



In early July, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (RPB), a collection of representatives from 6 States (NY, NJ, MD, DE, PA, VA), 8 Federal Agencies, 2 Federally Recognized Tribes, and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, released a draft Mid-Atlantic "Ocean Action Plan". The draft Plan is the culmination of a process initiated in 2010 by President Obama's Executive Order and seeks to balance ocean ecosystem health with the demands for increased development and ocean use.



These efforts represent an important and long overdue dialog between federal and state agencies, setting forth a *framework* for improved coordination between these government entities to better manage activities that will impact coastal resources. The draft Plan also commits to improved data gathering, research and identification of areas for further study, and has invested in and supported the development of visual ocean use and marine life habitat mapping that may help ocean users and agencies make better decisions. While the draft Plan is a much needed first step in understanding where human use activities are occurring in the context of the greater

marine ecosystem, it is also important to understand what the draft Plan is not, and where potential pitfalls may occur. The draft Plan is silent on the development of fossil fuels in our region. The draft Plan does not prohibit any harmful industrial activity including LNG ports, permanent extraction of sand and mineral resources, largescale finfish aquaculture pens, or ocean dumpsites. In fact the only form of energy development the draft Plan addresses is wind energy, even as nearly a half million acres of ocean off of NY and NJ has already been or is soon to be leased. The draft Plan relies solely on existing legal authority, and is silent as to how agencies will use the draft Plan in their decision-making process. Many federal and state agencies appear reluctant to formally incorporate the draft Plan and its data products into agency guidance and regulations. Furthermore, the draft Plan seeks to provide an as yet specified level of environmental protection only for areas of the ocean deemed "Ecologically Rich Areas"; a concept that while nice in theory, could potentially create "winners and losers" in an interconnected and fluid ocean environment.

COA has been concerned from the start with the rigid and "top down" public input model which has limited meaningful public involvement. For this reason, it is especially important that all members of the public review the draft Plan, and submit comments advocating for stronger, more specific language addressing the concerns laid out above. The draft Plan must include specific commitments from agencies to protect the mid-Atlantic from oil and gas development, harmful industrialization, and safeguard our communities and marine life from climate change impacts.

The 60-day public comment period runs through September 6, 2016. Public comments may be submitted by sending an email to: MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov or by writing to:

Robert P. LaBelle, Mid-A RPB Federal Co-Lead
BOEM
45600 Woodland Road
Mailstop: VAM-BOEM DIR
Sterling, VA 20166

For more information on the draft Plan, see our blog, where we take a deeper dive on the topic of ocean planning, conservation, and how COA's 30 years of experience fighting pollution in the NY/NJ Bight.

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Middle school teachers!! Mark your calendars! Fall Student Summit on October 6th!

As the summer months pass and the start of the 2016-2017 school year approaches, COA begins its plans for the Fall Student Summit. As always, the Fall Summit will be held at beautiful Island Beach State Park where students from the South Jersey counties of Ocean, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Cape May, and Atlantic will meet to enjoy a day of hands-on outdoor marine science education.

This year's Fall Summit will be held on Thursday, October 6th from 9:00am to 12:30pm. For more information about the Student Summit, visit our website and click on the Education Programs tab. Information about the application process will be available on the website shortly. Feel free to contact Amanda Wheeler at 732-872-0111 or at citizens@cleanoceanaction.org for more information. We look forward to seeing you and your students there!



TRIBUTES



Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

In Memory of:

Tanya Jorgensen Kathy Robinson
William Lavin Carol Anne Ross

In Honor of:

Janine Karoly

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 22nd, Statewide Fall Beach Sweeps
Now accepting 2017 Beach Sweeps Sponsors, please contact the office for more information on how your business can make waves of a difference for the marine environment.
Friday, December 9th, COA's Fall Fundraiser "Fire & Ice"
Contact events@CleanOceanAction.org for ways to become involved

Navesink Source-Tracking & Study Results Released to Public

Clean Ocean Action will be holding a second public meeting on August 11, time and location TBD, to release preliminary water monitoring and source tracking results, explain what the results mean and update citizens and communities on steps they can take in order to improve the water quality in the Navesink. These source tracking studies seek to identify the sources and amounts of bacterial pollution that triggered the downgrade of over 500 acres of shell-fishing area in January, and follow the release of a Clean Ocean Action report and public meeting concerning the fecal contamination of the Navesink River held on June 28.

Furthermore, COA has invited Dr. Paul Bologna, Ph.D., Director of the Marine Biology and Coastal Sciences Program at Montclair State University, to speak about his efforts to quantify and locate the invasive Clinging Jellyfish in New Jersey waters. To find out more, contact COA at info@cleanoceanaction.org and keep an eye on our website and social media feeds.



Bags, Bottles and Blight OH MY!



On August 9, at 6:30 pm at the Wall Township Court Room, Sustainable Jersey's Monmouth County Hub is presenting a screening of the film "Tapped", which explores the public health, environmental hazards and social justice issues related to the plastic bottle water industry.

Speakers include representatives from Food and Water Watch and COA's Policy Attorney, Zach Lees. The session will address how plastic water bottles harm the waterways in Monmouth County and beyond, as well as what we can do to stop it. Additionally, the speakers are available to answer questions following the film. Family-friendly activities and a blind water tasting will accompany the film. The screening is free and open to the public.

Visit: topdocumentaryfilms.com/tapped to see the trailer.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tory Woods, Director of Development
events@CleanOceanAction.org



Calling all Pups that Love the Beach!

Does your dog enjoy chasing a ball down a clean beach, jumping in the crashing waves and digging a hole in the sand that never ends? Celebrate clean beaches and join us with your dog this fall at Sandy Paws!

• Register Your Dog(s) Today for Sandy Paws!

- Once registered, you can choose a walk location, join a pack, and create your dog's fundraising page. Your pup could become the 2016 Top Dog! More details on COASandyPaws.org

• Join an Existing Pack or Become a Pack Leader!

- COA is excited to announce that Sandy Paws now has "Packs" and walks across New Jersey. Join a Pack or Create a Pack and organize a walk near you! For a complete list of locations, visit the Sandy Paws website.

• Support Sandy Paws!

- Donate today if you just love this idea and want to support a dog or the event to help fund Clean Ocean Action.
- Sponsorship, Vendor and In-kind Donation Opportunities are available! Call 732-872-0111 for more ways to get involved!

To Register Please Visit: COASandyPaws.org

Instagram: [Coa_SandyPaws](https://www.instagram.com/Coa_SandyPaws)

Facebook.com/COASandyPaws

For additional information please call: 732-872-0111 or email

TWoods@cleanoceanaction.org.

Beach to Table: 2016 COAST Campaign Highlights Local Activism

As the summer days bring crowds to the beautiful Jersey Shore, C.O.A.S.T., COA's citizen outreach program, is in full swing at beach clubs and beach-fronts. Visitors at tables are interactively engaged in learning about the trials and triumphs of keeping our beaches and our precious waterways protected and pristine! Stop by one of our tables and learn how you can:

- Curb your use of plastics
- Help clean up the Navesink River
- Participate in an upcoming Beach Sweep
- Walk your dog or lead a pack of dogs at the Sandy Paws event on September 24, 2016
- Vote for your ocean by completing a survey
- Volunteer to become an ocean advocate ...and much more!

Sofia Escandon,
Loch Arbor



We have many openings for volunteers to staff the C.O.A.S.T. tables throughout August weekends. COA will be in Avon, Allenhurst, Elberon and Lavallette on August 6th and 7th. On August 13th and 14th we will be in Ocean Grove, The Monmouth Beach Pavilion, Jenkinson's in Point Pleasant and in Island Beach State Park. All tables run from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

There is still time this summer to put your ocean passion to work informing and enlightening the summer crowds about the ways they can help protect our beloved coast. Go to Clean Ocean Action's website where there is a link to the Google form, and there you can sign up to staff a table.

Hope to see you at a C.O.A.S.T. table soon!

What's Your Jersey Shore Thing?

Whether it's an evening bike ride on the boardwalk, a seafood dinner, planting fragrant flowers on a summer night, a relaxing session of yoga, a memorable piece of jewelry, or surfing during the golden hour, all of these memorable summer activities are made possible by local businesses that support clean beaches and safe waterways.

It's a Jersey Shore Thing to support Clean Ocean Action! During the 99 days of summer, ocean-friendly businesses are showing their support for COA's year-round work through this summer's exciting campaign, "It's a Jersey Shore Thing!"

You can help make a difference by visiting local participating businesses that offer specials, donate a percent of their sales, give away door prizes, and much more to help raise funds for Clean Ocean Action.

For a list of participating businesses and events, please visit CleanOceanAction.org.



Surfing Into the Hall of Fame

On June 11, 2016, the New Jersey Surfing Hall of Fame (NJSHOF) gala was held at Anchor's Bend in Asbury Park, NJ, to celebrate over 100 years of surfing the Jersey coast, as well as celebrate a mix of current milestones and lifetime commitments. Fifteen respected surfers from Sandy Hook to Cape May selected this year's nominees and the NJSHOF Induction Board selected each winner.

The gala was held to honor individuals, businesses, and environmental organizations important to the sport of surfing. **Cindy Zipf, COA's Executive Director, was honored to be named "Environmental Steward of the Year"** for her tireless and continued dedication to the maintenance, preservation and protection of the oceans and beaches and for her advocacy on behalf of all surfers. COA appreciates the kind words stated in *Eastern Surf Magazine*,

"COA is at the forefront of all environmental concerns in NJ and Cindy and her team are vital caretakers of our beloved oceans and beaches. Surfers in general are good stewards, but it takes a special person to devote her entire life to the cause, and we owe Cindy and all the nominees a great debt."

Cindy was presented with a beautiful, original CarvinArt award created by Monmouth County artist, Ronnie Jackson. It is proudly displayed on the wall in Cindy's office.

Scott Thompson, an enthusiastic volunteer for COA since 1984, environmental activist, and avid surfer since age 10, presented Zipf with the award noting, "I have known Cindy for over 40 years. No one does more or cares more for the ocean than Cindy – day in, day out, year after year, battle after battle. She is the primary reason our ocean here in the NY Bight, particularly, NJ, is clean for surfing. Without her passion and commitment, each of us would be surfing with respirators on. For that ongoing care and positive direction, we should all be grateful for Cindy Zipf leading the charge in ocean environmental crusading and surfing's sustainability. Congratulations, Cindy, and on behalf of the surfing community – thank you!"

