



Clean Ocean Advocate

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Save the Date!
 August 13th, Seaside Seminar
 September 18th, Blue Star Launch Party
 October 9th, Student Summit, Island Beach State Park
 October 25th, Annual Beach Sweep
 November 7th, COA's 30th Anniversary Party "Denim & Pearls"

- Coastal Management Rules Revisions
 - Seismic Triple Threat
 - Blue Star Tour

August 2014 Highlights

TAKE ACTION TO HELP YOUR OCEAN:

1. Sign the petition against seismic testing at stopnuclearseismic.org.
2. Volunteer to be an active ocean advocate thru COAST.

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www.CleanOceanAction.org
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LABEL



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- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**
- Contact Heather (coast@cleanoceanaction.org) to participate with COA at any of these events!
- 8/9/14 Harvest the Bay Day, Island Beach State Park, 3pm-8pm
 - 8/23/14 Jersey Shore Jazz and Blues Festival, Long Branch, 12pm-9:30pm
 - 9/6/14 4th Annual Green Fair, Brick Township, 10am-2pm
 - 9/6/14 Environmental Fair, Library Park, Plainfield, 11am-3pm
 - 9/7/14 Beach Plum Festival, Seaside Heights, 9am-4pm
 - 9/13/14 Hammonton's Green Day, St. Joseph's High School, Hammonton, 12pm-4pm
 - 9/14/14 4th Annual Paddle the Navesink Day, Maple Cove, Red Bank, 11am-3pm

TRIBUTES



In Honor Of
 Janine Karoly
 Liz Fordi and Adam Rechnitz's Wedding

In Memory Of
 Charlie Capro
 Millie and Dominic Cusano
 Samuel Karinja

Corporate Sweeps: An Intern's Perspective

Abby van Hemmen, Intern@cleanoceanaction.org

Growing up in Monmouth County, and attending Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School, spending my summers at the ocean was expected.



When I moved to Seattle to attend the University of Washington, my mind-set didn't change. I quickly found myself as close to the ocean as possible, studying marine biology. Coming home for the summer, I knew I didn't want my ocean-streak to end, so I applied for and was hired as the Marine Debris Intern with Clean Ocean Action.

The Marine Debris Intern has many responsibilities, including assisting with the Beach Sweeps data and organizing the Corporate Beach Sweeps. While most are aware of COA's annual Beach Sweep program, fewer know about the Corporate Sweeps. During the months of May through October, companies are offered the chance to participate in a beach cleanup on Sandy Hook tying in teamwork and team building. The event is staffed by COA employees and includes an educational element which provides insight on pollution and how people can prevent it. I have now helped at two Corporate Sweeps and while each were entirely unique, both events made it on my list of favorite days as a COA intern.

It was great to get out on the beach and out of the office, but it was equally as exciting to witness the participants' enthusiasm in doing their part to clean up the beach. Teams of two or three walked to the beach with a recycling and garbage bag, and no one came back empty handed. It was shocking, even for me, a lifelong Sandy Hook goer, how much trash was collected. I quickly learned that even though the beach looked great after each company's sweep, it doesn't mean the job is done. Within a week, it seemed like the trash on the beaches was replenished reminding me of the greater need for prevention measures. Until those measures are in place, programs such as the Corporate Sweeps provide participants the ability to affect change firsthand. I can't wait for the next Corporate Sweep!

If you or a company you know are interested in the Corporate Sweeps, please contact Catie Tobin at education@cleanoceanaction.org or 732-872-0111.

Coastal Management Rules Revisions

In June, The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) announced that it would be consolidating the rules that determine how development occurs in coastal areas. These changes are being billed as administrative in nature, to streamline permitting and reduce paperwork. However, some of the changes proposed could have significant consequences for our coastal waters.

Staff Scientist Cassandra Ornell spoke at the first of three public hearings, held in Long Branch on June 25. She highlighted the fact that the proposal does not specifically address actions that will be taken in the permitting and development process to increase resiliency at the coast, and protect coastal communities from sea level rise and extreme storm events. To the contrary, several provisions in the new rules would allow more development in sensitive coastal areas, only increasing future risk. The ability to develop more properties on a single lot in shoreline coastal areas will not only endanger residents and their livelihoods, but increase polluted stormwater runoff, and further impact the quality of our coastal waters.

The rules also change several aspects of dredged material management. The conditions that determine maintenance dredging are being relaxed, so that dredging in areas that were last dredged long ago would now fall under the definition of "maintenance dredging," and therefore be dredged back to historical levels. This change would allow for less restrictive dredging protocols in areas that are not currently used for navigation, and opens the way for new development in farther upstream areas. Similarly, time restrictions for dredged material management areas would be relaxed, thereby allowing historical sites that are now productive functioning wetlands that filter pollutants from the water and that may contain threatened or endangered species to potentially be reverted back to dredged material management areas.

Marina expansion and new development would be permitted (under specific conditions) in shellfish areas. Although these areas may be small, there is no limit in the law to how many of these areas can be developed, that is, there would be no limit to the amount of total shellfish area that would be lost. This change will impact water quality and further reduce already dwindling shellfish resources, as well as affect those who depend on the resource for a living.

At over 1,000 pages, the details of the rule changes are too numerous to mention. Clean Ocean Action and several other environmental organizations met with the NJDEP in July to gain further clarity about the proposed changes, and to discuss the potential implications of these changes. COA has since prepared and submitted extensive written comments on the rule proposal. At time of printing comments were due to the DEP. Please stay posted for any updates.

SCIENCE AND ADVOCACY

Cassandra Ornell, Science@cleanoceanaction.org

Seismic Triple Threat to Atlantic Ocean

Amid great public outcry about the Rutgers ocean blasting study off Barnegat Light, NJ, two larger-scale seismic projects have recently been announced that together span the entire Eastern Seaboard. This triple-threat of ocean blasting includes a United States Geological Survey (USGS) seismic study of the continental shelf for sovereignty and tsunami hazard investigations and the Obama Administration's approval of seismic testing in the mid- and south-Atlantic for the purposes of locating potential oil and gas deposits.



Although Rutgers University was given the final approval on July 2 to conduct their 30-day seismic survey, it is unclear if the researchers have been able to conduct any ocean blasting since that time. First, the State of New Jersey went to the District Court and then to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals to request a temporary halt to the study, which they were ultimately denied. Also, the ship to be used in the testing has twice experienced equipment failures and returned to port; the vessel was still moored in Brooklyn as of July 29. Rutgers' time with the ship is running out, as their federal approvals expire on August 17 and the USGS has reserved the same vessel from mid-August to mid-September for the first leg of their two-part seismic survey of the Atlantic continental shelf. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued conditional approval for the USGS to harass 19,497 marine mammals with their study. COA submitted extensive comments to NMFS, which urged further environmental review of the project's impacts to marine life and greater consideration of alternatives and stronger mitigation measures. On July 18, the Obama Administration issued its final authorization for seismic surveys in the mid- and south-Atlantic Ocean associated with oil and gas exploration. The Atlantic coast has been under a drilling moratorium for decades, and this decision brings oil and gas companies one step closer to offshore drilling by allowing them to start looking for fossil fuels off our shores.

Visit StopRutgersOceanBlasting.org to sign the petition against ocean blasting approved to take place now off Barnegat Light.

EDUCATION

Catie Tobin, Education@cleanoceanaction.org

Blue Star Program on Tour!

This summer, the COA staff has taken the Blue Star program 'on the road' to encourage towns to participate. Staff have met with various municipalities, including Galloway, Margate, Red Bank, and Manchester to discuss Sustainable Jersey Certification, and promote becoming a Blue Star Community. Staff has also spoken at several county planning boards, organization meetings, and regional events, including the Cape-Atlantic Sustainable Jersey Networking Group, the Margate Stormwater Forum, and the Sustainable Raritan River Conference.



We are ready to make it official, and are excited to announce September 18th as the Official Blue Star Program Launch Date. COA will be holding an event for municipalities, organizations, and the public to unveil the Blue Star Program and there will be a panel of experts on hand showing off innovative ways to implement actions that diagnose water quality issues, reduce nonpoint source pollution, and help towns become more resilient. Save the date, and stay tuned for more details!

As previously mentioned, COA has joined forces with the Sustainable Jersey Program and the Dodge Foundation to help towns focus on water quality issues. The Blue Star Program follows the same model as Sustainable Jersey, with towns earning points toward a "Blue Star" when they complete actions that focus on improved water quality. The program is a great way for towns to highlight that they care about their watershed and the ocean, and engage residents in building better communities.

For more information about getting involved or a list of events we will be attending, please contact Catie Tobin. To learn about the Sustainable Jersey Program, please visit: <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/>

EVENTS

Tory Woods, Events@cleanoceanaction.org

Stand up for the ocean!

On Sunday, July 13, 2014, over 128 paddlers came out to participate in Clean Ocean Action and Surfers' Environmental Alliance's Shore Paddle. The Stand-Up Paddle (SUP) board event consisted of an 8-mile World Paddle Association points sanctioned Race and a 3-mile Fun Paddle. It was a beautiful day in Victory Park, Rumson, NJ and even with the challenging conditions on the Navesink River, the participants managed to paddle on!

Congratulations to our winners! Robin Delgado was our top finisher overall and paddled a 14' Stand-Up Paddleboard and was followed closely by the prone division winner, Michael Connor. The men's 12'6" division was won by Michael Fithian. The women's division was won by Kim Levins on a 12'6" board and Mary Dawson paddling a 14' board. It was a close race overall. Congratulations to everyone who completed the course!

Not a paddler? Not a problem! At Victory Park there were fun activities for all ages to enjoy! Newcomers were able to get their feet wet and learn to paddleboard and demo different SUP boards. Relaxing yoga classes, taught by Kristin Gould of Ohanala Yoga, took place on the grassy knoll and were open to the public.



Photo by Ryan Struck

Children had a blast getting their face painted, crafting and painting sailboats from reclaimed driftwood, and decorating cheer cards to show their support for their favorite racers. Monmouth County Park System seized the Victory Park beach where the children discovered and learned about the marine life in the Navesink River.



Photo by Natalie Markova

Clean Ocean Action looks forward to hosting Shore Paddle for many years to come and we are excited to expand its reach. Through this event we are able to engage and educate members of our community on the importance of clean water and beaches, while enjoying a beautiful day on the water and at Victory Park. Stay tuned and join us for next summer's Shore Paddle!

For more updates and pictures from the event, please visit [Facebook.com/ShorePaddle](https://www.facebook.com/ShorePaddle).

SUPPORTING COA'S WORK

Diana Reinhardt Paradis, Development@cleanoceanaction.org

Be part of Jack Johnson's new tour

COA joined Jack Johnson at the Mann Center in Philadelphia June 6th! You can be part of this special event – Jack's foundation, the Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation, will match donations to COA made this summer. Mark your gift as "All At Once" and make your gift more powerful!

As part of the All At Once campaign, Jack is collaborating with selected community groups around the world to promote both plastic free initiatives and sustainable local food systems. COA intern Gianna Fischer and MAST graduate Angelina Tolen educated concert attendees about the "dirty dozen" – the top items we find each year during Beach Sweeps, such as plastic pieces, cigarette butts, and plastic beverage bottles. Gianna and Angelina also offered COA's tote bags made from recycled plastic for sale, illustrating the utility of reusable bags. (Call the COA office to get your own tote bag!)



Jack Johnson with Angelina Tolen and COA intern Gianna Fisher

Jack and his family stopped at the table before the show, thanking COA for keeping the NJ/NY beaches clean and attending his concert. The cleanliness of our beaches means a lot to Jack due to his love for the ocean. He also told COA that he enjoys surfing on the Jersey Shore when he is in the area – maybe you'll spot him at your local surf spot!

COA would like to thank Jack and his family for including COA on his tour and for all his hard work on behalf of the ocean. Jack is currently touring in support of his new album *From Here To Now To You*, available at jackjohnsonmusic.com.

Community Supper for the Shore

COA would like to thank Dori and Tom Baldassarre, the owners of The Stirling Hotel, for their continued support of clean oceans. For the third year in a row, the Baldassarre's have donated a portion of the proceeds from July's Community Supper to Clean Ocean Action.

On the third Wednesday of each month, The Stirling Hotel hosts Community Supper and chooses a different, local, non-profit organization as the beneficiary. In addition to their tasty menu, they offer a three course meal at a special price to encourage diners to give back.

The Stirling Hotel, located at 227 Main Ave in Stirling, NJ, was built in the early 1900's. The landmark restaurant has been transformed into a family destination by the Baldassarre family, who took over the historic location in 1983. They specialize in comfort foods and a continuously changing offering of domestic craft beers.



Waves of thanks to Baldassarre family for their generous support of Clean Ocean Action. Visit www.thestirlinghotel.com to learn more about the Community Supper program and other special events at The Stirling Hotel.

Special Thanks to Committee Members

Chair Andrea Reichert
Race Director Harris Davis
Elaine Eadon, Ben Hamilton,
Richie Lee, Trudy & Charlie Parton,
TJ Reilly, Jen Sidun,
Scott Thompson, Tyler Thompson,
Greg Weber, Ariane Yazdan,
Bryan Zinski

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