The Hudson Then and Now

Hudson River on the Rise
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315 miles
Adk wilderness to NYC

Photo S. Cuppett
Hudson River watershed is 1/3 of NYS
The Mohawk River
Major tributary that joins the Hudson above Troy & Albany
Hudson becomes tidal at Troy (upstream of Albany) River mile 152
Ends at the tip of Manhattan, flows into the harbor then the ocean
Hudson Estuary is:

Long - 152 miles

Narrow

3.5 miles at widest

Tidal – 6ft at Troy

Fresh water & salt
A breeding ground for migratory ocean fish
Unusual visitors: grey seal at Hyde Park 2011
Unusual visitors: humpback whale NYC 2016
The River is used for recreation
and provides inspiration
The Valley and watershed offer extraordinary biodiversity
Valley forests protect drinking water for millions of people
Navigation route important throughout history
1609: civilizations clash

Hudson becomes key to world trade
Revolutionary War battleground
1825 The Hudson & Mohawk: water route to the Great Lakes region

_Erie Canal_
First industrial era 1817-1880:

* Iron and clay
* Wood for charcoal
* Limestone for flux
* Water for power
* Waterways for transport
Hudson River painters (1825-1875)
Environmental battleground
1962-1980
1987 Estuary Law
Adopts “ecosystem approach”
Calls for a plan
Hudson River Estuary Program
Today

- Clean water
- Resilient Communities
- Ecosystems
- Fish & Wildlife
- Scenery
- Access, education, & inspiration

Photo: L. Heady
Some emerging issues:
1. Climate change, sea level rise, and storm surge

Photo: C. Bowser
Some emerging issues:

2. Navigation, oil transport, and energy-related uses of the river
Some emerging issues:
3. Conservation and restoration of wetlands, forests, habitats
So we can benefit people & ecosystems
Today’s presenters will discuss these topics in greater depth.