



Dump No More March for the Shore, August 2000

Diving into Clean Ocean Action's 4th Decade!

Thanks to the smashing success of our Splash Bash, COA officially dove into its 40th year in typical style! Over the decades, COA is known for taking action with poignant pizzazz and grit. Pictured here was a 14-day Dump No More March for the Shore held in August 2000 to protest ocean dumping toxin laden muck. For two weeks, I walked the shore with hundreds of folks from Cape May Point to Sandy Hook, all 127 miles of the Jersey Shore! Each town met us along the way, with people signing blue ribbons in support, and town officials meeting us with flags or memorabilia. All were tied to a long lifeline to demonstrate support for a clean ocean. In the end, COA's campaign was successful—again, thanks to the power of the people. We will be sharing stories throughout the year, and hope you will join us as we create new stories of ocean protection. Thank you, all, for 40 years of defending the ocean! SO far...so great!

Ever onward for the ocean,
Cindy

OCEAN POLICY

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COA Hosts Citizen Hearing on Six Offshore Wind Leases

Clean Ocean Action (COA) hosted a Citizen Hearing on February 20, 2024, in Long Branch, NJ, for community members to provide public comments on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for offshore wind development in six lease areas, totaling 488,000 acres, off the New Jersey and New York coast. Nearly 75 people attended, with 24 people sharing impassioned speeches, moving anecdotes, and illuminating tidbits of



COA's Citizen Hearing on federal plan for six offshore wind lease areas off NY/NJ

information about impacts from offshore wind on fishing, boating, marine mammals, water quality, underwater acoustics, shore life, and more. A professional court reporter captured peoples' comments, which COA officially submitted to BOEM for the record.

An extension to the comment period was granted to March 13! Thank you to everyone who requested a deadline extension for the massive document, including almost everyone who spoke at the citizen hearing (*see more details in the subsection below*). While BOEM held two virtual public meetings and three in-person meetings on the Draft PEIS, the federal agency did not provide an opportunity for verbal testimony as would be expected for a traditional, in-person public comment forum. As a result, many community voices were not heard at a federally held public meeting. BOEM was not present at COA's citizen hearing; however, the agency was represented by a physical "brick wall" erected by COA,

as many community members feel the agency is not listening to their concerns.

More Time to Share Your Comments

BOEM only provided 45 days for the public to review and provide comments on the 1,420+ page Draft PEIS. On the deadline date for comments, BOEM announced an extension to the public comment period. Comments are now due to BOEM by March 13 at 11:59pm ET. See COA's website for an action alert detailing how to submit comments, as well as COA's "Facts and Issues" document about the Draft PEIS. COA's policy, science, and advocacy staff are also reviewing the Draft PEIS, and attended, asked questions, and testified at the BOEM meetings. COA will be submitting detailed comments highlighting deficiencies, lack of science, lack of transparency and good governance, and concerns for impacts on the marine ecosystem.



COA Launches 40 Years with Splash Bash Celebration (see photos & highlights, page 5)



Clean Ocean Action
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Follow COA on Social Media For Ocean Updates!

LABEL

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE
 MARCH 2024

TRIBUTES

In Memory of:

- Peter Cauterucci
- Matteo Liam Coffey
- David B. Crotty
- Melody O'Hara Fair
- Walter "Duke" Frattin
- Michele Ferro Jasionowski
- Carol Anne Ross
- The departed ancestors of the Scarrone Family
- Drew Thompson

In Honor of:

- Mary-Beth and Scott Thompson
- Charlie Rooney
- Suzanne Swift
- Cindy and her team
- Cindy Zipf

Volunteer with Clean Ocean Action!

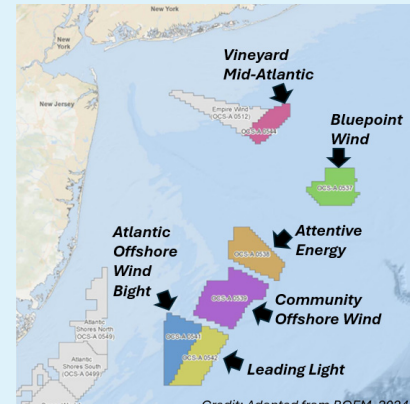
COA has a variety of SEA-rific and exciting opportunities to get involved from talking with people at events to becoming a volunteer Community Scientist! Find the best fit for you and complete a volunteer form today at:

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

NJ Ignores Industry Turmoil & Awarded 168,308 Acres Offshore Wind

In late January, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) announced two new contracts that doubled the amount of offshore wind (OSW) energy planned for the state and increased ocean concerns. The projects approved in BPU's Third OSW Solicitation are called Attentive Energy 2 and Leading Light; these areas total 84,332 acres and 83,976 acres of ocean, respectively.

Amid the increasing financial, technical, economic, and scientific uncertainties within the OSW industry, as well as increasing threats to the marine ecosystem, these contracts fail the test of good governance, fiscal responsibility, and due diligence. A reasonable decision would have been to cancel or, at minimum, pause the solicitation and await the results of the pending federal OSW cost/benefit analysis by the federal Government Accountability Office (GAO). The true impacts of OSW are not known, and this expansion of offshore wind is irresponsible, reckless, and puts the ocean at risk.



Six OSW lease areas off NY/NJ in BOEM's Draft PEIS, including contracts awarded by NJ to Attentive Energy and Leading Light
Credit: Adapted from BOEM, 2024

COA Calls for Common Sense from the Biden Administration

On February 2, 2024, Clean Ocean Action sent a letter to U.S. President Biden demanding that his administration stop offshore wind (OSW) development until the Government Accountability Office's upcoming study on OSW in the North Atlantic is released, a pilot project is conducted, and an independent study concludes OSW has no role in the recent whale deaths off the NJ/NY coast. The letter outlines the evidence for COA's environmental, economic, and technological concerns surrounding the offshore wind industry. It is irresponsible to develop OSW as quickly as possible and simply see what happens to ocean life after the fact. OSW development should not proceed until more is known about the industry and whether it will serve as an environmentally beneficial alternative energy source when all the risks are considered.

SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, Water Quality Research Director, Science@CleanOceanAction.org
Kaylee DiPasquale, Community Science Program Coordinator, Programs@CleanOceanAction.org

A Splash of Cheer with Valentines for Community Scientist Volunteers!

The water quality team celebrated Valentine's Day with an extra sweet treat to thank the Rally for Two Rivers volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the program. Since the relaunch of the program in July 2023, the Rally for Two Rivers bacteria source trackdown has completed 29 weekly sampling events of the Navesink River and 7 bi-weekly sampling events along the Shrewsbury River since October 2023. As of Valentine's Day, our trained community scientists have helped to collect 721 water samples! Data from the collected samples is used to identify and eliminate sources of bacteria pollution in the Two Rivers watershed. A public meeting for the Rally for Two Rivers will be hosted on March 20 at COA Headquarters to share updates on the pathogen pollution trackdown program.

Interested in joining the Rally for Two Rivers program as a community scientist?

Please email Programs@CleanOceanAction.org to learn more about how you can become a trained community scientist!



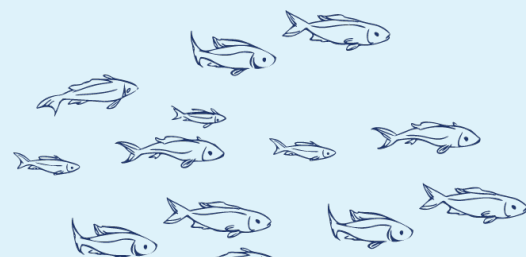
Valentines of appreciation for COA's volunteer Community Scientists



Community Scientist, Bill, gifted flowers to COA's Kaylee and Swarna as a thank you



COA's Kaylee delivers Valentines to Community Scientists



SOUTH JERSEY

Toni Groet, South Jersey Coordinator, Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org

Connect with COA on the NJ Southern Coast

South Jersey—join COA for information sessions near you and learn how you can get involved to help defend the ocean!

Executive Director, Cindy Zipf, will be speaking at COA's offshore wind information session in Cape May Court House area in April, stay tuned.

Our next COA Volunteer Meet and Greet is Tuesday, March 26, at the Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum in the Hunting Shanty building from 6pm - 7pm. At this meeting, locals will have a chance to learn more about the history of Clean Ocean Action, our education and volunteer programs, current citizen action campaigns, and ways they can make a difference in their communities. For anyone looking to help protect the ocean, there are opportunities with COA!

Interested in having a COA Meet and Greet or focused information session in your town? Or looking to get involved in ocean advocacy in Southern New Jersey?

Email South Jersey Coordinator, Toni Groet at Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org.



EVENTS

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

Splash Bash was a Smash, Launching 40 Years!

On Saturday, February 24, COA hosted the "Splash Bash" to celebrate 40 years of ocean advocacy! Over 100 people gathered in Sea Bright, the town where COA started, for a pre-Splash breakfast at Tommy's Tavern + Tap, and then at the beach to splash, dip, dive, or plunge for ocean protection! Along with cake and cupcakes to celebrate COA's birthday, participants received COA branded socks to recognize their continued efforts to "sock" it to ocean pollution!



Splash Bash participants makes a splash for COA!
Current Media Company

Waves of thanks to the amazing Splash Bash participants including COA volunteers, local business owners and friends from our 40 years! Special thanks to Tommy's Tavern + Tap of Sea Bright for the beautiful event space and delicious breakfast!

It was a brisk day, yet many brave souls entered the 42-degree freezing water to the tune of "Wipe Out" by the Surfaris to commemorate their COA support! Charlie Rooney, whose father was Sea Bright Mayor when COA was founded, gathered locals and plunged for the cause! Dan Jacobson, the only guest that was at our launch event in 1984, joined the celebration at breakfast. New supporters gathered from CrossFit Shrewsbury to join the mighty COA-lition, and dedicated ocean-lover "Polar Barry" from Coffee Surf Co. made his daily "plunge"

in support of a clean, healthy ocean. Special thanks to: the Borough of Sea Bright and Chief Friedman for making the event possible; Sea Bright Public Works for making sure the beach was stunningly clean; and Sea Bright Police Dept., Fire Dept. and EMS for ensuring everyone's safety! Thank you to Lucky Dog Surf for the continued support and offering a 30% discount storewide to all Splash Bash registrants during the weekend of the event.

There was an ocean of emotion in the salty air as the community and dedication from those new to COA and those long sustained, was enough to warm the hearts of all! Thank you, fabulous true-blue friends and family! We are proud to continue making waves of change with you.



COA's Cindy Zipf welcomes Splash Bash attendees at Tommy's Tavern + Tap
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Friends from the surfing community celebrate at COA's Splash Bash



Cindy makes a splash to celebrate COA's 40 year legacy
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Birthday cupcakes for all
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EDUCATION

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

Spring Student Summit – Free Seaside Symposium

CALLING ALL 5TH-8TH GRADE TEACHERS: Looking for a FREE and SEA-rific field trip for your students? Look no further! Spots are still available for teachers to apply to attend the Spring Student Summit at Gateway National Recreation Area – Sandy Hook, on May 15 or 16th!

Designed to meet core curriculum standards and reinforce STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) concepts, the Spring Student Summit is a unique hands-on program for students to receive outdoor education at the shore!

Apply by April 15 for your group of (up to) 30 students to attend.



Apply at CleanOceanAction.org/Education-Programs/Student-Summit or scan the QR code. Questions? Email Education@CleanOceanAction.org.



Students learn about the effects of runoff on local watersheds at the '23 Student Summit

Seeing is Believing! SEAL Students See the Real Deal at Bayshore Recycling!

Do you know the meaning of the three arrows in the recycling symbol? Gary Sondermeyer, Vice President of Operations at Bayshore Recycling Center, has the answer. This month, Gary spoke with the Student Environmental Advocates & Leaders (SEAL) program students to teach them the history and current status of recycling in New Jersey. This informational and insightful presentation was followed by a tour of the recycling facility a few weeks later, giving the students an exciting opportunity to put what they learned into perspective!



SEAL students and COA staff with Bayshore Recycling's VP of Operations, Gary (center left), and Operations Manager, Michael (center right)

From standing next to massive bundles of recycled material to watching advanced machinery separate specific materials, the students learned firsthand what happens to recyclables from the time they are used to the time they are sold for their next life cycle.

This educational field trip reinforces and enhances the students' knowledge of the importance of practicing proper recycling habits and lessening our consumption of single use materials. Education on this topic is central to many of the SEALs environmental advocacy projects and critical for keeping our oceans clean and marine life healthy.

Thank you to Gary Sondermeyer, Michael Oppelt and the whole Bayshore Recycling team for educating the SEAL students for the third consecutive year—it remains a true program highlight. This support of COA's educational

programs allows us all to continue this ripple effect of sharing knowledge and diving into proper recycling and disposal practices in our own communities!

Spring Beach Sweeps: Registration is OPEN!

Grab your buckets and gloves—it's time to spring into action to fight plastic pollution with Beach Sweeps! Head over to CleanOceanAction.org and register today! We have over 80 sites to choose from statewide—a record number since clean ups started in 1985! This includes several new locations to the Beach Sweeps family this upcoming year:

Gloucester County

- West Deptford – Rivergate Boat Ramp
- West Deptford – Riverwinds Restaurant/Kayak Launch

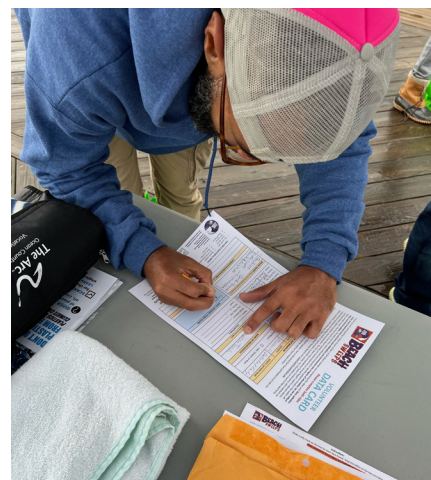
Middlesex County

- Perth Amboy – Sadowski Parkway Waterfront Park

Ocean County

- Long Beach Island – Brant Beach

Visit our website for a map of participating sites to select your favorite one or to find a site near you. What are you waiting for? Come join the beachy-clean fun at Beach Sweeps and let's make a difference, together. SEA you there!



Beach Sweeps volunteer fills out data card to track litter collected

CLEAN OCEAN ACTION

BEACH SWEEPS

SCAN ME

Saturday, April 13, 2024
9am - 12:30pm (rain or shine)

Volunteers needed at 80+ NJ locations!

Register at CleanOceanAction.org

BRING YOUR OWN BUCKET & WORK GLOVES

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Act Green to Build a Sustainable Future

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