



CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Defending the Sea Since 1984

POLICY

Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Balloon Release Thwarted!

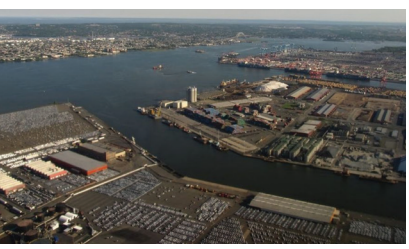
COA learned that over 750 balloons were planned for release into the air in Newark, NJ, at the December 30th Lights to Remember event, commemorating lives lost to COVID. COA and other organizations, including Marine Mammal Stranding Center, NY4Whales, and Balloons Blow, responded immediately with a social media “blast,” a petition, and messages and calls to City officials. Once informed and thus inspired, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka & his Staff, and City Council Members quickly moved to stop the release of balloons, opting to tether them for display. Thanks to Newark’s leadership, the memorial was unmarred by balloon litter and serious threats to marine life, all while paying tribute to the tragic loss of life. COA commends their prompt proactive response to the facts about harmful balloon litter.



COA is not anti-balloons -- they are festive and joyful as INSIDE toys or under careful watch. This is because balloons are the third most lethal marine litter and must not be released into the environment, especially when filled with helium (also a finite resource), which allows them to quickly “fly away.” Once adrift, they also pose danger to electric wires, causing outages.

Go to CleanOceanAction.org to sign a petition to support NJ Assembly bill (A4322), introduced in 2020 by NJ Assembly District 11 Members Eric Houghtaling and Joann Downey, to prohibit outdoor balloon releases and the careless use of balloons outside.

Digging Deeper: NY/NJ Harbor to 55 Feet—Not so fast!



In January, COA submitted comments to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the NY & NJ Harbor Deepening Channel Improvements (NYNJHDCI) Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (EA). The NYNJHDCI study intended to determine if there is a technically feasible, economically justified, and environmentally acceptable recommendation for federal participation in a navigation improvement project. The \$4 billion proposal is to deepen specific channels to 55 feet, which will require over 32 million cubic yards of material to be dredged, managed, and disposed properly. The previous deepening plans to 50 feet were completed in 2016, just 5 years ago.

COA found the EA inadequate, and USACE’s issuance of a “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI) unacceptable. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region II Office does not “concur” with the FONSI. COA urged USACE to require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to better assess environmental impacts, assess cumulative impacts, consider future projects in the same region, and conduct a careful assessment of all alternatives. See our website for the comments.

The Race for Offshore Wind Energy

Efforts to bring offshore wind energy off the NY/NJ coast races ahead with many key announcements made in the past two months:



- NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU): Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind and Ørsted applied to the State’s second solicitation for offshore wind capacity (projects to be awarded June 2021). Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind submitted a bid to build a 2,300-MW project between 10 to 20 miles offshore between Atlantic City and Barnegat Light. Ørsted applied again, while their other project -- a 1,100-MW wind farm 15 miles off Atlantic City -- is progressing.
- NJ Governor Murphy: a \$250 million investment in a manufacturing facility at Paulsboro Marine Terminal in Gloucester County to build steel components for turbines to serve the entire US offshore wind industry. Construction starts January 2021, production in 2023.
- NY Governor Cuomo: 2.5 gigawatts of offshore wind projects to developers Equinor and BP.
- US Department of Energy: up to \$14.5 million for offshore wind environmental research.
- US Department of the Interior: Bureau of Safety & Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) agreed to coordinate regulating renewable energy activities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in December 2020 Memorandum of Agreement.
- New, larger, and more powerful turbines will likely be used by Ørsted’s Ocean Wind farm. These giant machines will tower 853 feet above the ocean’s surface and use 351-foot blades.

To learn more about COA’s position on offshore wind energy, go to the “Issues” pages of our website.



COA Celebrates 37 Years of Ocean Advocacy on February 26th!

Stay tuned for more information.



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



Follow COA on Social Media For Ocean Updates!

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CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE
February 2021

Tributes

In Memory of:

Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Robert Bennekamper | Ben Hamilton | Maggie O’Malley | McLaren Steffen |
| Sandy Carr | Thomas Hoagland | Hal Redden | Bob Stout |
| Michael T. Carr | Michael W. Huber | Alice Jean Roche | Edward Swikart, Jr. |
| Peter Cauterucci | Jean Hughes | Carol Anne Ross | Margie Tom |
| Matteo Liam Coffey | Robert Hughes | Fred Serratore | Janet and Norbert Turek |
| Kevin Day | Beverly S. Lane | Karen Shatto | Barbara Waldman McCafferty |
| Elaine B. Denman | Gordon N. Litwin | Viola Small | Edna Mae Waters |
| Gerson Frank | Dick Miller | Paul Smith | Greg Weber |
| Ethel, George and Ronnie Jensen who loved the shore | Obdulia Molinero | King Sorensen | |

In Honor of:

- | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Bob Aitkins and McCue Captains Agency | Morgan Cowan | George Ketterer | Owen and William Prabhakar |
| Ocean-loving Gardner Asplundh Family | Rachel Davitt | Melissa Keanke and Daniel Cutler | Terry Praychett |
| Happy Birthday Marion Bennett! | Michael DeSimone | Mary Kiechlin | Jack Reinitz |
| Happy 21st Birthday Spencer Bennett! | Rosemary and Matt Dineen | Parker Leary | Danielle Rubin’s Hanukkah Celebration |
| Absolom Boston | Ray Dodd | Susan Littenberg and Michael Hagler | Greg Rubin |
| Shannon Brown | Mary and Manny Dosil | Colin Loch | Ted Searls |
| Brooke Buchanan | Doug Douty | Linda Lusk | Avery Siciliano and Louis Winkler |
| Casey Buchanan | Happy BIRTHday to McCauley Ellen Engels! | Mary and Dennis Mallazzo | Teddy and Robby Smith |
| Extended Buckley Family for 72 years on the Navesink River & at the beach | First Responders at the Jersey Shore | Jim McCarter | Jason Webb |
| Biwei Cao | Alex Fischer | Stacy, Emily and Mark McKim | Lindsay and Taylor White |
| Eugene Casazza | Bill Fitzpatrick | Amanda Montealegre | Cindy Zipf and the Zipf Family |
| Carly Coble | Barbara and Gerald Graveline | Michael Pacholick | |
| Brenda Collins | Robert Hoyer | Vincent Palmieri | |
| | Karagianakis Family | Dr. Charles (Pete) Peterman | |

POLICY (continued)

Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager; Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Stormwater Regulations & Updates Needed on Municipal Ordinances

On March 2, 2020, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) finalized new stormwater regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:8), which require the use of green infrastructure to meet stormwater management requirements. The rules will take effect on March 2, 2021. The rules direct the focus on using green infrastructure to meet standards on water quality, quantity, and recharge. Stormwater management under the new rule will include practices that will mimic the natural water cycle in terms of infiltration and will not be limited to a large basin concept. To comply, every NJ municipality is required to update their stormwater ordinances. To aid in this update, NJDEP created the Model Stormwater Control Ordinance, which outlines the minimum requirements necessary to comply with the new regulations and allows municipalities to pass more stringent stormwater controls.

Sustainable Jersey identified the Watershed Institute's "Enhanced Stormwater Management Ordinance" as an improvement over the basic requirements in the NJDEP Model Ordinance. COA and the Rally for the Navesink coalition have also been advocating for more stringent stormwater management by municipalities, including the use of green infrastructure.



SCIENCE

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

Connecting the Drops with Rally for the Two Rivers

The new year began with an exciting announcement at last month's public meeting. Formerly known as the Rally for the Navesink, the initiative to improve water quality in the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers has officially been renamed the "Rally for the Two Rivers." When the initiative first began in 2016, the Navesink River was the primary focus due to the severity of the pathogen pollution issue.

Five years later, many sources of pathogen pollution have been found and fixed, resulting in significant reductions in pathogen levels in the river. Unfortunately, other water quality impairments remain, as evidenced by increases in the number and severity of fish kills and algal blooms. The Shrewsbury River suffers from these same impairments, including pathogen pollution. The volunteer Oceanport Water Watch Committee has been diligently monitoring water quality in the Shrewsbury River for many years, enabling COA to understand and address these issues. Moving forward, the Rally for the Two Rivers will focus on preventative actions to maintain the water quality improvements achieved in recent years, while continuously working to find and fix sources of pollution in both the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers.



Plastic Source Trackdown Begins in the Delaware River



In January, COA staff conducted the first Plastic Source Investigation (PSI), as part of the ongoing initiative to reduce litter in the Delaware River. They were joined by Jacob Sorrentino, COA's former Marine Debris Intern, who volunteered his time to assist with the project while home from college on winter break. This first PSI was conducted along a stretch of road in Cinnaminson adjacent to Taylor Nature Preserve, an area that has been identified as a hot-spot of litter accumulation along the Delaware River. As part of the investigation, the team assessed litter on or near storm drain inlets along

the roadway, as well as the condition of the storm drain inlets and outfalls. This is the first of several planned field tests which will help COA to finalize the PSI model. In the future, the PSI model will be launched as a citizen science tool for investigating potential sources of litter into the Delaware River.

Phase II Pathogen Pollution Verification in Deal Lake

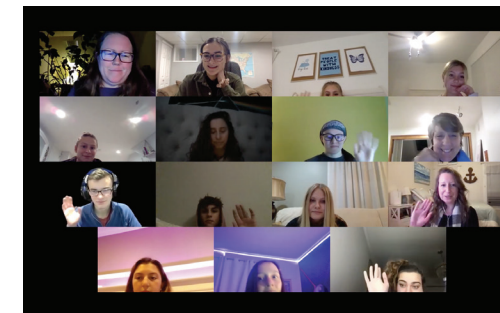
In 2017, COA and the Deal Lake Commission (DLC) embarked on a collaborative citizen monitoring program to determine if there are human sources of fecal contamination leaking into Deal Lake. Phase I, which was completed in 2019 established the potential presence of contamination. To determine the significance of these potential sources, COA will continue with Phase II of the study, which will quantify the numerical magnitude of fecal contamination using the USEPA-approved IDEXX testing methodology. The goal of Phase II is to numerically quantify the bacteria pollution in priority locations that were identified as having likely fecal sources in both ambient and wet weather. Lab data from this proposed study can then be used to direct efforts of fixing these sources. These lab-based analytical investigations will be conducted by COA in our in-house laboratory in Long Branch, NJ, and will include wet and ambient-weather investigations.



EDUCATION

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

SEAL Program – Inspiring Youth!



COA's new Student Environmental Advocates and Leaders (SEAL) program, made possible by Impact 100 Jersey Coast, kicked-off 2021 by continuing their inspiring bi-monthly Zoom sessions. The fourteen registered SEAL students have truly made these virtual meetings empowering.

So far, SEALs have covered an array of environmental topics, with discussions focused on individual concerns on issues, ideas on "ideal" futures, grass-roots movements, and activism. They are now beginning to identify their ideas for the environmental change they want to see in their communities. They have also discussed and evaluated current events such as the insurrection and inauguration. Most recently COA alum and seasoned environmental advocate, Catie Tobin, shared her story—her pathway to seek a PhD in marine science as well as her early years in successful youth-based advocacy. This helped inspire students as they begin to plan their SEAL projects. What better way to get inspired than by hearing a local success story such as Catie's!



COA's Microplastics Researcher **Catie Tobin** was recently selected as a 2021 Knauss Fellow beginning in February. The Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship provides a unique educational and professional experience to graduate students who have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources. The Fellowship, named after one of Sea Grant's founders and former NOAA Administrator John A. Knauss, matches highly qualified graduate students with "hosts" in the legislative and executive branches of government located in the Washington, D.C. area for a one year fellowship.

Bob Bennekamper: True Blue Leader Remembered, Summer Tribute Planned

With deepest sorrow, COA shares that Bob Bennekamper passed away in December. Bob was a true-blue ocean advocate, and his wife Pat was always by his side. They knew that education is the foundation from which to inspire people to care for and mobilize to protect the ocean. For over 30 years, Pat and Bob took on one of the most challenging yet pivotal roles—informing, educating, and motivating people to take action. Together, they clocked thousands of hours at festivals, fairs, concerts, and events talking with and inspiring thousands of people to answer the call and sign petitions, attend rallies, testify at hearings or even changing their polluting habits. Bob and Pat also helped to raise funds with creative ideas and were committed to expanding COA into South Jersey.



As a devoted dynamic duo, they joined the Board of Trustees together, as a two-for-one, in 2002. Together they supported and guided COA's growth and expansion. Bob made a profound difference. His legacy is not only a cleaner ocean, but a stronger, more vibrant, and empowered Clean Ocean Action to ensure a better future.

On behalf of Clean Ocean Action's Trustees and Staff, our send deepest sympathies to Pat and family. To formally honor Bob, the Board of Trustees and Staff of COA will host a tribute this summer at the headquarters he helped to establish.

Carly Imhoff, a K-8 Science teacher from Ashford School in Ashford, Connecticut, was teaching her fourth grade students about watersheds "when they had the idea to stencil the storm drains around our school." Carly obtained a Storm Drain Stencil Kit from COA. Now, when the public walks by the storm drains by Ashford school, they will be reminded that nothing more than clean rainwater should enter storm drains.



Caps Off to New Environmental Fellow, Grace Kenney!



In January, COA proudly welcomed Grace Kenney on board for a six-week term as part of the Endeavor Foundation Environmental Action Fellowship with Bennington College. Grace is a junior, studying community action on environmental issues and food advocacy. Grace is born and raised on Martha's Vineyard, enjoying fishing, boating, and exploring shores and marine life. Grace has combined her interest in ocean issues and environmental action by co-creating a business

centered around plastic pollution called "Coastal Caps". Grace's interest in reducing coastal pollution will help foster many of COA's upcoming community action projects. During her fellowship opportunity, Grace will make a splash by developing a decision-making tool for businesses to use to make informed, sustainable choices to eliminate or reduce single-use waste.



COA is thankful to our printer Jersey Printing Associates (JPA) for supporting COA's year-round ocean advocacy work! JPA's expert staff includes the most talented designers, pre-press specialists, and pressmen available. COA is proud to work with JPA!