



ADIRONDACK REGION

The Hudson River is the most important water resource in New York State. As it travels from Lake Tear of the Clouds in the Adirondack Mountains into the Atlantic Ocean in New York City, it is a freshwater trout stream, industrial water source, canal, and an estuary. Through this diversity, the Hudson River and the surrounding valley have had an enormous physical, economic and cultural impact on its inhabitants and the nation.

Over six thousand years before Henry Hudson's discovery in 1609, Algonquin Indians were fishing and traveling on the River. It was not until the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825, however, that the Hudson River Valley grew rapidly. Albany and its other cities became commercial centers for trade in iron, coal burning, textiles, cement production, fishing and agriculture. As a result, population further expanded and the Hudson River became host to new industries including power generation and electronic and paper manufacturing plants.

Commercial fishing has also been a major industry for much of the history of the Hudson River. American shad, striped bass and Atlantic sturgeon have been mainstays for both commercial and recreational fishermen. In fact, the sturgeon was once so plentiful, it was known as "Albany beer".

Over the years industry has increased and the River has suffered. Perhaps the greatest industrial use of the Hudson River is by the power generation industry. Seven large plants operating in the estuary use millions of gallons of water a day before it is returned, still heated, creating thermal pollution. In addition, although enormous gains have been made in sewage treatment and water quality, this progress has been slowed by the difficulty of reversing existing chemical pollution.

Over the past twenty-five years, environmental concern has been evolving in the Hudson River Valley. However, the challenge of balancing its use and its protection remains great. Today, two-thirds of the people of New York use the resources of the Hudson River for water supply, power generation, industry, transportation, recreation and scenic beauty. In the year 2000, the Hudson River will serve over 14 million people.

We can be proud of the progress we have made in cleaning up our river. Many species of fish that once deserted the Albany area are returning, as shad, short nosed sturgeon and herring now spawn in the Albany pool. The change in water quality in the River is also evidenced by the changes in land uses along its banks. Parks have developed such as Island Creek and Corning Preserve, making the River more accessible to the public. This increase in recreational use of the River is a clear response to the gradual cleanups, and our growing sensitivity regarding environmental values.



CAPITAL DISTRICT REGION



NEW YORK HARBOR



Created and donated by the Albany Water Club  
Adapted by Hudson River Group's Designers, etc.