

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

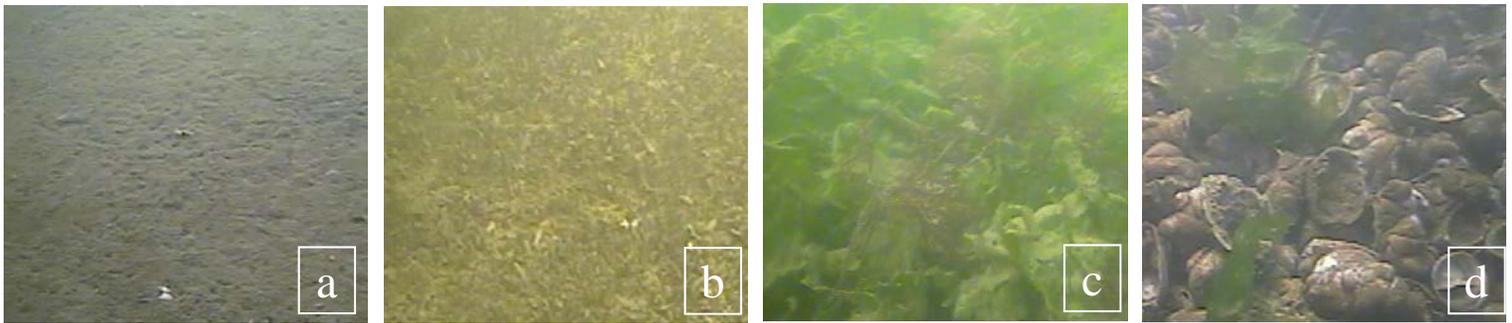
Benthic Video Monitoring

Last revised: 12/1/14

During the summer, the NBC collects video footage of the benthos of the upper Narragansett Bay to track potential changes in the benthic habitat as nitrogen loading from WWTFs is reduced. An underwater camera is attached to a specialized sled, which collects video as the NBC's boat, the R/V *Monitor*, transects areas of the Bay. The NBC targets the Edgewood Shoals area, as well as the Bullock's Reach and Shawomet areas of the upper Bay for these surveys. A goal of these surveys is to learn more about the benthic conditions of the upper Bay. Continued evaluations hope to document ecological improvements due to reductions in nitrogen loading.

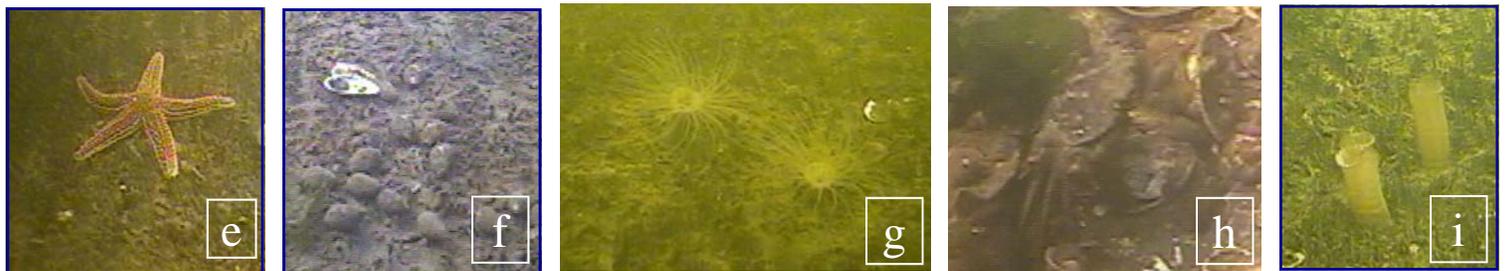
Benthic Habitat:

The predominant benthic habitats in the survey area are (a) mudflats, often covered with (b) amphipod tube mats, (c) *Ulva* sp and red algae, or (d) shell rubble.



Benthic Organisms:

Many of the typical estuarine organisms known to occur in the area have been observed on NBC video monitoring surveys including (e) seastars (*Asterias* sp), (f) mud snails (*Ilyanassa* sp), (g) mud tube anemones (*Cerianthus* sp), (h) the invasive European green crab (*Carcinus maenas*), and (i) soft-shelled clams (*Mya arenaria*). More cryptic species, including (j) mantis



shrimp (*Squilla* sp), are also occasionally observed. Benthic video surveys have captured interesting behaviors, including a possible (k) molting or mating aggregation of spider crabs (*Libinia* sp). Several species of (l & m) fishes have also been observed, although they are often too fast-moving to be viewed clearly.



For further information, please contact the NBC at:
(401) 461-8848 ext. 261 or emda@narrabay.com

Visit the NBC's websites – www.narrabay.com & <http://snapshot.narrabay.com/app/>

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