



“ BRING BACK THE LIFE! ”

Institutional Strengthening for Enhanced Management of Kingston Harbour



National Environment & Planning Agency

Managing & Protecting Jamaica's Land, Wood & Water

10 & 11 Caledonia Avenue,
Kingston 5, Jamaica W.I.
Tel: 754-7540 - 3
Fax: 754-7595 - 6
Web: www.nepa.gov.jm



The degraded water quality and equally degraded physical conditions on the shore have greatly retarded the development of the Harbour as a tourist destination. The social and economic impacts due to severe pollution of the Harbour have caused loss of many employment and business opportunities.

What is Being Done?

1. The National Environment and Planning Agency is developing regulations for sewage and industrial effluents and sludge.
2. A sewage treatment plant is to be built at Soapberry in Hunts Bay.
3. The Government of Jamaica with the assistance of the Inter-American Development Bank, is implementing the Kingston Harbour Rehabilitation Project which will deliver:
 - **a management and zoning plan for the Harbour.**
 - **a computer model for water quality monitoring.**
 - **a management structure** to ensure orderly and planned development and use of the Harbour.



“Red tide” surrounding a ship in Kingston Harbour

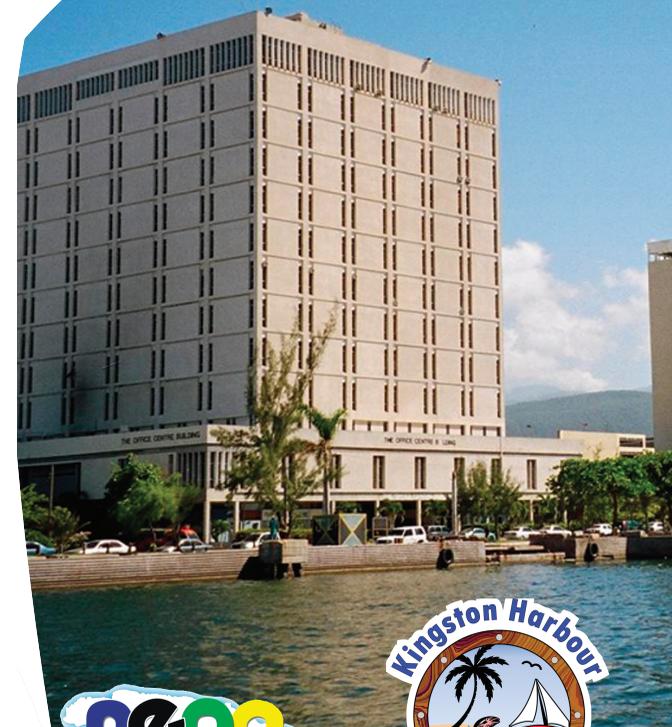
- **initiatives for assisting industries to improve the quality of effluents** from their operations.
- **a blueprint for a ship waste reception facility.**
- **increased public awareness** about the harbour and our stake in cleaning it up and bringing it back to life.

What Can YOU Do?

- Educate yourself about Kingston Harbour and how it is being damaged.
- Dispose of your garbage properly, and **definitely not in gullies or the Harbour**
- Minimise your use of harmful household, agricultural and industrial chemicals and non-biodegradable packaging material.
- Encourage your family and friends to do the same.

KINGSTON HARBOUR

Bring back the life!



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Importance of Kingston Harbour

Kingston Harbour and its shores are important to Jamaica because of the economic value of the activities which it supports. The main activities are fishing, shipping, aviation, industry and commerce. The value of these activities is estimated at over US\$510 million annually. Tourism and recreation could increase the value if environmental conditions in and around the Harbour were better managed. In addition, the Harbour is a laboratory for study of marine sciences and the effects of human activities on such bodies of water. It supports a variety of marine life, which has been greatly diminished by pollution, dredging and other human activities.



Kingston Harbour Today

Today, Kingston Harbour is severely polluted by sewage, solid waste, and industrial effluent.

An estimated 20 million gallons of untreated or poorly treated **sewage** is discharged into the harbour each day.

Tons of **solid waste** deposited in the fifteen gullies which traverse Kingston ends up in the Harbour, as does runoff from the Riverton landfill.

Industrial waste coming down the gullies and from factories located around the rim of the Harbour contribute to its poor health.

Water rich with **agricultural chemicals** draining from farms as much as 30 miles away enters the harbour by streams and rivers which feed into it.

Waste, including **ballast water** is dumped into the harbour by the thousands of ships that call at the port of Kingston each year.

- **Sediment** enters the harbour from the rivers, gullies and drains.
- **Inadequate planning and lack of adherence to planning regulations and laws** for physical development have caused environmental damage.



Results of Pollution

The results of the high levels of pollutants entering Kingston Harbour have been a severe reduction in marine life, and a dangerous increase in the introduction of alien invasive species which have crowded out some indigenous marine species. This has impacted the livelihood of thousand of Kingston Harbour fisher folk.

The Harbour is no longer an attractive place for recreational activities and facilities such as swimming and water sports, picnicking, waterfront restaurants and parks. Cross-the-Harbour races are a distant memory to those old enough to remember them.



Kingston Harbour is one of the largest natural harbours in the world. It owes its existence to the Palisadoes tombolo which forms a protective barrier to the south.

The harbour is bordered on the north and east by Kingston, Jamaica's capital, and on the west by Green Bay, Port Henderson and the municipality of Portmore in St. Catherine.

Kingston Harbour has played an important role in the history of all the groups that have lived on its shores. Its aquamarine waters provided fishing for the Tainos and a port for the Spanish and the English, whose pirates used Port Royal as a base for their raids on the Spanish Main.

Many surviving historical monuments and sites such as Fort Charles at Port Royal and Rodney's Lookout at Green Bay bear testimony to the Harbour's historic past. Cross-the-Harbour races were a feature of Kingston life in the middle of the 20th Century.

It was also a major port of call for cruise ships. In the middle years of the twentieth century, Kingston Harbour was a place of many recreational activities such as swimming, water skiing and yachting. Since the beginning of this millenium, on New Year's Eve, it is the launch pad for beautiful displays of fireworks when the entire area teems with activity.