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LABEL

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE
49 Avenue Blvd.
Long Branch, NJ 07740
www.CleanOceanAction.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SAVE THE DATE

COA Surf Open
September 23 or 24 (TBD)

October 5
Cape May Student Summit

October 12
Island Beach State Park
Student Summit

October 21
Beach Sweeps

October 26
SEAL 2023-2024 Kickoff



TRIBUTES

In Memory of:

Peter Cauterucci
Matteo Liam Coffey
Billy Drury
Michele Ferro Jasonowski
Jack Lynch
Bob Owen
Carol Anne Ross
Drew Thompson

In Honor of:

Rayshel C.
Linnea Eunji Dixon
Angela Jacobs
Leo Jacobs
Janine Karoly
Allie Lestini
Frank Montecalvo
Rae Sharma

Volunteer with Clean Ocean Action!

COA has a variety of SEA-rific and exciting opportunities to get involved from tabling at events to becoming a volunteer Community Scientist! Find the best fit for you and complete a volunteer form today at:

CleanOceanAction.org/Help-Your-Ocean/Volunteer-Opportunities

Waves of thanks and cannot wait to welcome you aboard!



CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Defending the Sea Since 1984

July 2023

POLICY

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

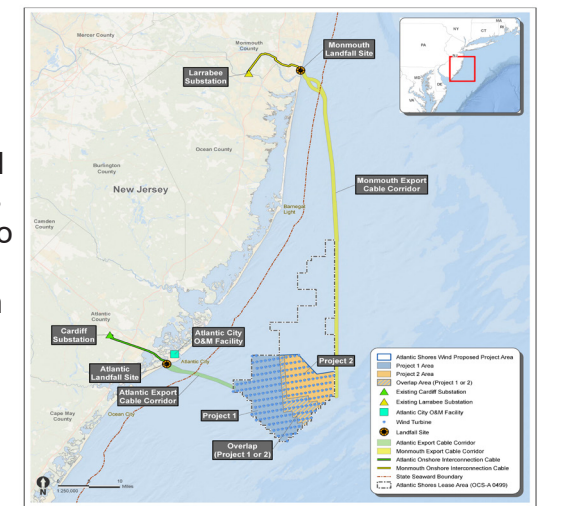
A Devastating Blow to the Ocean from Offshore Wind Projects: Take Action Now to Defend the Ocean

The rush to develop wind energy off the nation's coast continues. Projects off NY/NJ are reaching critical review milestones while proposing to harass thousands of whales and dolphins for preconstruction and construction related activities:

- To date, private companies—many fossil fuel giants—have proposed or been authorized to harass 870,499 marine mammals for OSW projects in the NY/NJ region alone since 2014.
- The 12-turbine project off Eastern Long Island, NY, called "South Fork," began construction with the installation of its first monopile foundation on the seafloor.
- On May 15, the 2,200+ page Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the 200-turbine Atlantic Shores South projects located nearly 10 miles from Atlantic City, NJ, was released for public review and comment. Only a 45-day comment period was provided. COA thanks those officials and members of the public who requested a reasonable extension to allow more time for review. Unfortunately, these requests were ignored by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).
- On May 26, BOEM released Orsted's Ocean Wind 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)—over 2,400 pages in length—for a 98-turbine offshore wind power plant 15 miles off Atlantic City, NJ. BOEM approved the project with a Record of Decision on July 5. Construction is expected to begin onshore in Fall 2023.
- On June 15, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), an independent congressional watchdog, agreed to a request made by US Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ) for an independent investigation into the impacts of OSW development. The investigation will include OSW developmental impacts on the environment, fishing industry, military operations, navigational safety, and more. COA applauds US Congressman Smith for requesting this long, overdue investigation.
- On July 6, NJ Governor Murphy signed a bill to fund Orsted's Ocean Wind 1 on the backs of NJ taxpayers despite the fact the \$42 billion government-owned company recently invested \$625 million in another OSW project off Massachusetts. The bill narrowly passed the NJ Legislature in late June. Waves of thanks to state legislators who had the courage to stand up for the ocean and taxpayer interests!



Atlantic Shores Project Areas



Atlantic Shores Project Area & Cable Routes
Photo Credit: BOEM

TAKE ACTION

Call/Email US President Biden

- 📞 Comments: (202) 456-1111
- ☎️ Switchboard: (202) 456-1414
- ✉️ Email: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Call/Email NJ Governor Murphy

- 📞 Call: (609) 292-6000
- ✉️ Email: <https://nj.gov/governor/contact/>

Concerned about offshore wind?

Ocean Rebels for the “COZ”



Photo Credit: Current Media Company
Sand sculpture created by The Bikini Boys for the COZ relaunch

Given the unprecedented, massive industrial assault proposed for the ocean, Clean Ocean Action (COA) revived the Clean Ocean Zone (COZ) legislative campaign. Originally developed years ago, the COZ is a campaign for a federal law to protect the rich vibrant life off the NY/NJ coast and lock-out harmful industrialization and pollution.

The campaign was launched with a press conference and Campaign Open House at Funtown Beach in Seaside Park, the “middle of the Jersey Shore,” on July 15th.



Photo Credit: Current Media Company
Citizens gather at Funtown Beach to relaunch the Clean Ocean Zone campaign to protect the ocean!

The “World Ocean Day” event included a “welcome” by Mayor John Peterson of Seaside Park, whale-watcher, conservation biologist Trisha DeVoe, and concerned citizen and ocean advocate Leslie Mangold, who shared a recording of marine life – ocean voices. Trisha and Leslie are co-founders of the World Whale Day event in February at Pt. Pleasant.

A beautiful, large sand sculpture of a whale and marine life created by The Bikini Boys was created for the campaign relaunch event. An Open House followed to educate and motivate citizens to become “Ocean Rebels for the COZ.”

To sign-up to be an Ocean Rebel for the COZ, engaged either as campaign leaders, petition captains, outreach and advocacy volunteers, and more, go to CleanOceanAction.org.

NJ Plastics Council Wraps-up Report

A New Jersey law established the Plastics Advisory Council (PAC), which has met since April 2022 and completed its First Year Report this past May. The PAC works to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the statewide single-use plastics law that prohibits the use of plastic carryout bags in all stores and food service businesses statewide, bans single-use paper carryout bags in larger grocery stores, prohibits the dispensing of polystyrene foam food service products, and only allows single-use plastic straws upon customer request.

“The PAC’s First Year Report highlights the successful implementation of the law and sets forth a robust and comprehensive agenda for the coming year which is a testament to the Council members’ outstanding due diligence and commitment to the mission,” said Clean Ocean Action’s Executive Director Cindy Zipf, Chair of the Plastic Advisory Council (PAC).

The first-year report is presented in four sections, including a section that identifies 20 “Opportunities for Action” recommending steps to reduce plastic waste. In year two, the PAC is studying the environmental and public health impacts of single-use plastics, as well as additional policy and legislative steps to further reduce waste and increase plastics recycling.

To read the report, go to <https://dep.nj.gov/get-past-plastic>.



MAY 4, 2023
FINAL REPORT

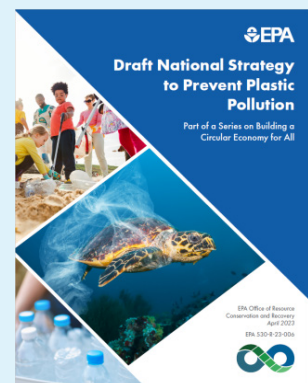
Preventing Plastic Pollution Nationwide

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the “Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution” for public review and feedback. It “focuses on actions to reduce, reuse, collect, and capture plastic waste.” The EPA identified three key objectives for the strategy:

- **Objective A:** Reduce pollution during plastic production.
- **Objective B:** Improve post-use materials management.
- **Objective C:** Prevent trash and micro/nanoplastics from entering waterways and remove escaped trash from the environment.

Learn more about the strategy by watching the EPA webinar:

EPA.gov/CircularEconomy/Draft-National-Strategy-Prevent-Plastic-Pollution.



MEET THE SUMMER CREW

Caitlyn Czajkowski came to COA in February 2023, joining the team as Community Science Fellow through the summer! She grew up in NJ, spending her summers along Delaware Bay and in South Jersey. Her love of the natural world led her to pursue a B.A. in Biology at Rowan University in 2018. Since then, she has worked at marine ecology labs throughout NJ, gaining firsthand experience in the science that is used to protect and preserve coastal and marine ecosystems. Working alongside NJ’s coastal communities and ecosystems has fostered a lifelong love for NJ’s unique coastal ecosystems and the communities that depend on them. Caitlyn pursued her master’s degree in Natural Resources at Delaware State University where she spent 3 years working within the aquaculture industry, particularly oyster aquaculture, as a NOAA-LMRCS Fellow, and a NOAA NERTO intern. While finishing her thesis, she has brought her wide range of expertise to COA! As we see Caitlyn off to the next steps of her journey, the COA crew extends waves of thanks for all the SEA-rific work she’s done!



Caitlyn Czajkowski
Community Science Fellow



Victoria Caliendo
Marine Debris Intern

Meet COA’s Marine Debris Intern, and upcoming sophomore from Ohio State University, Victoria Caliendo! Driven by her love for the environment and the ocean, she has chosen to study Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife with a specialization in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. Victoria is making a splash assisting with Corporate Beach Sweeps while gearing up for the biannual Fall Beach Sweeps in October!

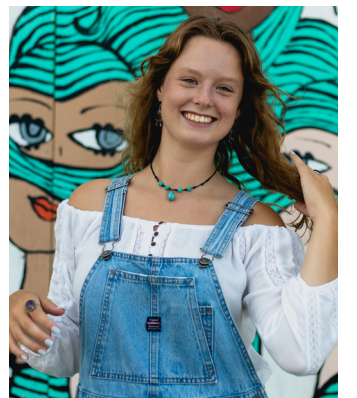
“My favorite part of the sweeps is the collection of the data and learning about what each group found during the sweeps as it impacts the annual Beach Sweeps report” says Victoria.

She also enjoys learning about microplastics and the variety of environmental problems affecting the NY Bight while gaining experience with public speaking and engaging others. Victoria’s passion for the ocean is making a splash to help reduce litter on NJ beaches and in waterways!

COA is thrilled to welcome UC Berkeley rising sophomore, Fiona Griffin, as the summer Advocacy & Policy Intern!

“With a deep love for all natural, sustainable things, I am passionate about merging these values with the ever-changing business world,” says Fiona.

Currently studying Environmental Economics and Policy, Fiona is excited to spend the summer diving into offshore wind issues. She’s been volunteering with COA since she was a child and is happy to continue growing her passion for environmental advocacy. As a full-time intern, she is included in influential meetings and events, helps with research and developments in ocean-related policies, while assisting with public comment submissions. After COA, Fiona will be Education Director at California’s chapter of Surfrider this fall and looks forward to bringing what she learns from COA to the West Coast. Fiona is already making waves to ensure the health and protection of the ocean!



Fiona Griffin
Advocacy & Policy Intern



Stephen Myer
Water Quality Intern

Waves of welcome to COA’s Water Quality Intern, Stephen! As a junior at the University of Vermont, he’s majoring in Environmental Science with a minor in Chemistry.

“Growing up on the Jersey Shore, I had been exposed to numerous environmental issues plaguing the ocean, limiting its ability to support marine life and the coastal community. Having participated in my community’s Beach Sweeps, and aspiring toward a career to help restore local ecosystems, I am thrilled to intern with COA,” said Stephen.

Stephen has been quick to learn and adapt: diving right into relaunching the Rally for the Two Rivers, leading the Community Science table at Eco-Fest, getting regular experience in the lab, and so much more! Stephen is most excited about his work in the field and the lab. His work with COA helps improve water quality and build community scientist volunteers to protect our regional watershed!

EDUCATION

Kristen Grazioso, Education Coordinator, Education@CleanOceanAction.org
Kira Cruz, Debris Free Sea Coordinator, BeachSweeps@CleanOceanAction.org

Students Experience a Day of Science at the Beach

On May 17th and 18th, Clean Ocean Action welcomed 28 middle schools from central and northern New Jersey to Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook for the 35th Annual Spring Student Summit!

Over 700 middle school students, teachers, and chaperones experienced hands-on marine environmental education by participating in environmental roundtables and interactive field trips. Some of the environmental learning activities included identifying invertebrates, exploring the impact of debris on marine life, properly handling horseshoe crabs, and more! High school students from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST) served as peer teachers at workstations and on field trips, passing along what they've learned in the classroom to younger students. In addition, local naturalists and marine education professionals led students in field activities throughout the park. Field trips included river seining, coastal scavenger hunts, birding, and many more!

Clean Ocean Action's Student Summits have expanded learning beyond the classroom for thousands of middle school students across New Jersey for 35 years. We extend waves of thanks to our sponsors at John Ben Snow Memorial Trust, and to Eloise & John Pound in memory of Anne Inman Webster.



A student picks up a horseshoe crab for the first time!

Beachy Clean Fun at Corporate Beach Sweeps

Clean Ocean Action's Corporate Beach Sweeps are in full swing at Sandy Hook! COA has been hosting these events since 2005 and the program continues, growing stronger every year. The program was created after much success with the statewide Beach Sweeps which started in 1985.

From June to mid-September, corporations flock to the beaches of Sandy Hook ready to make a difference in the community and enhance their teambuilding skills. Why Sandy Hook? It is the perfect location as the first capture site for nonpoint source pollution from more populated areas. This debris washes ashore from each tide and weather-changing event.



The Merck Animal Health team celebrates successful sweeps at Horseshoe Cove and Sod Banks!

COA has an impressive and exciting season ahead with over 20 corporate partners ready to make waves and remove harmful debris! It is exciting to see the impact these volunteers make on the beach and the single-use waste reducing lessons learned being put to work at the office and in their daily lives!



SEAL Students - Making Change Happen

Clean Ocean Action is proud to announce that 30 fantastic high school students from across Monmouth County graduated from the Student Environmental Advocates and Leaders (SEAL) Program on May 11th! Celebrating its third year, the SEAL Program wrapped-up with an inspiring graduation event under a big tent behind COA HQ, where the SEALs presented their community projects to a sea of supporters. Friends, family, school advisors, and more listened proudly as the students discussed their community projects.

Since the program's orientation in October, the students met at the COA office twice a month, learning about grassroots activism and community advocacy while developing community campaigns of their own. Each campaign was geared toward helping solve an environmental issue of the students' choice, while heavily focusing on peer-collaboration and community engagement. From butterfly gardens to bat houses to reducing fast fashion and pollution, the projects made communities ecologically healthier and cleaner.



Celebrating SEAL graduation!

At graduation, the packed tent buzzed with unity and pride for each student as they shared the power of positivity and taking action! Congratulations to the SEALs for making a difference! These environmental leaders are sure to continue making waves of change!

Eco-Fest

On Saturday, June 3, COA and the Rumson Environmental Commission (Rumson EC) hosted the 5th Annual Rally for the Two Rivers Eco-Fest at Victory Park, in Rumson, NJ. This free event was made possible thanks to our ECO-rific sponsors: **Bayshore Recycling, Sea Bright Solar, and Mazza Recycling Services!**

Attendees of all ages enjoyed hands-on interactions with terrapins and other coastal critters, educational demonstrations and activities, river seining, making paper boats, eco-friendly crafts, live music, making seed balls, and more—all in the spirit of "Waterway Mindfulness" education! The event "connected the drops" by highlighting the importance of keeping the rivers clean to also ensure a healthy ocean. Families dove into the fun by visiting education stations throughout the park and receiving a stamp in their Environmental Passport at each station. Completed passports showing visitors experienced every station were eligible to redeem for eco-friendly giveaways and special treats from participating local businesses. Some local teachers even offered extra credit or a homework pass if students brought their completed passports to class!

Eco-Fest is coordinated as part of COA's **Rally for the Two Rivers initiative**—an alliance of organizations and towns dedicated to improving and protecting the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers.



Eco-Fest attendees show off their nearly completed Passports!

EVENTS

Jocelyn Graham, Resource & Development Director, Development@CleanOceanAction.org

Another Shindiggy Shore Shindig by the Sea

Waves of thanks to all who attended this year's Shore Shindig in support of a clean and healthy ocean! It was a fun night celebrating oceanside at Windows on the Water at Surf Rider Beach Club. Shindiggers enjoyed a beautiful evening including a gorgeous sunset followed by a spectacular full moonrise glimmering over the ocean. Partygoers also relished phenomenal fare thanks to delectable dishes served by Chef Pete and Lusty Lobster's raw bar, endless cocktails at the open bar including Big Blue Sponsor, Tito's Handmade Vodka's specialty drink, and music from Thom White & The Flatliners kept everyone moving on the dance floor until well into the night's end. The evening was highlighted by a successful 50/50 raffle and some incredible silent auction wins—thanks to all who participated!

Special thanks to our: generous Big Blue Sponsors: Bayshore Recycling, Trudy & Charlie Parton, Shore Point Distributors, Tito's Handmade Vodka; as well as Sandcastle Sponsors: A&C Watercolors and World Subaru; and Underwriters: Builders General (Band), Scottie Franklin and Wes Parsons (Decorations), Etta Kelly (Decorations), Thompson Memorial (Decorations), and The Tildesley Family (Valet). In gratitude, COA presented the LoBiondo Family with a very special print called "Triumphant Return" by Alexis Herman. Can't wait to "SEA" you all again next year!



The Bayshore Recycling



The Shore Point Distributing Family



(Left to Right) Alexis Herman, James LoBiondo, and Cindy Zipf



Thom White & The Flatliners



Partygoers tearing up the dance floor thanks to Thom White & The Flatliners!



COA Volunteer, Wendy Kaplan, (Middle Right) with family and friends

Run The Hook

As has become a tradition thanks to Trustee, Joey Garofalo, COA celebrated Mother Ocean this past Mother's Day on Sandy Hook with a sold out Run The Hook event! Proceeds from the race benefit COA's work to keep our ocean wild and pollution free! It was a beautifully sunny day with 1,400 runners ready to go the distance for the ocean with their families present to support. Waves of thanks to all the true blue ocean advocates—especially, the many Moms and sponsors who came out to spend the morning advocating to protect the ocean!



Run The Hook 2023 kicks off!



A small ocean advocate spreading peace for the sea!



A group of participants and supporters gather at the iconic RTH lighthouse.



(Left to Right) Cindy Zipf and Board Trustee, Joey Garofalo



Thumbs-up for the Run The Hook race for the ocean!



All smiles after completing the race to keep the sea pollution free!

MEET COA'S NEW CREW MEMBER, JOCELYN GRAHAM

Jocelyn Graham, Resource & Development Director, Development@CleanOceanAction.org



Jocelyn Graham

Resource & Development Director

Jocelyn is COA's new Resource & Development Director! Born and raised at the Jersey Shore, Jocelyn started volunteering at local beaches and marinas throughout her youth. After graduating from Red Bank Catholic, she continued her studies in Education at Delaware State University and her love for the beaches expanded from New Jersey to Delaware. Life came full circle and in 2020, Jocelyn relocated back to New Jersey to continue her work in Education. With COA, however, she's taking a dive of faith into the nonprofit world, seeking to make waves of change to ensure our shores and marine water are "beachy" clean and protected. Her strong passion and internal fulfillment to give back has motivated Jocelyn to join Clean Ocean Action. When she's not shaking hands and working on expanding COA's network, you may catch her shaking up a cocktail behind a local Shore bar. COA is excited to have Jocelyn aboard as she brings her expertise and networking skills to set new goals for a stronger COA-lition with further community reach!

SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD, Staff Scientist, Science@CleanOceanAction.org

Rally for the Two Rivers: Ambient Bacteria Monitoring Re-launch

COA is excited to announce the re-launch of the Rally for the Two Rivers (RTR) ambient bacteria monitoring program this summer! Building upon the success of the Rally for the Navesink initiative, which started in 2016 in response to the downgrade of 500+ acres of shellfish beds in the Navesink River, the 2023 monitoring has expanded to include the Shrewsbury River watershed. We are proud to collaborate with NJDEP to address the challenges faced by these vital waterways.

On May 27, we held our first Rally public meeting at COA's office, where we discussed the objectives and goals of the Program. Following the meeting, we conducted our first Community Scientist training session on June 21 at Monmouth Boat Club. This training equips volunteers with the skills and knowledge needed to participate in water monitoring sampling. We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who attended the training session and were thrilled to see a turnout of passionate individuals dedicated to protecting the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers!

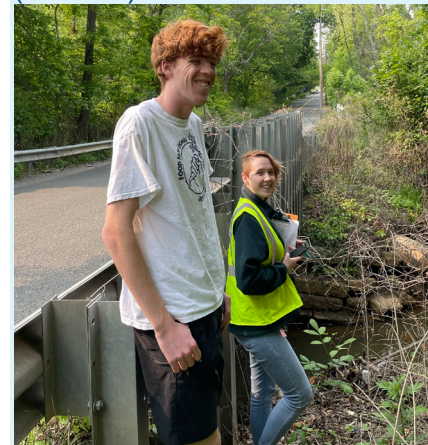
If you are interested in volunteering as a Community Scientist for RTR, please reach out to the Water Quality team at Programs@CleanOceanAction.org. More meetings and trainings are in the works. Whether an experienced scientist or a concerned citizen, your involvement can make a significant difference to the health and well-being of our rivers!



Community Scientists gather for their first Rally for the Two Rivers water sampling training!

Rally for Barnegat Bay: Summer Student Grant Program

Rally for Barnegat Bay (RBB) kicked off the summer with ambient and upstream monitoring of sampling locations around the Toms River by students selected for the Water Quality Research Project under Save Barnegat Bay's Student Grants Program (SGP). This monitoring is funded as part of the NJDEP grant (WM20-022) awarded to COA to track down and eliminate human sanitary sources of pollution in the Toms River subwatershed in partnership with SBB and Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES). Six students have been selected as Student Grant Ambassadors (SGAs) for 2023 to perform ambient/wet-weather monitoring of project sites and additional upstream monitoring over the summer.



Stephen and Caitlyn site scoping for Save Barnegat Bay water monitoring

The results from these monitoring sites will help to understand existing water quality of the Toms River and help to isolate additional pollution sources that need to be fixed. The SGAs have already sampled the Barnegat Bay for the past three weeks with great success. We give our utmost thanks to the students for volunteering to help make a difference in their local watershed!

Three wet weather sampling events remain to be completed. We are searching for more volunteers to help collect data. If you are interested in volunteering as a Community Scientist for RBB, please reach out to the Water Quality team at Programs@CleanOceanAction.org. Training is provided and we welcome scientists and/or concerned citizens seeking to help improve the waterways!



COA IS HIRING: Community Science Program Coordinator

Do you have a passion for the ocean?

How about working for a dynamic and passion-driven ocean protection organization?

The Community Science Program Coordinator is dedicated to applying science, education, and advocacy to engage local citizens and municipal leaders to improve marine watershed health.

Learn more and how to apply at: CleanOceanAction.org/About-COA/Job-Announcements