

Surge Barrier Environmental Effects and Empirical Experience

Date – Friday September 13, 2019, 9:30am-5:30pm

Location – Hudson River Foundation, 17 Battery Place #915, New York, NY

Wifi: HRF Guest Network, password HRFGuest

Draft Agenda

Workshop Goals

- Identify the present scientific understanding regarding surge barrier environmental effects, highlighting both areas of consensus and divergent views, and identify key additional data, research and models
- Build collaboration among people involved in the topic around the world, including the share of empirical data and experience from past surge barrier projects, as well as approaches for evaluating environmental effects in present studies
- Improve the scientific foundation for Decisionmaker End Users within the HAT Study
- **Output:** Summarize the workshop findings in a report, informing the HAT Study and final project workshop

9:30 AM [Introduction/Welcome](#) – Philip Orton/Bennett Brooks (20 min)

9:50 AM [The Harbor and Tributaries Focus Area Feasibility Study \(HATS\) Overview](#) – Bryce Wisemiller + Q&A

10:25 AM [Summary presentation on NERR-funded project, “Assessing the Effects of Storm Surge Barriers on the Hudson River Estuary”, and initial research results](#) – Orton + Q&A

10:40 AM **Past experiences – two case studies + Q&A**

- Bram van Prooijen - [Dutch barriers](#) - Scheldt Barrier
- Charles Schelpe - [English experiences](#) (beyond the Thames)

11:40 AM **Discussions of key takeaways from presentations (Brooks)**

- Opportunity for participants to reflect on and share key takeaways from presentations
- In what ways are these experiences relevant to the Hudson? Were there surprises for you?

12:10 PM **Catered Lunch**

12:40 PM [HATS physical and management aspects of surge barriers relating to wetlands or migrating organisms](#) – Maarten Kluyver + Q&A

1:05 PM [HATS evaluation of environmental effects of gated surge barriers](#) – Peter Weppeler and S. Kyle McKay + Q&A

1:30 PM [Potential surge barrier effects on migrating organisms](#) – David Secor + Q&A

2:00 PM Potential surge barrier effects on tidal wetlands – [David Ralston](#), [Neil Ganju](#) + Q&A

2:30 PM Coffee break, break-out setup

2:45 PM Breakout sessions – one on migrating organisms (led by Kristin Marcell), another on tidal wetlands (led by Sarah Fernald)

Objectives:

- Consider broad perspectives from any attendees
- Prioritize key components (or drivers) under each topic and potential effects of gates on priority components
- Identify what information is available or and what can be sought on these effects and their thresholds

4:45 PM Breakout Session Report Outs (includes time for Qs and observations)

5:15 PM Wrap up, next steps

5:30 PM Adjourn

POST-WORKSHOP HAPPY HOUR – Pier A Harbor House