

# JAMAICA BAY ECOWATCHERS

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Jamaicabayecowatchers.org

March 13, 2015

Robert Simson  
NYS DEC  
Division of Water  
625 Broadway, Albany, NY

Dear Mr. Simson;

I was unable to attend the public hearing and I thank you for this opportunity to give you our input on the DEC proposed Water Quality Standards.

The Jamaica Bay Ecowatcher's mission statement is as follows;

'The Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers are dedicated to the preservation, protection, enhancement, and restoration of the fragile ecosystem of Jamaica Bay. We have been and will continue to serve as the advocacy organization for the environmental concerns for Jamaica Bay ".

Our website is: [jamaicabayecowatchers.org](http://jamaicabayecowatchers.org)

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS must achieve the Clean Water Act's "fishable/swimmable" goal for ALL WATERS.

In ALL areas of Jamaica Bay, not only in its "open Waters" but also in the tidal creeks and tributaries, we witness people wading, swimming, fishing, kayaking and walking on the mudflats at low tide. In addition due to climate change the frequency of flooding occurs more often, thus exposing the general public to ALL the waters and putting them 'at risk".

ALL of the City's waters must be assigned a "designated use" of "primary contact" recreation. This is an opportunity to set the standards to fully protect public health and to provide for future generations a first class citizenship.

In summary the DEC must;

1. Change the "designated uses" of these waters to "primary contact".
2. Fully protect all "existing uses" that involve significant human contact with the water.
3. Ensure these changes will improve NYC's CSO plans and other ongoing water quality planning.
4. Protect water when people come in contact with it, not merely "average "water quality statistics.
5. Apply the most modern scientific standards for swimmable water quality.

We add our voices to those who attended the public hearing and others who are submitting comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely

,

Daniel Mundy,

President, Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers,

Co-Chair of Jamaica Bay Task force

Environmental chair of CB 14

Co-chair of stakeholders committee, SRI@JB

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