



# Clean Ocean Advocate



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LABEL

Ocean Blasting Updates  
COAST Campaign Kick Off  
Summer Events at the Shore

## July 2015 Highlights

Clean Ocean Action  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## VOLUNTER OPPORTUNITIES

- July 4-5:** Ship Ahoy Beach Club
- July 11-12:** Chapel Beach Club, Driftwood Beach Club, Sands Beach Club, Monmouth Beach Bath & Tennis Club
- July 18-19:** Atlantic Highlands Film One Festival, Asbury Park Blues & Brews Festival, Promenade Beach Club
- July 25-26:** Sea Bright Public Beach, Edgewater Beach Club, Loch Arbor Public Beach, Bradley Beach Public Beach 3
- August 1-2:** Brick Public Beach 3, Long Branch Public Beach, Highlands Clam Festival, Seaside Park Boardwalk
- August 7:** Beach Ball-A-Palooza
- August 9-10:** Lavallette Public Beach, Elberon Bathing Club, Avon-by-the-Sea Public Beach, Allenhurst Public Beach
- August 15-16:** Jenkinson's Pavilion, Ocean Grove, Island Beach State Park
- August 29:** Long Branch Jazz and Blues

Contact Melissa at [coast@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:coast@cleanoceanaction.org) to participate with COA at any of these events!

Stop by a C.O.A.S.T. table to learn about ocean pollution issues, sign important petitions, donate to our cause, buy popular environmentally-themed merchandise and learn how to become more involved with Clean Ocean Action.

## TRIBUTES



### *In Honor of:*

Elaine & Melvin Coben's  
Granddaughter's Wedding  
Nancy Billyer & Demetrios Hadgis' Wedding  
Allison Vogel & Nicholas Pyle's Wedding  
Laura Wigginton's 21st Birthday

### *In Memory of*

Barbara Bennett  
Samuel Karinga  
William Bernard Lavin  
Ian Passingham  
Ralph Stewart

## Hats Off to the COAST Campaign

Summer is in full-swing, which means it is coasting time! There's nothing more refreshing than a beautiful beach day at the Jersey shore, which is where you'll be seeing our volunteer advocates helping out to prevent ocean pollution. This summer, COA will be hosting the 26th annual Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips (C.O.A.S.T.) campaign to help educate citizens about current



ocean pollution issues. As in previous years, you will find our volunteers at information tables on beaches, beach clubs, and festivals throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties on weekends in July and August. If you are interested in having a C.O.A.S.T. table on your beach or at your festival, please feel free to contact Melissa.

We know you've been waiting for them, so the C.O.A.S.T. campaign for 2015 will be featuring new merchandise: COA hats! The hats, which were made by a local business will be available in multiple colors and will display our vibrant logo. Stop by one of our tables to pick up one of your very own.

### The (tentative) weekend table schedule is as follows:

- June 27-28: Bradley Beach LobsterFest
- July 4-5: Ship Ahoy Beach Club
- July 11-12: Chapel Beach Club, Driftwood Beach Club, Sands Beach Club, Monmouth Beach Bath & Tennis Club
- July 18-19: Atlantic Highlands Film One Festival, Asbury Park Blues & Brews Festival, Promenade Beach Club
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To volunteer at a C.O.A.S.T. table, please call Melissa at (732) 872-0111 or email her at [Coast@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Coast@CleanOceanAction.org).

We hope to see many supporters on the beaches and at festivals this summer!

## Ocean Blasting Updates

On June 5th, the Christie Administration filed a complaint to the U.S. District Court to stop the National Science Foundation-funded Rutgers seismic survey off of New Jersey. The complaint cited concerns over the potential adverse impacts of the study on fisheries as well as its potential harm to marine mammals. NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin said that "It is extremely disappointing that the federal government is moving ahead with this misguided project despite widespread objection from all quarters and without regard to the negative impacts on New Jersey."



Dead whale off Manasquan

In the weeks since the Rutgers seismic blasting began, there have been reports of two—possibly three—dead whales in the NY/NJ bight. The first whale, a minke, washed up on Coney Island on June 8th. Its cause of death was determined to be a boat strike, but due to time restrictions, scientists

were unable to extract its ears to check for potential damage from anthropogenic sound. On June 10th, a dead 40 foot whale was spotted 10 miles off of Manasquan inlet. The whale, ultimately identified as a fin whale, is an endangered species. This whale's cause of death was undetermined. If you see any unusual behavior or activity related to marine mammals, please report it to MMSC at (609) 266-0538.

During the permitting process for this seismic survey, the National Science Foundation initiated consultation with NMFS due to the presence of several Endangered Species Act-listed species in the survey area. At the end of this process, a scientific document was produced which considered the potential impacts of the survey on all the endangered species in the area. In this document, the atlantic sturgeon was mentioned, and then quickly dismissed, as NMFS "believed" that it would not occur in the survey area. This is erroneous. On June 1st, COA sent a letter to the Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), alerting her to the fact that the atlantic sturgeon was wrongly omitted from the full impact evaluation process, citing studies providing evidence that there are likely to be sturgeon present in the proposed testing area. Having never received a response regarding this letter, COA wrote once more to Division Chief Peterson of NOAA with the same concerns. COA continues to wait for a response regarding these concerns.

To create a visual representation, Haley Jordan, a COA volunteer, has worked tirelessly over the past few months to assist us in designing a seismic surveying infographic, which has been released on our website and social media outlets. Haley has extensive graphic design skills and helped COA create a visual of the seismic surveying process. Waves of thanks to Haley.

## Events

Tory Woods, [events@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:events@cleanoceanaction.org)

### Endless Summer Fun

The warm summer sun has finally arrived and beachgoers are returning to the shore! As you enjoy visits to the beach, sunset walks, fishing, paddling, and more, please be sure to leave only footprints in the sand.

Throughout the summer, COA will be hosting a variety of community events, film screenings, and beach clean ups! Please follow us on Facebook and MeetUp.com for more updates on our events.

### Art Tour at the Shore

During the month of August, various local artists will be hosting an art show across New Jersey with a portion of the proceeds benefiting COA. We hope you will help support local artists, restaurants, and COA by joining us for the launch and throughout the month at participating locations. More details coming soon.

Another creative opportunity is a hands-on community mosaic using debris found on the beaches of New Jersey. We are launching this project at five locations in Monmouth County and plan to travel to a new county each beach season.

Twice a month, each site will host a Beach Sweep where the debris found will be added to the mosaic by the volunteers. This is a family-friendly event and we invite all to participate! Check our website for a complete list of dates and locations.

### Get Your Paddle On!



Join us for the **2015 Shore Paddle** on Saturday, September 26th! This Stand-Up Paddleboard (SUP) event will kick off at its new location at Marine Park in Red Bank, NJ.

This year the Shore Paddle will offer a 6.5 Mile Race, 2.5 Mile Fun Paddle, and a 1/2 Mile Kids Paddle on the beautiful Navesink River. New to paddling? Not a problem! There

will be free demonstrations with certified instructors, various SUP board companies, and lessons available for those who want to get their feet wet. In the park there will be free yoga, meditation, kid's activities, vendors, and more. The Shore Paddle will conclude with an after party awards celebration at Jamian's in Red Bank.

We hope you will join us on the water! Pre-registration opens July 1st at [paddleguru.com](http://paddleguru.com)!

### Toes (and Paws) in the Sand!

We are excited to announce the first annual **COA Sandy Paws** on Saturday, October 10th! The main event for this statewide dog walk on the beach will be held in Asbury Park, NJ. Enjoy a morning of creating awareness for cleaner, safer beaches for people and pets while walking on the beach or boardwalk. This fundraiser event will offer family fun, local vendors, a pet costume contest, dog rescue shelters, and more! The walk will conclude with a "tail"-gate party for people and pups! Want to start a team at a beach near you? Contact Tory for more details and ways to get involved.



Wave of thanks to The Columns in Avon-by-the-Sea for inviting us to be the charity at the door on Sunday June 14th. It was a fun night filled with great music and good friends.

## Education

Catie Tobin, [education@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:education@cleanoceanaction.org)

### EPA Trash Freewaters

On Thursday, June 18th, COA's Team participated in the NY/NJ Trash Free Waters Partnership Meeting at the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) office in New York City. Zach Lees, Ocean and Coastal Policy Attorney, Catie Tobin, Marine Science Education Coordinator, and Gianna Fischer, Policy Intern, joined other NGO and government stakeholders to discuss collaborative regional actions.

In the fall of 2014, the US EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW) developed the Trash Free Waters (TFW) Program as a means to identify a focused set of actions that support trash prevention and reduction initiatives by many public and private stakeholders.

The TFW focus is on the plastic plague. The group is tackling the following issues: boxes, microplastics, cigarette butts, bottles, and bags.

Catie updated the groups on the progress of COA's microplastics research.

## Policy

Zach Lees, [policy@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:policy@cleanoceanaction.org)

### Deepwater Port Rules

Clean Ocean Action has been monitoring the rise of natural gas as a source of energy for several years now. Along with the evolution in the controversial and dangerous extraction technique known as 'fracking' and the huge reserves of shale gas found throughout the United States, there has also been a shift in how natural gas is transported. This technology is known as Liquefied Natural Gas, or LNG, and involves super cooling natural gas into a liquid. The United States Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration in conjunction with the US Coastguard is tasked with regulating deepwater port facilities which import and export liquid natural gas. The regulations that govern the permitting and operation of these extremely complex structures are very important both in how these projects obtain the necessary permits, as well as their safety while in operation. COA is in the process of reviewing and submitting comments regarding the Coast Guard's proposed revisions to the regulations for the licensing, construction, design, equipment, and operation of deepwater ports in order to ensure that these revisions are more stringent and environmentally friendly. In order to build a clean energy future, we cannot continue to invest in fossil fuel infrastructure.

Hazlet Environmental Commission has joined 12 other local municipalities who have passed a resolution opposing an LNG facility in the New York & New Jersey Bight.

Has your town passed a resolution? Please contact Nicole Dallara at [outreach@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:outreach@cleanoceanaction.org) for a sample resolution and more information

### ExxonMobil Needs to Pay Up

The Christie Administration and ExxonMobil settled an estimated \$8.9 billion cleanup for a mere \$225 million. This is a clear win for a multi-billion dollar corporation and a clear loss for the effected community and environment. At an Assembly hearing on the proposed settlement, COA urged that the NJDEP reject the proposed settlement and ensure that this clean up, and any future settlements, address the full scale of ecological and economic harm. ExxonMobil needs to be held accountable for the damages they have caused the community and environment. For more information about this settlement please contact NY/NJ Baykeeper.

## Welcome - COA 2015 Interns!

We are thrilled to have Gianna Fischer and Derek Noah join COA for their 3rd year as Interns! In 2013 as seniors at Middletown High School South, this dynamic duo volunteered for COA for their Senior Project and in 2014 they helped organize numerous campaigns and events.

This summer, as a Junior at Boston University Honors Program (BU) in Public Relations with minors in Political Science and Philosophy, Gianna Fischer has returned in the capacity of our Policy Intern. She assists Zach Lees, Coastal Policy Attorney, and Executive Director Cindy Zipf with issue research and implementation of policies. In her spare time, Gianna is editor-in-chief of the BU Buzz Magazine, and the Communications Strategist for BU's Public Markets Investing Group.



Multi-talented Derek Noah, who is a Junior at Rutgers University with a major in Environmental Natural Resource Economics and a minor in Environmental Policy, Institutions, and Behaviors, is proficiently helping COA with the Corporate Beach Sweeps, COAST, and field work with the K9/Blue Star program, among

other responsibilities. Derek is involved with the Cook Business Club and is an elected member of the Rutgers Environmental and Biological Sciences Governing Council.

As the 2015 Development Intern, Alicia Maziarz, works closely with Tory Woods, Events Coordinator, and assists with all aspects of fundraising, resource development, and event planning. Alicia attends the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a major in Legal Studies and Public Health. She is a recipient of the competitive UMASS Women in Leadership Fellowship and works as an office assistant at the University. The Shore Paddle and Sandy Paws pet walk are sure to be successful with Alicia's capable and friendly support.



Alicia, Melissa, Katie & Charlotte

Our Marine Debris Intern for the summer of 2015 is Charlotte Maiden. She assists Catie Tobin, Marine Science Education Coordinator, with the Corporate Beach Sweeps and Beach Sweeps data annual report. A former volunteer of COA and a MAST alum, Charlotte attended the Honors College of the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Wilmington for two years with a major in Environmental Science and will begin her junior year at UNC Chapel Hill in September. Charlotte is an active member of the UNC Coastal Society and ECO Club, and was a summer Research Assistant at Monmouth University.

Katie Veasey is COA's first Marine Science Intern. She is a Junior at Hamilton College pursuing a degree in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Chemistry. Katie is the President of the Hamilton Environmental Action Group, a Site Coordinator for the Hamilton Association of Volunteering, and holds the #1 position on the Varsity Women's Golf Team! At COA, she is assisting Catie Tobin, in the analysis phase of the microplastics project and will help advance it to the next stage. Investigations are in the lab, as well as in the field.

COA's 2015 COAST Intern is Melissa Mertz. She coordinates all aspects of the annual COAST campaign (Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips), which educates and empowers citizens at beaches and festivals to protect the ocean. Melissa is a Junior pursuing her BS at Rutgers University with a major in Environmental Policy, Institutions, and Behaviors. She was the President of Clothier Hall Residential Association last year, participated in the GREEN Program Study Abroad in Iceland, and is an environmental writer for EPIB Trail. Melissa is professional, energetic and thorough – check out COA's website for COAST table events near you!