

2005 Sites

Asbury Park Atlantic Highlands Atlantic City Avalon Avon **Barnegat Bay Head** Belmar **Bradley Beach** Brick Brigantine Cape May Cape May Ct. House **Cape May Point** Deal Elberon Glen Ridge Highlands Island Beach St. Park Keansburg **Keyport Lake Fred** Lavallette **Long Branch** Manasquan **Mantoloking** Margate **Monmouth Beach Ocean City Ocean Grove Ortley Beach Port Monmouth** Pt. Pleasant Pt. Pleasant Beach Sandy Hook Sea Bright Sea Girt **Sea Isle City Seaside Heights Seaside Park Spring Lake** Stone Harbor Strathmere **Tinton Falls** Tuckerton **Union Beach** Ventnor **Villas** Wildwood Wildwood Crest

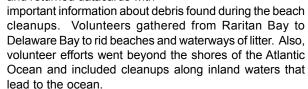
GLEAN OCEAN ACTION'S

Beach Sweeps & Waterway Cleanup Annual Report - 2005

lean Ocean Action (COA), a broad-based coalition of over 150 organizations working to improve and protect the waters off the New Jersey and New York coasts, hosted its 20th Annual Beach Sweeps in 2005. The Beach Sweeps, held in New Jersey, is one of the longest running cleanups of its kind in the United States. This event has grown from 75 people at one

location in 1985, to attracting thousands of volunteers at over 100 sites in 2005.

Despite heavy rain and wind during both 2005 Spring & Fall Beach Sweeps events, 2,769 volunteers braved the weather at 89 locations in 50 municipalities and collected, recorded, and returned datacards with



In all, the combined Spring and Fall Beach Sweeps: • resulted in nearly **7,500** volunteer hours performed

- for the protection of the marine environment,
- collected and recorded over 160,800 items, and
- removed nearly 43,400 pounds of debris from beaches.

It is important to note that hundreds of additional volunteers picked-up debris without completing and returning COA's datacards. Therefore, the numbers in this report (see pages 4-5) are considered conservative.

IN THIS REPORT:

- 2005 Sweeps Data & Highlights
- New Jersey's "Dirty Dozen"
- "Roster of the Ridiculous"

Who Participates in the Beach Sweeps?

People from the tall and the small participate in large groups, or as families or individuals. Many schools, community groups, and organizations lead cleanups or volunteer at the Sweeps. Some groups participate in both spring and fall cleanups and have been involved in the Sweeps for many years (see picture above of Lower Cape May Regional High School students).

In 2005, **196** organizations, including **32** Girl and Boy Scouts groups, **73** schools, **51** environmental and civic groups, and **17** business teams participated. A recent trend is for businesses and corporations to send teams of employees to help in the cleanup effort.

About the Beach Sweeps

Beach Sweeps are necessary for two reasons. **First,** to remove litter because it is lethal to marine life. Often, fish, whales, birds, and other animals mistake litter for food. As a result, animals get entangled or ingest items, such as plastic bags, cigarette filters, and fishing line, with deadly results.

For example, cigarette filters have been found in the stomachs of fish. whales. and birds. blocking and affecting their digestion. Also, the filters, which are made of plastic fibers. trap carcinogenic (cancercausing) chemicals that are introduced into the marine environment when

cigarettes are not disposed properly. These chemicals have been found in fish tissues. In addition, many types of litter, especially plastics, take many decades to several hundred years to break down, thereby threatening wildlife for years to come. **Second**, garbage-strewn beaches can ruin an otherwise wonderful day at the beach.

Ultimately, the **goal** is to eliminate the need for Beach Sweeps. To reach that goal, citizens must be educated about marine debris and taught that they are both the

sources of and the solutions to ocean pollution. The Beach Sweeps events are more than people picking-up trash from beaches. Participants learn about the types and quantities of debris that are found along the coast and the shorelines of rivers, lakes, and streams. Sweeps

Ultimately, the goal is to eliminate the need for Beach Sweeps.

volunteers remove debris and identify, categorize, record, and tally what they collect by using datacards. Each datacard is reviewed and entered in a computer database and analyzed by COA. Over ten years of data is available.

The **data collected** from the beach cleanups is used to identify and monitor pollution trends. The information helps find solutions to keep New Jersey beaches clean and healthy for citizens and marine life. Indeed, the data has been used to help create programs and laws to reduce litter in the environment. In sum, the data turns the one-day events into a legacy for action.

The information from the Beach Sweeps is also made available to the public to further educate people about **nonpoint source pollution**. Finally, the data from the Fall Beach Sweeps is submitted to The Ocean Conservancy in Washington, DC, as part of its international database on marine debris and worldwide campaign against ocean pollution.

