

# Manhattan Community Board 9 Marine Transfer Station in West Harlem



Recommendations for water-related and environmental opportunities to advance the the community's self-sustainment and sufficiency efforts

Photos courtesy of Michael Palma



When the trash station was fully operational, it was the only such facility in Manhattan operating 24-hours a day and drew 93 garbage trucks, one truck every 15.5 minutes, up and down Harlem's narrow brownstone streets," says Yolande Cadore, WE ACT



Abandoned since 2001, the Department of Sanitation sought to retrofit the station at 135th Street to handle roughly 4,000 tons of waste per day. The community wants something different – something much better.



Our urban planning associate Michael Kent, helped organized our 1<sup>st</sup> site visit to the abandoned station, so the community board could ascertain appropriate recommendations. The CB wishes to explore various aquatic and environmental possibilities for both recreation as well as economic uses.



One recommendation includes aquafarming. The contribution of aquaculture to global fisheries increased from 5.3% in 1970 to 32.2% in 2000. By 2030, at least half of the globally consumed fish will likely come from aquaculture farming. Total global registered aquaculture production in 2000 was 45.7 million tons, of which 91.3% was farmed in Asia. Freshwater aquaculture production has increased at a particularly high rate; currently, it accounts for 45.1% of the total aquaculture production.



As the world's population continues to grow, efforts to increase annual fish production are essential to maintain food with a high protein value. To meet the projected demand, global production of aquatic products needs to double over the next 25 years.



Because wild stocks are being increasingly overfished, 50% of marine fisheries are being used at maximum capacity, the aquaculture sector must expand to meet future needs. Aquaculture production is expected to grow at an annual rate of 5% to 7% at least until 2015. Aquaculture development will provide employment and spur economic growth, both important factors for reducing poverty.



Another recommendation for the marine transfer station is hydroponics and mulching. A method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions instead of soil. **Hydrosprigging, a hybrid method** is the process of taking grass sprigs (pieces of grass with roots), mulch, fertilizer, tactifier and water. This mix is placed in a machine and spray under pressure to form a uniform application.





## **A Sailing Program in West Harlem –**

The lower level of the transfer station was designed to stay open for boats to come in at any time. We are proposing a family Sailing Program in partnership with City Parks.

As an example of a successful program, we look to the NY Harbor School.



NY Harbor School, a small public high school that was founded in 2003 as part of the New Century High School Initiative (NCHSI) by The Urban Assembly, South Street Seaport Museum and Waterkeeper Alliance.



The NYHS seeks to prepare New York's most under-served students with a college-preparatory education by providing its students a challenging and compelling high school experience that engages them through study of the maritime culture, history, and environment of New York City and its surrounding waters.



The residents of West Harlem want and deserve good quality of life. And we understand what it will take and how it can be accomplished. We wish to thank Michael Palma for his photographs and Eileen Merritt for developing this presentation.