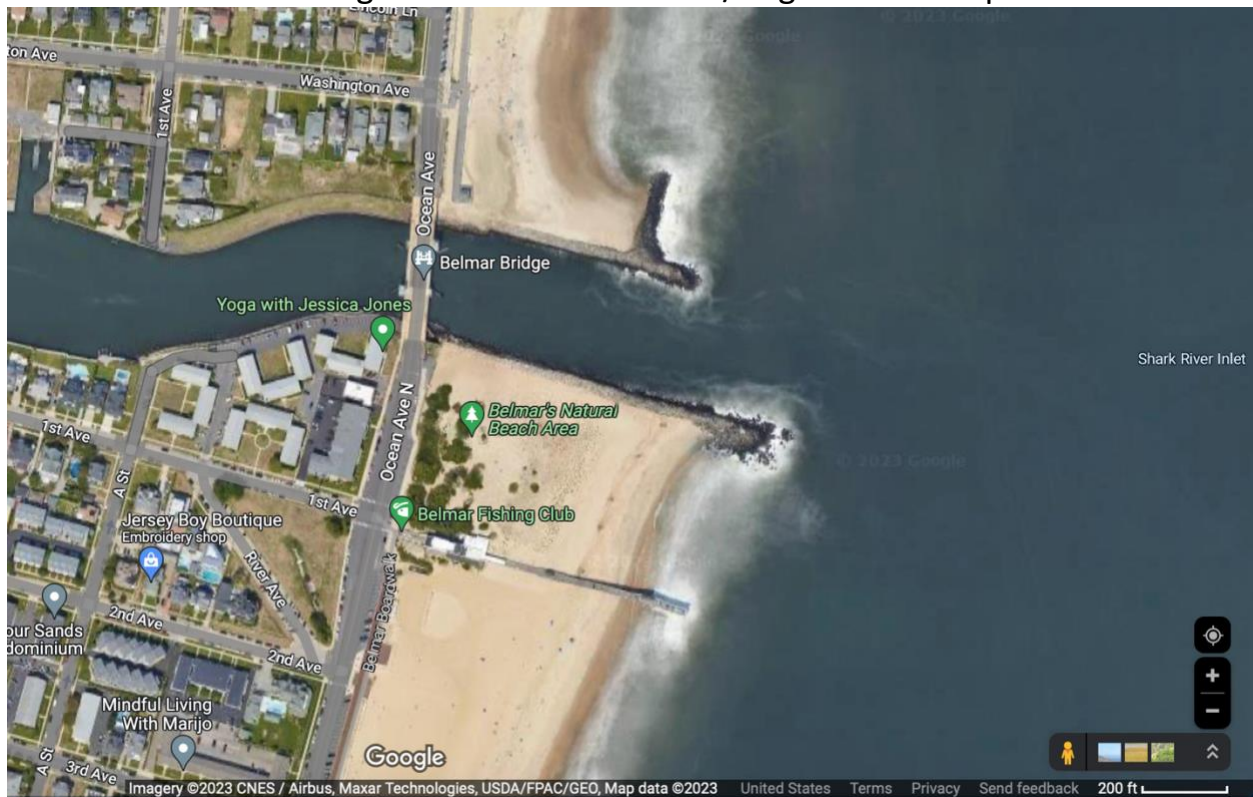
Sunday, April 16, 2023
12:00pm – 2:00pm

Weather: Foggy. Calm winds. Air temperature was a high of 59 degrees F.

Water temperature = 49.5 F

Moon Stage: Waning Crescent. Illumination: 15.5%

Tidal Stages: Low tide – 11:42am/ High tide – 5:38pm





Starting Location Belmar's Natural Beach Area:

Plants

Japanese Rose (*Rugosa Rose*) - Non-native.

Japanese Black Pine (*Pinus thunbergiana*) – Non-native.

Monterey cypress (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*) - Non-native, the plant is native to Central Coast of California.

Shells along the edge of beach

100+ juvenile Atlantic surf clams (*Spisula solidissima*)

100+ Blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*)

100+ Coquina clams (*Donacidae spp.*)

50+ Common Jingle Shells (*Anomia simplex*)

<10 False Angel Wing shells (*Petricolaria pholadiformis*)

<10 Slipper Shells (*Calyptraeidae spp.*)

<10 Moon Shells (*Naticidae spp.*)

<10 Blue claw crab shells (*Callinectes sapidus*)

<10 Lady Crabs (*Ovalipes ocellatus*)

- < 5 European Green Crabs (*Carcinus maenas*) – Non-native
- <5 Atlantic Rock Crab (*Cancer irroratus*)
- <5 Ribbed Mussels (*Geukensia demissa*)
- <5 Razor Clams (*Ensis leei*)
- <5 Bay Scallops (*Argopecten irradians*)
- <5 Eastern Oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*)

Coral

<10 bits of Northern Star Coral (*Astrangia poculata*) – The only species of coral that is native close to the coastline of the Jersey Shore. It is a species of non-reef building stony coral in the family *Rhizangiidae*.

Live Invertebrates

20+ Sand Crabs (*Emerita*) *** We observed a single fisherman and his son raking the edge of the ocean beach for sand crabs to be used as bait.

Less than 5 Aquatic Isopods (*Asellus spp.*)

Barnacles on rocks

*** No Common sea stars (*Asterias rubens*) were found. In years past, several could routinely be found at low tide and attached to jetty rocks.

Fish

Found the bones and skull of a tautog (*Tautoga onitis*). We also spoke to a scuba diver in the inlet who stated he saw several tautogs swimming in the inlet.



10+ Little Skate egg cases (*Leucoraja erinacea*)

Seaweed

Eel Grass (*Zostera spp.*)

Sea Lettuce (*Ulva*)

Bladder Wrack Weed (*Fucus vesiculosus*)

Birds

Feathers of a Northern Yellow Shaft Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)

Around 5 Common Loons (*Gavia immer*)

<5 Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auratus*)

10+ Herring gulls (*Larus argentatus*)

10+ Fish Crows (*Corvus ossifragus*)

10+ Rock Pigeons (*Columba livia*)

Around 10 Brant (*Branta bernicla*)

1 juvenile Great Black-back gull (*Larus marinus*)

***An area of beach (along the high dune area) at Belmar's Natural Beach Area was roped off for possible nesting of American Oystercatchers or other shorebirds.

Plankton Sample was taken: Diatoms, Barnacle larva and a few copepods

