



CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Defending the Sea Since 1984

Ryan Struck Photography

April 2021

POLICY

Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org; Connor Fagan, Legal Policy Advocate, Policy@CleanOceanAction.org

All Hands on Deck: Ocean & Climate Crisis Action

Clean Ocean Action joined the non-partisan Ocean Climate Action Plan (OCAP) Coalition that was developed over the past two years by hundreds of industry leaders, marine conservationists, academics, frontline communities, Indigenous communities, youth activists, and policymakers with Blue Frontier and the Center for the Blue Economy acting as convenors. The OCAP Coalition is working to get new laws passed in Congress and to make sure federal agencies use regulatory and budgetary power to support ocean and coastal environmental justice and climate action. The Ocean Based Climate Solutions Act (HR 8632) is a step in the right direction. OCAP is working further to achieve:

- offshore renewable energy that supports communities and ecosystems;
- job-producing living shorelines coastal restoration industry; and
- the greening of our ports and shipping industry, and more.

TAKE ACTION: Join COA and OCAP in Zoom meetings with US Senators and Representatives during the Virtual Capitol Hill Lobby Day on April 14 to promote legislation to address the climate crisis and impacts to the ocean. COA is leading meetings with NJ and NY (Long Island and NYC) Congressional members. To learn more about OCAP or to sign-up for meetings, go to OceanClimateAction2021.org, or for NJ and lower NY contact COA's Kari or Connor.



Register at CleanOceanAction.org

Volunteers of all ages needed at over 60 NJ Locations!

Saturday, April 17
9am-12:30pm
(rain or shine)



Clean Ocean Action
49 Avenel Blvd.
Long Branch, NJ 07740
www.CleanOceanAction.org

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Follow COA on Social Media For Ocean Updates!

LABEL

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE
April 2021

Tributes

In Memory of:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Robert Bennekamper | Peter Cauterucci | Elaine B. Denman | Carol Anne Ross |
| Charles "Chip" Bruett | Robert F. Connors | Gavin Pisano | |

In Honor of:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Clean Ocean Action's 37th Anniversary | Congratulations to Allison Isherwood |
| Cockroach Labs Inc Pay It Forward Committee | Congratulations to Dakota Schaefer |

SAVE THE DATE

- | | |
|--|--|
| Rally for the Two Rivers Public Meetings
May 27, July 29, September 30,
and November 18 | Rally for the Two Rivers Eco-Fest
June 5, 2021 |
| Virtual 2020 Beach Sweeps Report Release
April 6 | Student Summits
May and October 2021 |
| Beach Sweeps
April 17 and October 23 | World Ocean Day
June 8, 2021 |
| NJ Sustainability Summit
May 17-21, 2021 | Run the Hook
September 2021 |
| | COA Open Surf Contest
Fall 2021 |

Want to See Less Plastic In The Ocean & On Beaches?

At Press time, the Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act was scheduled to be re-introduced on March 25, in the US Senate and US House of Representatives, led by Senator Merkley (D-OR) and Representative Lowenthal (D-CA), respectively. The time is now to pass a comprehensive national law that will effectively reduce plastic manufacturing, especially single-use plastics, and reduce consumption to break our plastic addiction. Call your US Senators and Representatives to urge them to "co-sponsor" the bill. More NY and NJ co-sponsors are needed. To find and call your Congressional members, use the zipcode search feature at House.gov.



Bill Will Create Market for Recycled Materials...Especially Plastics



Worker Sorts Plastic at Recycling Center
Credit: AP Photo/Koji Sasahara

Perhaps the most important key to successful recycling is creating a demand for recycled material. To that end, NJ Senators Bob Smith (D-17) and Linda Greenstein (D-4) introduced the Recycled Content Bill (S. 2515), which would require manufacturers to use recycled content in producing rigid plastic containers, plastic bags, and beverage bottles, as well as glass bottles. Within two years, the law would require that products be made from up to 35 percent post-consumer materials. The timetable then slows down with the 50% goal taking up to 23 years for plastic bottles. That's too long! COA is urging a faster timeline based on other examples from Washington State, California, and the United States Congress. The ocean is filling with plastic and towns are struggling to manage and pay the costs of increasing waste. This legislation is an essential step to help solve the growing problem. Stay tuned for updates on the bill's progress.

EVENTS

COA's "Under the Sea" Virtual Celebration

On February 26th, Clean Ocean Action celebrated 37 Years of Ocean Advocacy with the "Under the Sea" Virtual Birthday Celebration for kids. COA was joined by Jenkinson's Aquarium, Music Together Coastal Melodies, Stewie the Turtle, and friends of the sea from around the world for a special "shell-a-bration."



Stewie the Turtle



Teresa the Turtle wished COA a Happy Birthday in Spanish!



Guests singing with Music Together Coastal Melodies

The event kicked-off with host Steward "Stewie" the Turtle introducing marine life friends Otto, Khalil, Jaanu, Tyra, Lulu, and Teresa -- all residents of one ocean across the world -- These friends taught party-goers how to say "Happy Birthday" in 6 different languages! Guests learned a new song about sandpipers with Music Together Coastal Melodies, before Lilo the Live Penguin took center stage thanks to Jenkinson's Aquarium. The



Lilo the Penguin live from Jenkinson's Aquarium

event concluded with guests enjoying a snack at home while singing "Happy Birthday" to Clean Ocean Action. Waves of thanks to all who participated and to our special guests. If you were not able to join us for the live birthday party, watch the recording on COA's YouTube Channel.

SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD, Staff Scientist, Science@CleanOceanAction.org
Alison Jones, Watershed Program Coordinator, Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org

Spring Awakening in the Two Rivers

A virtual Rally for the Two Rivers meeting was held on Thursday, March 25th at 7 pm via Zoom. The meeting began with an overview of water quality in the Two Rivers from November 2020 through March 2021. COA's Staff Scientist, Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan, shared the results of a water quality study conducted at 12 locations in the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers, which was made possible by the EPA Region 2 Equipment Loan Program. Preliminary results indicated that at ambient conditions, the concentrations of Enterococcus (fecal indicator bacteria) were low and agreed with seasonal patterns observed earlier with COA-NJDEP ambient citizen science monitoring in the Navesink watershed. COA also simultaneously completed a road salt monitoring study as part of the NJDEP-coordinated citizen science water watch program.



COA's Alison Jones conducting water sampling

Representatives from Project Terrapin at Rumson Fair Haven High School, including biology teacher Mike Haughwout and students, presented on northern diamondback terrapins. Nesting season for this native turtle species begins in April or May. Attendees of the meeting learned about Project Terrapin's ongoing conservation efforts, including how citizens can help to protect terrapins. Lastly, as spring approaches, attendees were reminded to keep their eyes on the rivers and to report any water quality concerns using the Two Rivers Water Quality Reporting Form, available on COA's website.

Texas, Turtles, Cold Fronts, Oh My!

In the week after February 13, Texas was struck by the coldest weather event in over 100 years. From local communities to green turtles, the state was in trouble. The bountiful Laguna Madre estuary, between mainland Texas and Padre Island, is perfect habitat for many species of turtles. In the warm summer months, similar green turtles may forage for eelgrass along the New Jersey coast. However, record low temperatures stood between these mostly juvenile turtles and their early spring and summer vacations.



Volunteers after a long day of stranding response
Credit: U.S. Navy

With the water temperatures dropping to the mid-30s, thousands of turtles were "cold-stunned" and did not have time to escape to the deep, temperate waters of the Gulf. Cold-stunned turtles can become hypothermic at temperatures lower than 50 degrees. When hypothermic, turtles cannot hold up their heads, move, or even swim. Yet, there was hope for our scaly green and brown friends. Dr. Donna Shaver, head of the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery for the National Park Service, led the Texas stranding network in a massive effort to collect, warm-up, and later release the turtles into warmer waters in the Gulf of Mexico.

EDUCATION

Kristen Grazioso, Education Coordinator, Education@CleanOceanAction.org
Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Fantastic Month for SEALS

The 13 Student Environmental Advocates and Leaders (SEAL) continue to impress by making significant advances in their community projects. In March, two Zoom Sessions, one-on-one meetings, and connections with community groups allowed for an inspiring month of planning and action.

For SEAL Session 7, students created factsheets. As the guest speaker, COA's Legal Policy Advocate Connor Fagan provided simple and valuable tips to help guide SEALS in their fact-finding and outreach preparation. In breakout groups, students reviewed templates of factsheets and telephone and email scripts and provided fellow SEALS with helpful feedback, compliments, and encouragement on their factsheets.

In SEAL Session 8, students reported on project progress. Students worked to perfect their 15-second "elevator pitch" and described challenges they have encountered in project implementation. It was empowering for students as they responded to each other's challenges by giving advice, sharing similar experiences, and collaborating on ideas. Students also played a few games of SEAL "BINGO," which was characterized by environmental lifestyle, advocacy, and leadership accomplishments and experiences.

Another great month of SEAL is in the books! Stay tuned for more advocacy and action achievements in April from the students of the SEAL program, made possible by Impact 100 Jersey Coast.

Virtual Ocean Fun: Spring Student Summit



From May 3-7, Clean Ocean Action's Annual Spring Student Summit will return for its 33rd year. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Summit will provide students learning at home or in school with a virtual, fun-filled marine and environmental education experience using the Prezi platform. The Summit is a virtual "day at the beach" for public and private middle school students (Grades 5-8) from northern and central New Jersey.

Last year's Virtual Spring Student Summit was a huge success. With new and updated presentations and demonstrations from local scientists and field experts and Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST) high school students, the Summit will feel like the real deal (without the sand in your shoes).

This year's Virtual Spring Student Summit is made possible by our generous sponsor The John Ben Snow Memorial Trust. Also, Clean Ocean Action extends special thanks to Eloise and John Pound for their support in memory of Anne Inman Webster.

Registration is open! Middle school teachers can apply to participate in the Virtual Spring Student Summit by contacting Kristen.



Can't make our Beach Sweeps, or need more Earth Day events to attend? Check out NJ Earth Week 2021 at www.world.350.org/newjersey.

