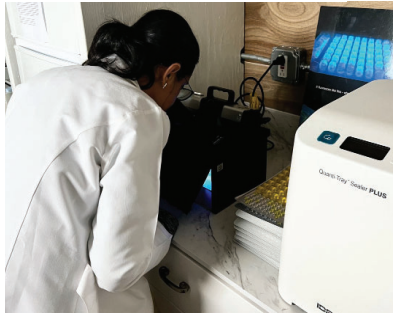


2023 HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH



Beach Sweeps: NJ's largest, longest running environmental event. The 2022 Beach Sweeps Report highlighted 8,148 volunteers who removed and tallied 376,969 items showing plastic bags, foam, and straws were down more than 35% thanks to NJ's Get Past Plastic Law.



Rally for the Waterways: A unique no-blame game watershed mindfulness approach to track down pollution in marine waters with trained volunteers using COA's new in-house lab. Currently, COA is testing Barnegat Bay, Deal Lake, Navesink River, and Shrewsbury River.



EDUCATION



COA launched a new K-12 educational program, **Seaside Education Academy (SEA)**, with 1,300 students in its 1st year. The program provides hands-on educational field trips for students to learn about the marine environment.



For the first time, COA hosted five **Student Summits**. In NJ at Sandy Hook, Island Beach State Park and Cape May. In NY at Great Kills Park. The Summits provided oceanside education to 1,174 students from 49 middle schools.



SEALs visit the NJ State House Senate Chamber

The **Student Environmental Advocates and Leaders (SEAL)** Program empowers teenagers to make a difference through civic and community engagement. The 2023-2024 class commenced with a record class of 28 new and 19 returning students.

ADVOCACY



*Whale #11 stranded in Manasquan, NJ
Photo by: Current Media Company*

Led campaigns with thousands of people for responsible, reasonable, and accountable protections of the ocean and marine life. COA's petition for a federal investigation into the unprecedented deaths of 38 whales and 60 dolphins/porpoises in NY/NJ Bight supported by nearly 400,000 people.



Press conference announcing new petition to stop NJ's expansion of reckless ocean industrialization

COA joined as plaintiff in a legal case against Orsted's offshore wind projects, Ocean Wind 1 & 2; Orsted then promptly, and without notice, cancelled the projects.



To reduce plastic pollution, COA led grassroots campaigns, chaired the NJ Plastic Advisory Council (PAC), as well as testified on proposed legislation and regulations at state and federal levels.