



CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Defending the Sea Since 1984

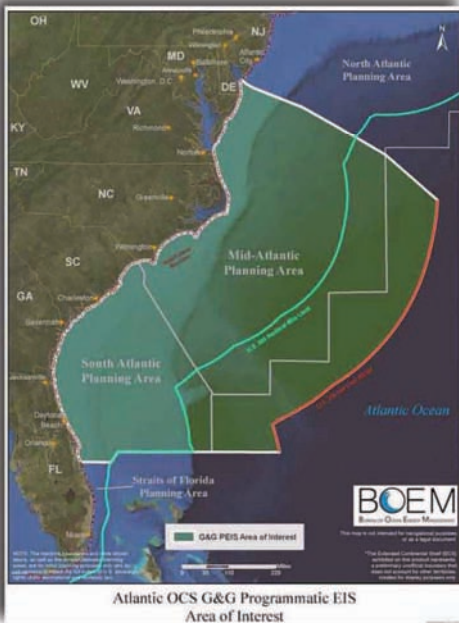


June 2016

The 5-Year Nightmare

In March, tens of thousands of ocean advocates from Florida to New York let out a collective sigh of relief and a victorious cheer as the Obama Administration listened to widespread public opposition to offshore drilling and withdrew the Mid-Atlantic from consideration. Among these voices were NJ ocean champions Rep. Frank Pallone, US Senators Bob Menendez and Cory Booker, US Representatives Frank Pallone and Frank LoBiondo.

However, the proposals for intensive and widespread seismic blasting to search fossil fuel deposits deep in the seabed along the Atlantic Coast continue to move forward. Four possible seismic blasting expeditions would operate in relatively close proximity and saturate the ocean with harmful acoustic noise from Cape May, NJ southward to Cape Canaveral, Florida. Track lines are 90,000 miles, with blasts every 15 seconds for up to one year. This excessive noise energy disrupts critical animal behaviors, displaces fish from their traditional areas of abundance and ensures that any deposits found will be exploited in the future. COA is working with groups around the country



Atlantic OCS G&G Programmatic EIS
Area of Interest

as well as elected officials to put an end to the search for oil and gas in ALL coastal waters.

You can help us! Send a comment to the Obama Administration by June 20, urging them to halt the proposed seismic surveying for oil and gas in the Atlantic, and end their leasing program in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska, as they did in the Atlantic. To do so, please visit [regulations.gov](http://www.boem.gov) and search for "Docket # BOEM-2016-0003" (<http://www.boem.gov/Five-Year-Program-2017-2022/>) and continue to monitor COA's social media and website as we continue to work on this critical issue.

Stuck in the Mud

Clean Ocean Action has over 30 years of experience monitoring dredging projects and advocating environmentally sound solutions to meet real dredging needs in regions waterways. From New York/New Jersey Harbor to Barnegat Bay to Long Island sound, COA has successfully identified and advocated solutions for sediments that range from clean sand to seriously contaminated sediment. As we like to say "COA knows mud"!

In the past several years, dredge material management (what is done with the sediment after it is dug out of navigation channels) has become increasingly critical, especially in state channels and marinas. The locations we traditionally place dredge material (called "confined dredge facilities") eventually fill up, age out or become too expensive. COA considers properly managed dredged material as an asset



that can be utilized in a variety of ways, called "beneficial reuse." Depending on the type of material recovered, dredge material can be used to nourish beaches, raise drowning or deteriorating wetlands, which is occurring rapidly due to sea level rise. Other ecological options, replace or repair eroding shorelines in processes called "living shorelines" and "thin layer placement." Dredge material can also be used as construction fill or landfill cover. Innovative ideas for the utilization of dredged material can help alleviate the pressure many municipalities feel to maintain marinas and navigational channels by finding solutions to their dredge material management problems.

COA continues to review dredging projects and material management plans for environmental impacts and community support. While many of these new technologies are promising and can provide a beneficial use to this sediment issues and questions remain, including: How should the NJDEP best identify projects and beneficial reuse locations? What is the regulatory framework used to vet these projects? What are the environmental criteria? How well can contractors implement these projects?"

Most importantly, COA remains committed to advocating meaningful community engagement, planning and coordination, which are the keys for any successful dredging project.



Funds for Community Cleanups!

This year, a record \$23.7 million in Clean Communities Program grants was awarded to help municipalities and counties conduct litter cleanup to help beautify New Jersey's communities and roadsides. For a complete list of municipal and county grant awards, visit: www.njclean.org

Safe Summer Swimming Sessions



With Independence Day fast approaching, beach season is fully underway. For residents living near the coasts, and thousands of visitors flocking from surrounding states to enjoy some of the best beaches in the country, clean ocean water and beaches is simply a necessity. In fact, recreational water quality underlies and supports multimillion dollar-a-year economies that stretch from Cape May to Montauk. Beachgoers should explore

how New Jersey and New York test their bathing beach waters, where to find this information and what weather patterns may produce a higher risk for swimming-related illnesses.

In New Jersey, check out www.NJBeaches.org, for New York City beaches, visit www.nyc.gov/health/beach, and for New York State beaches, go to <http://parks.ny.gov/recreation/swimming/beach-results/>. "A day at the beach should never turn into a sick day!" US Senator Frank Lautenberg

Clean Ocean Action continues to advocate for the most protective criteria and monitoring programs possible, and looks forward to another great summer season.

The Search for Sand is Noisy

As we stated in our May newsletter, COA has been reviewing the New Jersey Geological and Water Survey and NJDEP funded survey program to identify sand resources off the coast of New Jersey fit for harvest by the US Army Corps of Engineers for beach replenishment activities. The proposed survey is much smaller in scale, magnitude, and scope than the proposed ocean blasting for oil and gas deposits in the Mid and South Atlantic, and even smaller in size and power than last summer's Rutgers University led seismic survey.

Recently, COA met with the program leads at NJDEP headquarters, and is continuing to evaluate the proposal and its potential impacts. What has become very clear over the last several years of working on these related issues is the need for more in depth study on the impacts of seismic surveying equipment, and other sound sources on the marine environment.

The Beach is NOT an Ashtray!

Summer fun -- feet on the beach and splashing in the waves—is near. But it's a bummer when we go to put down our towel and cigarette filters litter the space. The good news is that NJ Legislators are working on reducing cigarette litter with a bill to ban cigarette smoking on beaches and in public parks.

On Tuesday, May 24 on 6th Avenue at the Belmar Boardwalk, Clean Ocean Action Executive Director, Cindy Zipf joined Senate President Steve Sweeney, Mayor of Belmar Matt Doherty, Executive Director of the American Littoral Society Tim Dillingham, John Weber of the Surfrider Foundation and Lynn



Nowak of the American Cancer Society. Senator Sweeney announced he will prioritize the passage of legislation, which was sponsored by NJ Senators Turner and Vitale.

For more information and to stay current on this issue please follow COA's blog and social media sites.

Nowak, Dillingham, Doherty, Zipf, Sweeney & Weber



VOLUNTEERS & EDUCATION

Amanda Wheeler, Volunteers & Education
citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Weekends in May were filled with COA's volunteers or the "Voices of the Ocean" eagerly spreading the message of environmental stewardship at the Bridgewater Eco-Blast, the Belmar NJ Seafood Festival, the Welcome Back Summer Festival in Monmouth Beach and the Ocean Fun Days on Sandy Hook and in Island Beach State Park.

New and experienced volunteers staffed tables throughout NJ this May. "I am really grateful for the opportunity to volunteer for COA," commented volunteer Bambi Magie, "As a "hands on" type person, I really wanted to get involved on a grassroots level with a cause that I am passionate about. So when I heard that COA was looking for volunteers, I was anxious to get involved, as the environmental issues of our coastline are something that is of major concern to me. The tabling experience was so great, as I got to talk to folks face to face about our common love of the ocean...So, as a table newbie, I had a great day!"

COA sends a wave of thanks to our dedicated spokespeople who selflessly volunteer to staff tables throughout the summer. Their high spirits and enthusiasm for educating



Volunteer Stephanie Malewski

the public about ocean issues clearly relays the message for a clean marine environment. "Visitors at the tables from far away are unaware of how fragile the marine environment is and of the threats that the ocean faces," said Bob Bennekamper long-time COA supporter and dedicated marine advocate.

New and experienced volunteers are essential to promote actions for a clean ocean at beachfronts and festivals. Come join our Tabling Team! Call the office and ask for Amanda or email citizens@cleanoceanaction.org.

Welcome Interns! *COA welcomes three amazing interns this summer!*

Chelsea Soriano joined the crew as the Marine Debris Intern. She will graduate next January from Monmouth University with a BS in Science and a major in Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy. Chelsea first became familiar with COA as a MAST high school student when she volunteered at Beach Sweeps and Student Summits. At COA, Chelsea assists with the Corporate Beach Sweeps and statewide Beach Sweeps programs, as well as the microplastics research project.



Spencer Munson is our Nonprofit Management Intern. He will graduate from James Madison University in December 2017 with a B.B.A. in Management and a Non-Profit Studies Minor. Spencer is an avid surfer and is passionate about protecting marine ecosystems. Spencer will assist our development and communications team, as well as contribute to general office management.

This summer's C.O.A.S.T. Intern (Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips) is Cailyn McGrath who attends The

College of New Jersey with a double major in Chemistry and Political Science. Cailyn has been involved since childhood when she helped her parents who volunteered for COA. As the COAST Intern, she will focus the campaign on COA's efforts to reduce pollution and stop ocean industrialization. Efforts will be made to provide information to the public about how they can make a difference in the quality of NJ's coastal waters.



In addition, several other part-time volunteers have joined the crew! They include: Emily Pereman from Verona, Carlton Kelly from Red Bank, NJ and Kyle McManus from Fair Haven, NJ. Together we make quite a splash!



MARINE SCIENCE PROGRAMS

Catie Tobin, Marine Science Education Coordinator
education@CleanOceanAction.org

31st Annual Spring Beach Sweep Over 4,000 Volunteers Swept the Beaches

Waves of thanks to everyone who participated in our 31st Annual Spring Beach Sweeps! Over 4,000 volunteers hit the beaches at over 70 sites from Essex County to Cape May County. Another huge thank you to Clean Ocean Action's Beach Captains, the head volunteers who lead the entire group of participants at each Beach Sweeps location, you are essential to the program's success. COA may organize the cleanup and compile the data, but it is truly the Beach Captains and the volunteers that are the heart and soul of this program.

For three decades volunteers have been making their way to the coast, bays and waterways, twice a year, to clean up debris. Many of the volunteers have personal ties to the Shore and some have decades of Sweeps participation. Congressman Pallone rallied with volunteers at Sandy Hook commenting, "Protecting and preserving the Jersey Shore and the ocean waters is an economic issue as well as an environmental issue. The activities that

evolve around the Shore, such as fishing, boating, swimming and tourism, are key to the state's economy and provide many jobs. I applaud Clean Ocean Action and so many volunteers for their determination to keep our beaches safe and clean".

This spring data recorded will be combined with data collected in the fall at the October 22nd Beach Sweeps. Make sure you mark your calendars for the 31st Annual Fall Sweeps on Saturday October 22nd from 9 AM to 12:30 PM at various locations!



Over 1,000 Students Get Sandy, Wet and Wise at Two-Day Seaside Summit Sandy Hook's Beaches, Trails and Marshes Become Outdoor Classrooms

For 28 years, Clean Ocean Action's Summits have reached over 16,000 students in New Jersey, expanding learning beyond the classroom. The Summit program presents students with an interdisciplinary marine and environmental education experience which complements the NJ Student Learning Standards for Science.

This year COA was very excited to partner with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to bring 4th graders to the Student Summit. Thanks to a possible because of a grant through the National Park Foundation's Every Kid in the Park Transportation Grant in conjunction with NOAA.

Over 1,000 4th - 8th grade students from more than 30 schools throughout NJ joined scientists and volunteer educators at Sandy Hook National Park for COA's Spring Student Summit on Wednesday, May 18, and Thursday, May 19. Students participated in hands-on roundtable activities, which included live horseshoe crabs, seashell identification, marine debris impacts, invertebrates, a demonstration in nonpoint source pollution and climate change, and interactive fieldtrips,



with the beaches, trails and marshes of Sandy Hook as the classroom setting for each day.

Field activities included teaching students to use seine nets to collect and identify common marine species of Sandy Hook Bay, identifying key bird species and the important role Sandy Hook plays in bird migration, testing water quality, and learning fishing techniques. Students also participated in a special beach profiling activity highlighting the importance of dunes in protecting coastal habitat.





Students at NOAA science labs where they observed kiving pu sharks up close before they were returned to their tanks!

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Clean Ocean Advocate, June 2016, Page 4

ANCHOR WATCH

Monthly Spotlight



COA would like to thank Peak Projects for hosting their first annual Run the Hook event on May 15 where over 1,100 men, women and children braved the wind and ran either a 5 or 10k around Sandy Hook to raise funds and awareness for for Clean Ocean Action. Run the Hook was extremely successful and is sure to become a signature event to kick-off the summer season!

TRIBUTES

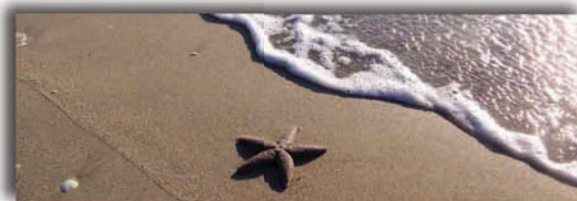


Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

**Gifts made in honor
or in celebration of family or friends.**

In Memory of:

*Beeze & Harry Douty
Christopher Harris
Carol Anne Ross*

In Honor of:

*Birthday of
John Henrikson
Margo Pellegrino*