



A Note from Executive Director, Cindy Zipf: Greetings Summer SEASON!

WAHOO! With such a long, strange, cold, spring, it is wonderful to have something to cheer about. The bi-state victory against the Williams Transco NESE project proves once again, the power is within WE THE PEOPLE. A double rainbow appeared over the ocean next to our new headquarters as perhaps a sign for good times ahead, and whales and dolphin are back with many of you enjoying glimpses from the shore.

As public use of our beaches begin to open up, we must remain even more vigilant to ensure we treat the ecosystem with respect. Of special note is the horseshoe crab, a.k.a. the ancient mariner. This is their critical and most vulnerable time of year when they come ashore to mate and lay eggs, upon which so many other marine life depend. Remember too, that the horseshoe crab blood is key to safe medical vaccinations. Their blood is used around the world as the only "super sleuth" for detecting the most miniscule contamination in vaccines alerting doctors and thereby ensuring only safe vaccines are distributed. Needless today, this is important now more than ever. So, give horseshoe crabs some safe space, too. Leave them be.

Speaking of social distancing and respect, we all are so vital to stop the COVID virus. Remember that we still all hold the key to protecting one another, and appreciating the remarkable risks the medical teams, first responders, and essential workers take every day. Keep social distancing and mask up. Have a safe, healthy and beachy summer.

POLICY Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager; Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org, Peter Blair, Esq., Policy Attorney; Policy@CleanOceanAction.org

CITIZEN VICTORY: NY & NJ Deny All NESE Permits!



After a four-year fight, organizations and citizens on both sides of the ocean in the NY/NJ region are celebrating the strong bi-state denial of permits on May 15 for the proposed Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) pipeline project. All can salute NJ Governor Murphy and NJDEP, and NY Governor Cuomo and NYDEC for recognizing that this project would have devastated the environment.

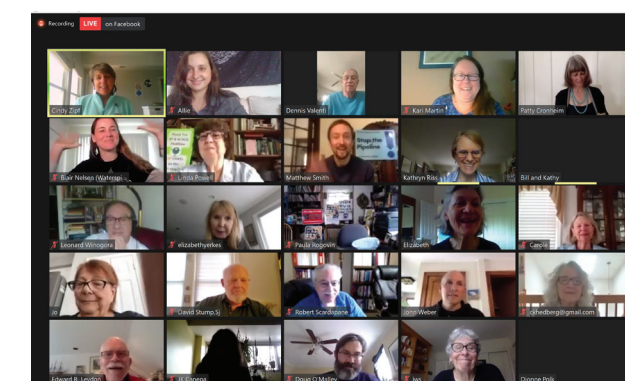
The mighty Anti-NESE coalition, led by COA, earned a clear win for the environment, economy, and the future. COA galvanized a coalition of many grassroots groups who forged ahead in challenging times, including repeated NESE applications, denials, and withdrawals, and the current pandemic, which limited public participation and rallying efforts.

Over the years, thousands of citizens signed multiple petition and hundreds of people attended rallies, meetings, and hearings. Pages of comments from citizens and groups were submitted several times to state agencies. Notably, 100% of the comments submitted to NJDEP for this latest application were opposed to NESE.

"This project is and will always be UN-'NESE'-SARY!" said Cindy Zipf.

Further, 21 NJ municipalities and the Monmouth County and Somerset County Boards of Chosen Freeholders passed resolutions opposing NESE. Also, independent research, supported by COA, was key in providing information to agencies.

To mark this momentous victory, nearly 150 advocates from NJ and NY celebrated together virtually via a Zoom rally on May 18th, complete with upbeat music, stories and messages from coalition members, and campaign photos. The company proposing NESE, Williams/Transco, indicated that it will not reapply. However, both states' decisions legally allow the company to file an Administrative appeal; the deadline to file an appeal in NY is June 14, 2020, and June 26, 2020 for NJ. While we must remain vigilant, we can revel in this hard-won victory for our air, land, and water. Congratulations!



On May 18th nearly 150 advocates from NJ and NY celebrated the victory over NESE together virtually via a Zoom rally

World Oceans Day is June 8th!



- Eyes on the Rivers, and more!
- Virtual Student Summit
- NY & NJ Deny All NESE Permits

Inside this Issue

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LABEL

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE
June 2020



A momentous VICTORY for the environment, thanks to the work of Clean Ocean Action and the many coalition groups and citizens involved! On Friday, May 17th, NJ Governor Murphy and NY Governor Cuomo denied all of the necessary permits for the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) methane gas pipeline and compressor station proposed by Williams-Transco Company.

Tributes

Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

In Memory of:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Peter Cauterucci | Zachary Misch |
| Joe Galacki | Carol Anne Ross |
| Theodore Josberger | Andrew W. Thompson |
| Gordon N. Litwin | Barbara Jane Thompson |

In Honor of:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Happy Birthday to Dora Badyanova | Krista, Elizabeth and Robby |
| Congratulations to Amanda Cusack | Kelly, Noah & Ann Mascarenhas |
| Congratulations to Franklin Cougar | Margo Pellegrino |
| Mellencamp Grosso, IIV | Beca Stone |
| PJ Hyduke | |

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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Run the Hook: A Virtual Success!

Waves of thanks to Run the Hook for supporting Clean Ocean Action each year through the annual Run the Hook Race for Mother Ocean! This year we are grateful to those who participated in the race virtually, running anywhere at anytime.

Despite the change to the event, Joey Garofalo, owner of Beacon Events, has pledged to make the usual donation from the proceeds to COA. Waves of thanks to Joey for his inspiring generosity in the face of these unprecedented obstacles!



Long time friend of the ocean Panse Geer, 73 participates in Run the Hook annually and was named female Masters (40 and over) Race Walker of the Year by USATF



COA Development Director Laurie Bratone with her husband Paul Bratone on their virtual walk/run along the beach



COA Board Member, Bonnie Torcivia's Run the Hook was 18 holes of golf

COA's Oceanfront "Ocean Riffs"

On Thursday, May 21 COA kicked off summer and celebrated the victory over NESE with "Ocean Riffs" Live Virtual Concert with The Danjos! Waves of thanks to performers John O'Neill and Dan Corboy, The Danjos; and program partners LowTides Ocean Products and Thepurebag, and hosts the LoBiondo Family at Windows on the Water at Surfrider in Sea Bright. The concert was paired with the "Countdown to the Summer SEASON" fundraiser that raised \$2445. Thank you to all who tuned in virtually to enjoy the music and to those who donated.



Mounds of disposable litter rise in the shadow of a Pandemic!

Amidst the global COVID-19 public health crisis, the world is facing an environmental health risk caused by littering of personal protective equipment. NJ towns and municipalities are witnessing increased dumping and littering of used masks and disposable gloves. All litter eventually finds its way to the ocean and will end up as marine debris. As NJ plans to slowly begin re-opening businesses and establishments, communities be mindful to properly dispose of personal protective gear. COA encourages citizens and communities to adhere to NJ state guidelines on the use of personal protective gear and adhere to local regulations on proper waste management of used gear. If you come across littered PPE on the beach, please take a photo and share it on social media tagging COA or email it to communications@cleanoceanaction.org.



SCIENCE

Eyes on the Rivers: Citizen Reports Lead to NJDEP Investigation



A bloom of the non-toxic algae *Prorocentrum minimum* in the Navesink River caused the water to turn reddish brown and may have resulted in low oxygen levels, which can lead to a fish kill. Photo by Gene Geer.

Algae blooms of this species are often called a "mahogany tide" due to the reddish-brown discoloration of the water. When these algae die off, it can cause low oxygen levels, potentially resulting in a fish kill. According to the NJDEP, the fish kills being observed in the Two Rivers are routine this time of the year and typically caused by low oxygen levels. Oxygen depletion can be triggered either by algal blooms or by overcrowding of fish in large schools in shallower waters. The Navesink is not a primary recreational waterbody and does not fall under NJDEP's CCMP bloom monitoring protocol, and according to DEP preliminary results indicate that this *Prorocentrum minimum* may be non-toxic. However, there are also reports that indicate that *P.minimum* could release hepatotoxins that are potentially toxic to fish. COA is investigating more on this and will follow up with updates. To report water quality concerns to the NJDEP, call 1-877-WARN-DEP. COA also encourages community citizens to share similar sightings via email (outreach@cleanoceanaction.org). For the latest updates on water quality, follow Rally for the Navesink on Facebook.

Source Trackdown Continues in Deal Lake



A TOSA employee adds dye to the sewer line adjacent to Deal Lake to test for leaks in the infrastructure

As part of continuing efforts to track down sources of pathogen pollution in the Deal Lake watershed, on Tuesday, May 19, COA staff joined Don Brockel, chair of the Deal Lake Commission, to observe testing of sewer infrastructure around Deal Lake. Employees of the Township of Ocean Sewerage Authority (TOSA) added dye to the main sewer line that flows under Deal Lake and into the pump station. If any dye appeared in the water in Deal Lake, this would indicate a leak in the sewer infrastructure. Fortunately, no leaks were detected. Additional testing is planned throughout the Deal Lake watershed.

Ocean Forum Goes Virtual!

The 2020 MidAtlantic Ocean Forum was attended by COA Staff Scientist, Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan on May 19.

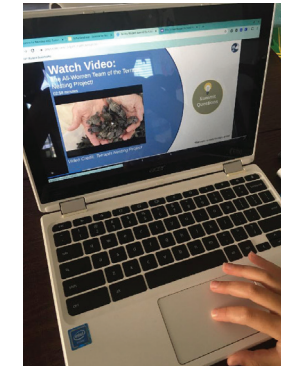
The Ocean Forum is an annual event convened by the Mid-Atlantic Committee on the Ocean (MACO) to share regional information and improve collaborative efforts to improve the midAtlantic region's ocean health, ecosystem and economy. This year's hot button issue discussed at the forum was "Climate Driven Ocean Changes". Multiple state and federal agencies, federally recognized tribes, non-governmental entities, ocean stakeholders in the states of NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA are engaged in MACO's efforts.



POLICY

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Navigating Unmapped Waters – COA's Spring Student Summit Goes Virtual!



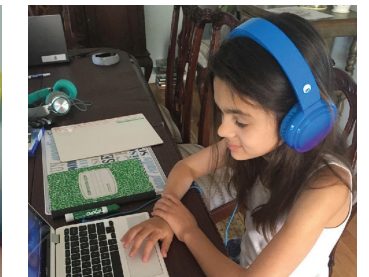
For the past 31 years, hundreds of public and private middle school students (grades 5-8) have gathered at Gateway National Recreation Area - Sandy Hook in mid-May for COA's Spring Student Summit. Here, they are given the unique opportunity to be "scientists for the day," participating in a multitude of hands-on presentations and field activities taught by outstanding local educational professionals and volunteers.

While COA could not physically gather this May to host the 32nd Annual Spring Student Summit, we were able to extend its legacy by launching our first ever Virtual

Spring Student Summit! Over 600 students from 15 schools in northern and central New Jersey participated online, learning about the ecological significance of the NY/NJ coast, its threats from "people pollution," and ways to be the solution!

Though geographically distant, students showed unity in learning about our marine environment by all participating during the week of May 11th. In doing so, they became part of a broader educational effort, as if they were all together on the shores of Sandy Hook, as originally planned.

COA thanks our true-blue sponsors, The OceanFirst Foundation and Eloise and John Pound, for making this program possible! It truly was a "sea-rific" success!



A Breath of Fresh Air: How COVID-19 Impacts NJ's Environment

On May 12, 2020, COA staff attended a panel on COVID-19 and New Jersey's Environment hosted by Monmouth University's Urban Coast Institute. Experts discussed how the stay at home order implemented to stop the spread of COVID-19 may impact the air, ocean, waterways, beaches, and wildlife across the state. Interestingly, while some of the potential impacts remain to be seen, there are positive trends that have already been observed. The NJDEP Bureau of Air Monitoring reviewed data collected at three urban air monitoring stations in Elizabeth, Jersey City, and Camden, and found noticeable improvements in air quality in March and April 2020. At all three stations, concentrations of nitrogen oxides and fine particles were lower this year compared to historical data. This may be attributed to reductions in motor vehicle traffic and reductions in power use due to the stay at home order that has been in effect since March.

