



**US EPA Region 1  
Housatonic River Site Survey Summary  
April 16, 2019**

**Site Survey Participants:**

Ken LeClerc, CT DEEP	Alyssa Hall, Nuka Research
Karen Way, US EPA	Kevin Zak, Naugatuck River Revival Group
Wing Chau, US EPA	Mike Popovich, Nuka Research
John Duponte, MER	William Tingley, Housatonic River Commission
Lynn Fowler, Housatonic River Commission	Mark Andretto, Housatonic River Commission
Judy Herkimer, Housatonic Environmental Action League	

**SITE: Housatonic Meadows State Park (HR-01)- Commercial Boat Ramp**

<b>SURVEY TEAM</b>
LeClerc, Way, Duponte, Fowler, Herkimer, Hall, Zak, Popovich, Tingley, Andretto
<b>SPILL RISKS</b>
Incidents from upstream bridges, railroad, roadways or shoreside facilities north and south of the Connecticut/Massachusetts state line. The railroad is a significant risk due to the proximity to the river and frequency of rail shipments. Derailment is very common along this stretch of the river, and is often unreported to CT DEEP.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<p>The Housatonic River flows southward from the Massachusetts state line. This part of the river is utilized frequently for fly fishing and conservation/recreational groups and the rivers have been very well mapped because of the effort of these groups.</p> <p>There is a pair of bald eagles that have recently nested in this part of the river. This area is a state managed trout fishery—the fish stocks are contaminated with PCBs, so they are not safe for human consumption.</p> <p>There are significant number of boulders and shallow water in this section of the river, making vessel navigation difficult to nearly impossible. When snow melt is occurring or when heavy rain has occurred, this section of the river flows very quickly which could make oil spill clean-up difficult.</p> <p>The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential clean-up capacity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is ample room for staging equipment at this site, and good visibility to the river close to the parking area.</li> <li>- There are two boat ramps adjacent to the river. The public boat ramp is in disrepair and may not be adequate for boat launching and staging. The commercial boat ramp just downstream has an adequate boat ramp.</li> </ul>



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- While boom deployment and oil recovery may be difficult in this location, it would be the first location for clean-up on the Housatonic in CT and is one of the last locations on the river for up to 40 miles downstream.

The commercial boat ramp is the better ramp for deploying boom into the river, but the survey team has not yet determined who is responsible for maintenance of the boat ramp or permit distribution for use. This information will be obtained and included in the GRP tactics table.

The survey team noticed multiple culverts emptying into the river. Nuka Research will reach out to the state to determine if culvert locations have been mapped on the Housatonic River.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE**

Intercept, contain, and collect oil flowing downstream from sources in Connecticut and Massachusetts and bridges upstream on the Housatonic and protecting downstream reaches in the Housatonic River.

**RECOMMENDED TACTICS**

Diversion (DV) booming with shoreside recovery (SR) tactics at the commercial boat ramp. Culvert blocking (CB) tactic at the identified culverts entering the river on the eastern bank.



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**SITE: Addis Point (HR-02)- Housatonic River at Addis Park**

<b>SURVEY TEAM</b>
LeClerc, Way, Duponte, Hall, Zak, Popovich
<b>SPILL RISKS</b>
Incidents from upstream bridges, railroad, roadways or shoreside facilities along the Housatonic River. Discharge from industrial facilities across the river from Addis Park.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<p>This location is approximately 25 miles downriver from HR-01, but was the next identified location with boat access. While there is plenty of risk up river, this would be the next available location for interception and recovery. There are many types of recreation that occur on this part of the river including fishing, recreational boating, and rowing teams that practice here. This location has ample room for staging and recovery due to the adjacent public park next to the boat ramp.</p> <p>There is an outfall pipe from industries across from Addis Park that discharges into the Still River just downstream of this location. Still River feeds in to the Housatonic, which would be important to stop from occurring. According to CT DEEP, some spill response, including boom deployment, has taken place at this location in the past.</p> <p>The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential for response activity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The river in this area is between 10-12' deep, which would offer plenty of room for utilizing boats to deploy boom.</li> <li>- The Still River empties into the Housatonic River and should be incorporated into the mapping area of the GRP.</li> <li>- There is a culvert on the opposite side of the bank, which discharges from the industrial facility across from Addis park.</li> <li>- The river in this area is wide and flows slowly, making it ideal to collect oil at the park.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</b>
Intercept, contain, and collect oil flowing downstream and protecting downstream reaches in the Housatonic River. Stop contaminants from entering the Housatonic River from Still River.
<b>RECOMMENDED TACTICS</b>
DV/SR Addis Park boat ramp. EX from the Still River (and associated outfall) and CB tactics at culverts and small streams.



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**SITE: Indian Well State Park (HR-03) Housatonic River at Indian Well State Park**

<b>SURVEY TEAM</b>
LeClerc, Way, Duponte, Hall, Zak, Popovich, Chau
<b>SPILL RISKS</b>
Incidents from upstream bridges, railroad, roadways or shoreside facilities along the Housatonic River.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<p>This state park includes a public beach as well as a large boat ramp. This part of the river has had significant construction around it including homes that each have their own dock. The close proximity of private residences to the river could be a factor when planning for and conducting booming and oil recovery operations in this area. This area of the river is very deep (between 25-30' in some areas) and there are known submerged hazards in the river such as sunken vehicles and a derailed train. This area is one of the last large staging areas on the Housatonic before the confluence of the Housatonic and the Naugatuck.</p> <p>The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential for response activity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a small beach area at the park that abuts a parking area. This could be a good area to recover oil.</li> <li>- This part of the river is generally very slow-moving and would be a good location to collect oil, but underwater obstructions may pose hazards.</li> <li>- Multiple diversion tactics may be appropriate in this area.</li> <li>- There are multiple culverts that empty into the river in this area. Landside/roadway spills could empty into the rivers through these culverts.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</b>
Intercept, contain, and collect oil flowing downstream and protecting downstream reaches in the Housatonic River.
<b>RECOMMENDED TACTICS</b>
DV tactic(s) with SR along the beach area of the park. CB where culverts have been placed along the river.



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**SITE: Sunnyside/Two-mile Brook (HR-04) Boat ramp behind Sunnyside School**

<b>SURVEY TEAM</b>
LeClerc, Way, Duponte, Hall, Zak, Popovich, Chau
<b>SPILL RISKS</b>
Incidents from upstream bridges, railroad, roadways or shoreside facilities along the Housatonic River.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<p>This location on the river is behind the Sunnyside school and is next to River’s End Marina. This is a heavily used recreational area for boating and fishing. This site is the last adequate staging and deployment area before the Housatonic flows into Long Island Sound. There are no dams below this location. This location includes a parking area as well as a recreational park that abuts the river and will serve as an excellent stage area. A quarry is located just upstream of the boat ramp.</p> <p>The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential for response activity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The river is approximately 15’ deep in this area. This area is tidally influenced with a significant tidal range. This information will be captured in the GRP and both flood and ebb tide tactics will be considered.</li> <li>- The boat ramp is well paved and can facilitate launching small and even larger vessels.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</b>
Intercept, contain, and collect oil flowing downstream and protecting downstream reaches in the Housatonic River as well as Long Island Sound.
<b>RECOMMENDED TACTICS</b>
DV/SR at the boat ramp adjacent to River’s End Marina boat ramp.