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Follow COA on Social Media For Ocean Updates!

Advocates of all ages can make a difference in the fight to protect our planet. We are so inspired and impressed by our fellow ocean advocate, Etsub, who is only nine years old but is already passionate about advocating for the environment! Etsub raised over \$1,000 for Clean Ocean Action through a GoFundMe page as her first advocacy project. We admire her passion and eagerness to save the world at a young age, and hope more people are inspired by her!



Featured Ocean Advocate

Clean Ocean Action  
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Ryan Struck Photography

# CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

## Defending the Sea Since 1984

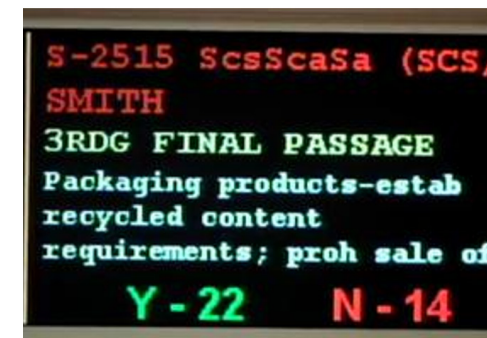
July/August 2021

### POLICY

Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

#### Reducing Reckless Plastic Use: NJ Senate Passes Recycled Content Bill

On June 24, the NJ Senate passed S.2515, the recycled content bill. The bill, which heads to the Assembly next, will set a standard for the amount of recycled content in rigid plastics, beverage bottles, and plastic bags. This legislation would also increase the amount of recycled plastic in these materials over time with the stamp of approval of recyclers and industry alike. It applies to other materials like glass and paper as well. This bill provides a pathway to true recycling by creating value and market for plastic, glass, and other materials. In the days leading up to the Senate vote, COA organized a sign-on letter urging Senators to support S.2515, which was signed by 18 groups. COA's focus now shifts to the NJ Assembly. COA commends Senator Smith, and the supporting Senators, for championing and shepherding this critical legislation.



#### Offshore Wind: Too Much Too Fast

- Nearly 800,000 acres are being offered for sale to developers for installing offshore wind (OSW) energy infrastructure off the NY/NJ coast, in addition to nearly 425,000 acres already set aside for the same purpose in the same area.
- President Biden's Executive Order 14008, combined with the exuberance from New York and New Jersey state governments, are pushing for large-scale OSW to the NY/NJ coast.
- A recent virtual conference among scientists reveals that cumulative impacts from the large-scale OSW development are unknown.
- An NJ bill quickly passed by the Senate and Assembly in late June strips local governments' authority over land used for OSW infrastructure using eminent domain.
- On June 30, the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) awarded the Second Solicitation for OSW projects to Ocean Wind 2 and Atlantic Shores Wind (www.bpu.state.nj.us).
- COA supports responsible and reasonable OSW energy development; this includes operation, management, and decommissioning, as well as the associated onshore infrastructure. However, this new, uncertain industry requires additional investigation of areas with a focus on comprehensive, inclusive, and cumulative assessments of all potential OSW impacts.



Scan this QR code to see COA's slide show about OSW energy, or go to CleanOceanAction.org.

#### NESE: It's baaaaaack!

Williams Transco was awarded a two-year FERC permit to build a massive methane gas compressor station and 23.4-mile pipeline called the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE) through New Jersey communities, Raritan Bay, Lower New York Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean. New York and New Jersey have denied NESE permits multiple times. Groups and citizens are rallying up to stop NESE for an unbelievable fifth time. Stay tuned for updates and actions.

#### "Chemical Recycling:" A Plastic Disaster

Whatever the chemical industry is calling it – chemical recycling, advanced recycling, pyrolysis, gasification – this new type of "recycling," which the industry promises as the answer to all of our plastic recycling needs, is a plastic disaster in the making. A new NJ Assembly Bill (A.5803) would allow polluting and dirty "chemical recycling" facilities to be built in New Jersey, likely in already over-burdened communities, and also exempt the facilities from state solid waste and recycling laws. Plastics are made from fossil fuels and contain toxic additives and chemicals, and "chemical recycling" will continue the toxic life and perpetuate the use of plastic. We must reduce plastic manufacturing and use to reduce the toxic load and climate impacts from plastic. Please contact your Assembly member; urge them to call Assemblyman McKeon (973-377-1606) to tell him to withdraw A.5803 to protect NJ's air, land, water, and communities from the harms of "chemical recycling." Learn more at a free public webinar - July 29, 7pm. Contact COA for details.

### Tributes

#### In Memory of:

Peter Cauterucci	Jerry Howell	Tania Lisitski	Robert Rende	Will Sverapa
Louise D. Gingery	Arlene Karaman	Edward J. Reagan	Carol Anne Ross	Viola Small

#### In Honor of:

Animals	Congratulations, Millie Rosa
Marriage of Justine Booth & Andrew Fernandez	Etsub Sugebo for COA's Plastic-Free Work
Susan Keleman	Taipai American School Marine Conservation Club
Valerie and Frank Montecalvo	Cindy Zipf

### SAVE THE DATE

"Chemical Recycling" Webinar - Free!  
July 29

Run the Hook  
September 12

Surf Contest  
September 25 or 26

Fall Beach Sweeps  
October 23





# EVENTS

## Rally for the Two Rivers Eco-Fest



The "Soak It Up" Station with COA

On June 5th, Clean Ocean Action and the Rumson Environmental Commission hosted the 3rd Annual Rally for the Two Rivers Eco-Fest at Victory Park, in Rumson, NJ. This was a free event, made possible by Sea Bright Solar, Bayshore Family of Companies, and Mazza Recycling Service. Nearly 300 attendees enjoyed hands-on interaction with turtles and other coastal critters, river seining, learning to row, eco-friendly crafts, composting demo, music, marine debris art and more - all in the spirit of "Watershed Mindfulness" education. The Eco-Fest is coordinated as part of COA's Rally for the Two Rivers initiative—an alliance of organizations and towns dedicated to improving and protecting the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers. The event "connected the drops" by highlighting the importance of keeping the rivers clean to also ensure a healthy ocean. "There was so much joy and enthusiasm at this year's Eco-Fest! It was very inspiring to see

children and families enjoying the riverfront setting and fun activities at the Eco-Fest, all while learning how they can help to protect the waterways that define the place they call home. After participating in Eco-Fest, many attendees said they intend to adopt more eco-friendly practices in their own lives, and that's ultimately the goal. Through this event, everyone became more "Waterway Mindful," understanding that they are all connected to and responsible for our local waterways," said Alison Jones, COA's Watershed Program Coordinator.



River seining with the American Littoral Society



Children making natural bird feeders at the NJ Audobon Society table

COA's Watershed Program Coordinator.

## Welcome, Catie Mitchell!

Clean Ocean Action is thrilled to introduce Catie Mitchell as our Community Science Associate! While Catie grew up in Virginia, she spent many summers at the Jersey Shore, thanks to a sprawling network of family members up and down the NJ coast. After earning a B.A. in Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology from Vanderbilt University, Catie dove head first into a graduate program at Ghent University in Belgium, where she earned an M.S. in Marine Biological Resources. The pursuit of her passion for protecting marine ecosystems has led Catie around the globe, with research experiences in Australia, Portugal, and the U.K. Most recently, she worked as an Environmental Educator at the Annapolis Maritime Museum and Park, leading stream monitoring programs and connecting students to their local waterways. Ultimately, Catie's journey led her to COA, and back to the coast where she first discovered her love for the ocean. Catie's commitment to ocean protection, along with her varied experiences in scientific research and community outreach, make her a perfect fit for the new position of Community Science Associate. Welcome aboard, Catie!



# SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD, Staff Scientist, Science@CleanOceanAction.org  
Alison Jones, Watershed Program Coordinator, Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org  
Catie Mitchell, Community Science Associate, Programs@CleanOceanAction.org

## Toms River Water Quality Monitoring

In early June, water quality monitoring in the Toms River watershed began as part of the **Rally for Barnegat Bay!** COA and partners Save Barnegat Bay and the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) are being funded by the NJDEP to track down sources of pathogen pollution. This summer, four students will conduct water quality monitoring at 11 locations in six towns. Guided by COA's Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan and MATES' Dr. John Wnek, the students will monitor pathogen levels, as well as other important water quality parameters including dissolved oxygen, salinity, and pH. The work is being conducted at the newly established water quality lab at Save Barnegat Bay's EcoCenter. This summer's results will inform future monitoring throughout the estuary.



Students conducting water sampling at Barnegat Bay



Students testing the water samples in the water quality lab



Students getting hands-on water quality monitoring experience

## Report Shows Bay Beaches Impacted by Bacteria Pollution

A new report released in early July by Environment America and co-released in New Jersey by Environment New Jersey, COA, Save Barnegat Bay, and Surfrider Foundation shows bacteria levels at the state's beaches which indicated that water was potentially unsafe for swimming on at least 35 days in 2020. The report, "Safe for Swimming?" shows we have come a long way from the hundreds of beach closures in the past. It is also clear that there are still problem areas. COA is developing new programs to help track down and eliminate pollution sources. This is a remarkable report card for New Jersey's work to improve beach water quality. However, the program itself is long-overdue for an upgrade." To view the full report, visit <https://environmentnewjersey.org>. For this summer's weekly water quality reports in NY/NJ, go to [NJbeaches.org](http://NJbeaches.org), [maps.nyc.gov](http://maps.nyc.gov), or [parks.ny.gov](http://parks.ny.gov).



# EDUCATION

July/August 2021

Kristen Grazioso, Education Coordinator, Education@CleanOceanAction.org  
Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

## We Made a Splash For World Ocean Week

World Ocean Day was Tuesday, June 8, but Clean Ocean Action dedicated the entire week to celebrating it. We asked our followers to tell us one word that best describes the ocean, and we received almost 250 responses across all of our platforms! We created a word cloud to display all of the submissions, with the words increasing in size as they were repeated. The most popular word was "life," closely followed by "majestic," "peace," and "home." We are excited about the finished word cloud and think it is the perfect representation of the ocean that we love and work to protect. We plan to create prints of this word cloud in the future for a fundraiser!



## Having a summer party or celebration?

Keep your social events squeaky-green! Check out COA's Summertime Eco-Friendly Tips for Parties, Picnics, and Play! Our tips and tricks are eco-approved and "shore" to be a hit at your next party! Find the link for the tips at [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org)



## Welcome, Summer Interns!



Ryan Dolan  
Marine Debris Intern

Ryan is a sophomore at Bucknell University and is majoring in Environmental Engineering. "I want to learn how to defend the ocean to protect sea life and help preserve this resource for future generations."



Clare Moloney  
South Jersey Policy Outreach Intern

Clare is pursuing a Master's of Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst College of Public Policy. "After spending time with COA, I have found a great passion for stakeholder engagement and informing people about ocean conservation."



Jenna Santacroce  
Policy and Advocacy Intern

Jenna is a senior at the University of Mississippi studying Public Policy Leadership with a minor in Environmental Studies. "I aim to be a defender of the ocean because I want to help it continue on as life's provider."



Gianna Tirrell  
Communications Intern

Gianna graduated in May from Pepperdine University and will be starting law school in the fall in San Diego. "The ocean has always been a huge part of my life and I want to protect it through advocacy and environmental law."