

## CHAPTER 9

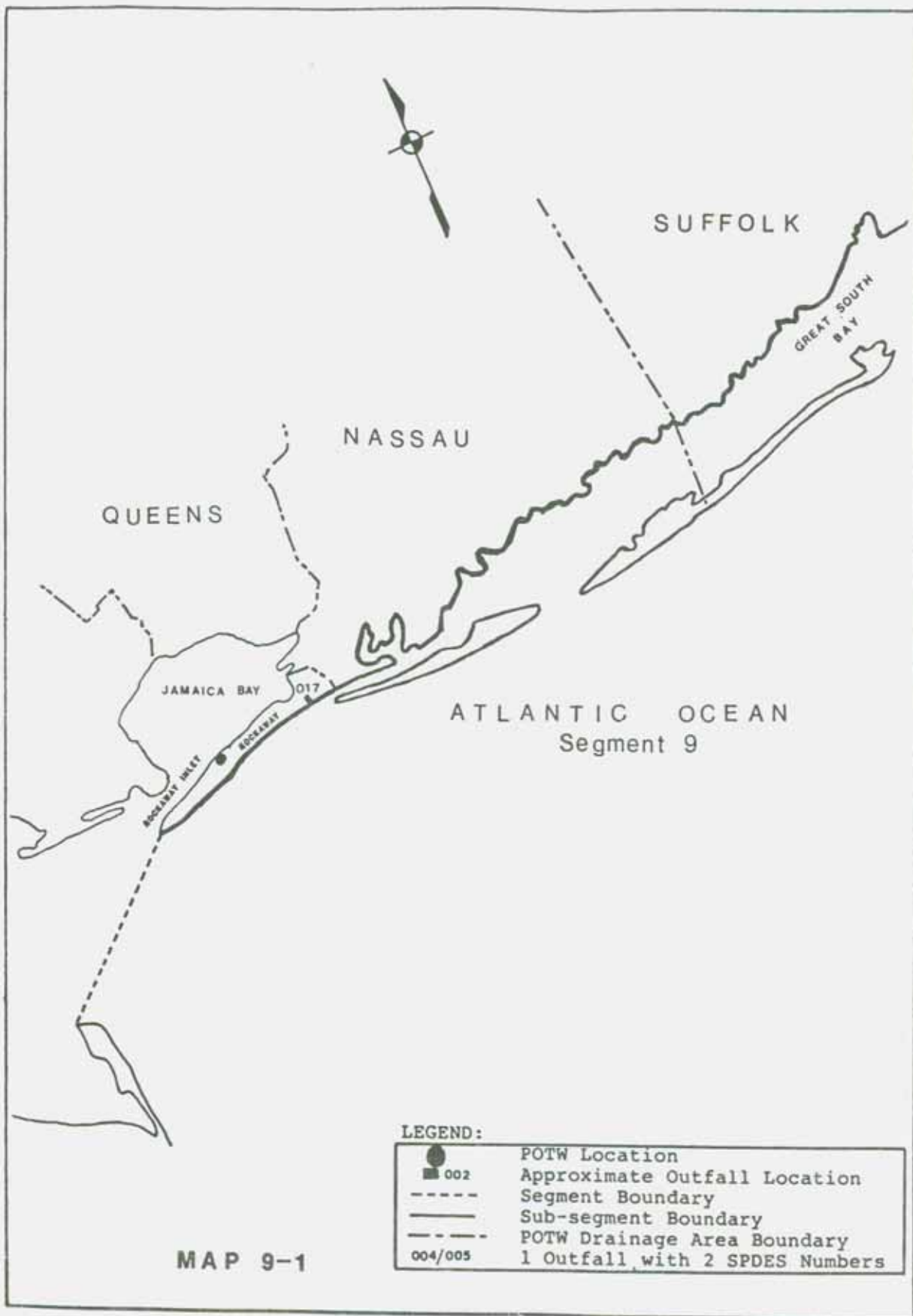
### ATLANTIC OCEAN

One of the most important natural resources in the Tri-State metropolitan area is the Atlantic Ocean. This is true in part because of its recreational and commercial value to residents of and visitors to the area. It provides excellent water-based recreational opportunities and holds abundant food and game fish. In addition, it is important as a global resource, valuable as a component of the Earth's ecology.

For the purpose of this Report, only that area of the Atlantic Ocean and its associated bays that is within the Commission's District will be addressed. This section is shown on Map 9-1. It extends shoreward from the Sandy Hook, New Jersey transect to Breezy Point in Rockaway, Queens and eastward along the Long Island shoreline to the easterly side of Fire Island Inlet. Miles of sandy beaches stretch along the shores of this area hosting bathers, surfers, and sunworshippers. Shoreside parks provide excellent picnicking, fishing, and camping locations and bayside marinas are home to numerous fishing and pleasure craft of all kinds. Among the principal recreation facilities within this section are Gateway National Recreation Area, Jones Beach, Captree State Park, and the 7 1/2 miles of New York City-operated beaches in the Rockaways.<sup>1</sup>

#### Rockaway

With one possible exception, there are no known CSO outfalls into the area of the Atlantic Ocean or its bays and channels discussed in this section. The only CSO that may possibly exist in this segment is outfall 017 of the Rockaway POTW. The SPDES permit for the Rockaway POTW (permit NY0026221) identifies the location for outfall 017, which is the outfall for the Seagrit Avenue pump station, as Beach 9th Street and Banister Creek. The "Supplemental Memo" also places this outfall at Beach 9th Street and Banister



MAP 9-1

LEGEND:

●	POTW Location
■ 002	Approximate Outfall Location
-----	Segment Boundary
—————	Sub-segment Boundary
- · - · - ·	POTW Drainage Area Boundary
004/005	1 Outfall with 2 SPDES Numbers



Creek and describes the outfall as being 24" in diameter.<sup>2</sup> In a review of City street maps of Far Rockaway, it appears that Beach 9th Street does not intersect Banister Creek at all, while it does intersect Reynolds Channel, which flows into the Atlantic Ocean. Because of this confusion, outfall 017 is listed on Table 9-1, but only an approximate location has been plotted on Map 9-1 into Reynolds Channel.

## CONCLUSION

The Atlantic Ocean is the major receiver of flows from the Hudson-Raritan Estuary and the Jamaica Bay complex, whether discharges are direct or indirect. To some degree, all of the CSO outfalls mentioned in this Report have an impact on the Ocean. Both tidal and surface currents can transport pollutants inputs from the northerly areas of the District through the Sandy Hook - Breezy Point transect and into the Ocean. The effects of CSO discharges are not instantaneous and depending upon seasonal variances, the state of tide and current, and storm intensity all have various effects upon the Ocean's water quality. In periods of wet weather, the discharges from CSOs can be carried significant distances toward the Ocean. In general, these inputs, with their component of both organic and toxic pollutants, can place a strain on the ecological balance of those waters. In addition, specific concern about these pollutant loadings relate to the direct harvesting of shellfish occurring in the Rockaways and their impact on the fragile estuarine ecology in other parts of the metropolitan region.

It is important to the District as a whole that water quality that has been given an "A" classification be maintained or improved. This is the case with the waters of the Atlantic Ocean -- they should be maintained at a level of quality that will keep them "swimmable and fishable." Although the Commission has conducted sampling in the Atlantic Ocean off of the Rockaways, insufficient sampling has been completed to draw definitive conclusions about improvement in water quality. Preliminary results are encouraging, however.<sup>3</sup>

Because these initial results seem promising, every effort should be made to eliminate CSO discharges into those waters that do affect its quality, so that any improvement can be sustained.

FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> U. S. Department of the Interior. National Park Service. General Management Plan, Gateway National Recreation Area - New York/New Jersey. August 1979. p. 69.
- <sup>2</sup> New York City Department of Environmental Protection. "New York City Regulator Improvement Program, Supplemental Memo, State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Permit Discrepancies." Prepared by Hazen and Sawyer. April 1985. Table 11.
- <sup>3</sup> Interstate Sanitation Commission. "Status of the Interstate Sanitation District Waters." An update for the State of New York's 305(b) Report. April 1988.