



# Clean Ocean Advocate

## NJ's Water Quality Report Card

Ever wonder what you're swimming in? The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) 2014 Integrated Report (IR) was released on February 1, 2016. This report analyzes thousands of water samples collected from 2008 to 2012 by local, county, and state entities and assembles these results into a report on the water quality in NJ. It includes the infamous "303(d) list": waters that do not meet the designated water quality standards and are "impaired", meaning they are polluted.

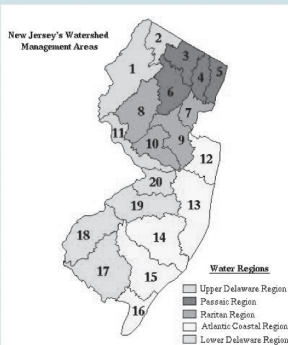
The results of the 2014 Integrated Report are not positive for water quality in NJ: only 14 of the 958 Assessment Units in the state meet all designated uses (such as supporting aquatic life, recreation in or on the water, shellfishing, drinking water, irrigation for agriculture, etc.). **This means that over 98% of the waters in the State fail to fully meet water quality standards.**

While much more analysis of the report needs to be done, there are numerous red flags beyond these troubling results. COA will review and comment on the report, and urge action to improve waterways.

Comments on the 2014 IR are due March 1, giving the public a mere 30 days to review several hundred pages of important information. COA and several other environmental groups have requested that NJDEP extend this timeframe to allow for meaningful review and public comment.

Below is an important link to review; see if any waterbodies in your area have been newly listed or still impaired even after past listings. Let us know if a waterbody in your area has been newly added to the 303(d) list.

- ▷ The 2014 Integrated Report: [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/2014\\_integrated\\_report.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/2014_integrated_report.htm). Scroll down to the list of additional links to find the list of waters that do not meet a designated use (draft integrated list sublists 1-5) and the list of newly changed listings (draft changes in designated use assessment results)
- ▷ COA recommends that every interested citizen find their Watershed Management Area number: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/seeds/docs/watersheds.pdf>



## Illegal Dumping In Deal!

Watchful citizens in the Deal area posted pictures of material being dumped at the tide line and into the ocean at Phillips Avenue in Deal, NJ, on Friday, February 19.



Photo by Bill Senick

COA immediately contacted federal, state, and local agencies, prompting them to investigate the matter. The material is from the construction of a federal outfall project for Poplar Brook, which is part of the US Army Corps (USACOE) beach nourishment project along the coast of NJ. The sub-contractor, Agate Engineering, ILLEGALLY dumped the material on the beach and into the ocean. That same afternoon, the USACOE and NJDEP had directed the contractor to immediately clean-up the material and "manage it properly". NJDEP investigators gathered samples for analysis.

By Monday, February 22, COA discovered that the contractor, Agate, had merely moved the material (that had not already washed away) a block to the south (Ocean Lane) and a bit further up the beach. However, there was no containment surrounding the pile, so the material was exposed to wind, waves, and tides, especially from a full moon nor'easter predicted for the next day. COA once again contacted state and federal agencies to ensure that a real solution to this dirty dilemma was put into place. By Monday afternoon according to NJDEP spokesperson Lawrence Hanja, the DEP had issued a notice of violation of the Waterfront Development Act and the Coastal Area Facility Review Act to Agate Engineering.

On Tuesday COA staff returned to the site at low tide in the midst of strong winds and rain to discover the contractor had only put an approximate 2-foot cloth "fence" around the pile, and were in the process of using a bulldozer to build a sand berm around the pile. At print time, it seemed certain that the impending 8pm high tide and furious waves would likely splash over the berm washing the dumped material out to sea. Furthermore, the pile of material from the outfall construction has grown even larger.

COA will continue to monitor the site, remain in contact with state and federal officials, advocate for a thorough and environmentally friendly clean-up, and ensure information to the public is as up to date as possible. COA considers these "clean-up efforts" and "properly managed" material controls unacceptable.

## Policy

Zach Lees, [policy@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:policy@CleanOceanAction.org)

### Offshore Oil and Gas Rally

On January 31, Clean Ocean Action and hundreds of citizens joined Senator Menendez, Senator Booker, and Congressman Pallone, as well as a host of other environmental organizations, on the boardwalk in Asbury Park, NJ. The rally was in opposition to the Obama



Administration's proposed opening of the mid-Atlantic region to exploration for offshore oil and gas. (The mid-Atlantic region is from Cape May, NJ, south to Cape Canaveral, FL.) The seismic blasting and potential for catastrophic spills would harm millions of marine animals, open the Atlantic Ocean to drilling for the first time in 30 years, and put thousands of jobs and coastal economies at risk, should a spill occur.

Waves of thanks to our ocean champions for their dedication to protecting our marine environment. You can take action by signing the petition found on the homepage at [www.CleanOceanAction.org](http://www.CleanOceanAction.org), which urges President Obama to remove the Atlantic Ocean from the 2017-2022 Oil and Gas Drilling Leasing Plan.

### Navesink River Initiative

The Navesink River was once considered a national model for water quality improvement. Yet the 2014 Integrated Report lists the Navesink River as impaired due to numerous pollutants.

This deterioration of water quality recently culminated with a prohibition on shellfishing in over 500 acres of waters from the

Oceanic Bridge west to Red Bank. Clean Ocean Action is currently researching, organizing, and planning an initiative focused on the Navesink to address the sources and causes of pollution in this iconic waterbody. The goal is to return the river to a model example of private and public action to address water pollution. Stay tuned for more information.

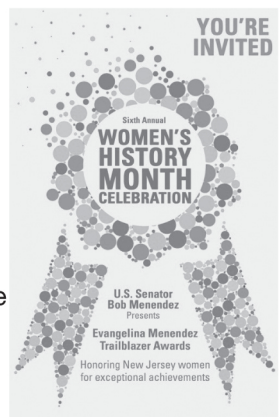


### True Trailblazer Honor

On behalf of the outstanding work of COA, Executive Director Cindy Zipf will be accepting a 2016 Evangelina Menendez Trailblazer Award. COA was selected by Senator Bob Menendez to be one of six distinguished Honorees. The award is in honor of the Senator's mother and is a component of the Women's History Month Celebration. Award winning journalist Soledad O'Brien is featured as the Keynote Speaker at the event, which is at Montclair State University on Sunday, March 6 at 3pm.

Admission is free and open to the public. If you cannot attend, consider sending Senator Menendez a message of support in his fight against oil drilling in the Atlantic, as well as support of Cindy Zipf for this award: [Artin\\_Haghshenas@menendez.senate.gov](mailto:Artin_Haghshenas@menendez.senate.gov).

If you are able to attend, please RSVP to [business@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:business@CleanOceanAction.org). COA is honored to receive this esteemed distinction.





# Education

Catie Tobin, [education@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:education@CleanOceanAction.org)

## Spring Beach Sweeps Registration is Now OPEN!

Let's make 2016 Spring Beach Sweeps the best yet! Join Clean Ocean Action for the 31st Annual Beach Sweeps on Saturday, April 30th, 9am – 12:30pm at 70+ locations throughout New Jersey.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the program, contact Catie Tobin, [education@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:education@cleanoceanaction.org). COA is always looking for new Beach Captains, sites and volunteers. Don't forget to pre-register on our website and spread the word!



## Corporate Team-building Opportunity



As January rapidly comes to a close, we are closer to the sunny days and the warmth of the summer, along with Clean Ocean Action's **Corporate Beach Sweep Program**.

During the months of May-October, COA offers customized beach cleanups combined with educational programming and presentations in the beautiful and unique setting of Gateway National Recreation Area at Sandy Hook. Since

the program began in 2005, over 3,000 Corporate Beach Sweep volunteers have united in efforts to rid New Jersey beaches of debris and litter in an effort to protect the health of the ocean and marine life.

*Join us this summer!* This is a program to foster growth and teamwork among your staff through this volunteer, collaborative opportunity while giving back to the environment. For more information, visit [www.cleoceanaction.org/BeachSweeps/CorporateBeachSweeps](http://www.cleoceanaction.org/BeachSweeps/CorporateBeachSweeps).

## Apply NOW for the Student Summit!

Calling middle school teachers! On **Wednesday, May 18th and Thursday, May 19th**, your students can join COA in bringing science to the beach!

COA's Student Summit expands learning beyond the classroom. It is designed to provide students from central and northern NJ an opportunity to experience hands-on, marine environmental education at the Jersey shore, specifically, in the beautiful and unique setting of Gateway National Recreation Area at Sandy Hook. Students will learn about New Jersey's marine animals and ecosystem, and even observe and identify animals in our local bay. Workshops include marine water quality monitoring, birding, barrier beach profiling, and understanding marine debris.



Please note that the Student Summit has slightly changed this year:

- ✓ **Wednesday, May, 18th** – Students in **4th Grade only**. These schools may apply for transportation reimbursement. This is made possible through a grant from the National Park Foundation's Every Kid in the Park Transportation Grant in conjunction with NOAA. Application deadline is April 18.
- ✓ **Thursday, May 19th** – Students in **Grades 5 – 8**. Application deadline is April 29.

To apply please visit [www.cleoceanaction.org](http://www.cleoceanaction.org) and look under the Education Programs tab. **There are separate applications for each day so please read through the website to find the appropriate form.** If you have any questions please contact Catie Tobin at [education@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:education@cleanoceanaction.org).



**The Ocean Needs YOU!**

Interested in protecting your ocean?  
COA is looking for  
dedicated college students to  
fulfill exciting summer internships –  
check out  
[www.CleanOceanAction.org](http://www.CleanOceanAction.org)  
for details.

**Be the Sea Change**

COA announces a new wave of education! This spring, we will be working with Joel Harper, musician and author of *Sea Change*, an inspiring new children's book.



Through fundraising, outreach, volunteers, and coalition partnerships, COA will coordinate and assist with readings and presentations of *Sea Change* to children at local schools, youth programs, and organizations to create awareness about marine debris and how children can become better stewards of the environment, especially through COA's Beach Sweeps.

This initiative is generously aided by the support of Tom Stein and Edrington Americas. Interested in getting involved? Contact Amanda Wheeler, at [citizens@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:citizens@CleanOceanAction.org).



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

*In Honor of:*

Bar Mitzvah of  
Joshua Platzman

*In Memory of:*

Ben Hamilton  
Samuel Karinja  
William Lavin  
Kathy Robinson  
Elizabeth Rowett

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