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March 2012 Highlights

- TAKE 3 ACTIONS TO HELP OUR OCEAN:**
1. Call and urge your Congressman to restore EPA Beach Program to protect swimmers.
 2. Call and tell your elected officials to stop oil drilling off the Atlantic Coast.
 3. Sign a petition to save Sandy Hook NOAA lab and marine mammal stranding programs.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 22, 27, & 29

- COA Volunteer Workshops.

Interested in volunteering for a clean ocean? See article to the right for details.

March 23-25

- Paddlesport Expo & Film Festival, Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, NJ. For times & details about the event, go to www.jersey paddler.com. Friday night film festival to benefit COA. COA volunteers needed for Expo.

April 21

- Beach Sweeps, 9am-12:30pm.



See COA's website for sites, details, and group sign-up.

May 20

- Family Beach Ball for the Ocean, 3-7pm, Ship Ahoy Beach Club, 800 Ocean Avenue, Sea Bright, NJ. See inside for details.

VOLUNTEER FOR A CLEAN OCEAN!

Interested in becoming a Beach Sweeps Captain or Advocacy Volunteer? Already a volunteer? Share your volunteer know-how with new volunteers! COA's volunteers help reach thousands of people who enjoy the coast and teach them about ocean pollution threats and solutions. Without volunteers, the voices of the ocean and citizens would not be heard by those who make decisions critical to our ocean's future.

Volunteers help COA with: Beach Sweeps, outreach, office work, photography/videography, advocacy, education, fundraising, social media, and events. Whether it is once a week or once a year, offering your expertise and enthusiasm to COA is a fun and rewarding experience. Together, we can stop ocean pollution and ensure a clean and safe ocean for the future!

Volunteer Workshops: For Seasoned & New Volunteers

Please RSVP to COA for attending a Spring Volunteer Workshop:
South Jersey: March 22; 6-8pm; Bloom Pavilion, 101 S. Huntington Avenue, Margate City, NJ
Ocean County: March 27; 6-8pm; Jenkinson's Aquarium, Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ
Monmouth County: March 29; 6-8pm; Building 18, Sandy Hook, NJ.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

To sign-up for any of these fun activities and events, contact the office.
March 23-25: Paddlesport Expo, Somerset, NJ. Two to four hour time blocks for volunteering at COA's display.
April 19: Camden County College Earth Day, Blackwood, NJ campus, 9am-3pm.
Ongoing: Committee members are needed for COA's "Sunset at Sandy Hook" event (tentatively September 28, 2012). Responsibilities may include event planning, and sponsorship and auction gift solicitations.

Our COAlition:

Alliance for a Living Ocean

Headquartered in Ship Bottom, New Jersey, Alliance for a Living Ocean (ALO) was founded in 1987 in response to medical waste washing-up on shore and beach closures. A grassroots organization that has grown to become a fixture of Long Beach Island (LBI), ALO's mission is to promote a clean ocean through education and action.

Each summer, ALO offers educational programs to children and families to teach them about the creatures inhabiting Barnegat Bay. The organization provides kayak tours and their Longboard Classic surf contest has become a shore tradition.

ALO's focus on nonpoint source pollution is reflected in programs such as bottle cap recycling and their "Get Trashy" campaign, which calls on local residents to pick-up garbage or debris they see on or near the beach. With a mission and goals close to COA, it is easy to see why ALO is a perfect partner in our COAlition.

Recently, ALO hired a new Executive Director, **Chris Huch Jr.**, whose lifelong passion for the ocean makes him the person for the job. Chris says, "Alliance for a Living Ocean is excited to work with Clean Ocean Action moving forward, particularly on the Clean Ocean Zone. We are dedicated to the cause and looking forward to re-invigorating our membership with our original mission of keeping our ocean and beaches clean." We share Chris's enthusiasm for the COZ and look forward to connecting with LBI's residents and visitors.

For more information about Alliance for a Living Ocean, please visit www.livingocean.org or call 609-494-7800.



THREE NEW THREATS TO OUR OCEAN!

Three new federal proposals threaten the Clean Ocean Zone. Read about these threats and citizen actions; for updates go to www.cleanoceanaction.org.

EPA To End Federal Beach Water Testing Program

First, US President Barack Obama's 2013 budget for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shockingly ends the "Beach Program." This program, under the Clean Water Act and the "BEACH Act," is for protecting the health of swimmers and beachgoers from sewage and pollution risks. This program cut is expected to lead to: **no** grants (~\$10 million in 2012) to eligible coastal states to develop and implement beach monitoring and notification programs; **reduced** monitoring and reporting at our nation's beaches and **reduced** pollution source identification as states struggle to compensate for lost funds; **no** federal minimums for state programs resulting in even more inconsistency across states; and **continued use of obsolete testing methods** that should be replaced with ones that provide same-day results.

The President's EPA budget report says, "While beach monitoring continues to be important to protect human health and especially sensitive individuals, ... [n]o additional funding will be provided." The EPA says the Beach Program has accomplished its mission, yet pollution problems remain. Without the program, many states will have no resources for swimmer-safety tests, states will be free to adopt lax requirements (or end testing altogether because they are no longer held to a federal regulatory "floor"), and public health will be at risk.

COA sent comments to EPA, alerted legislators of concerns, and is a part of a nationwide action team to bring back Beach Program funding and make needed improvements to this program. Stay tuned for updates.

CITIZEN ACTION ONE: Please call your elected officials and ask them to stand-up for swimmer safety by re-authorizing the Beaches Program.

Atlantic Ocean Oil Drilling Push in the House

Second, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill (H.R. 3408) in February which opens the Atlantic Ocean to oil drilling – as soon as this year. The bill, if passed by the Senate as well, would require that a large portion of the ocean off the coast of Virginia be opened for drilling almost immediately, and that the rest of the Atlantic Ocean be considered open for business as well.

When this bill was being debated in Committee (before hitting the House floor), **Representatives Pallone (NJ-D-6), Holt (NJ-D-12), and Runyan (NJ-R-3)** all voted against the bill. Once the bill hit the House floor, one amendment was proposed that would ban drilling in the Northeast. Although the amendment was not agreed to, five of New Jersey's six Republican Representatives voted for it, standing with the united Democratic NJ Delegation in defense of the shore (Rep. Garrett (NJ-R-5) was the lone NJ Congressman voting against this ocean-protection amendment). In the vote on the actual bill, 8 NJ and 19 NY Representatives voted against final passage and for a clean ocean economy.

For 50 years, members of Congress from both sides of the aisle have fought to keep the Atlantic Ocean off-limits to oil drilling. With this recent bill, it is clear that this long-standing support is eroding.

CITIZEN ACTION TWO: Call your elected officials (U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, state officials) & ask them to take every step they can to see that the opening of the Atlantic Ocean to oil drilling does not happen.

("Three New Threats" continued, see Science & Policy News, page 2)



No more warnings? President Obama proposes to end beach water testing

SCIENCE & POLICY NEWS

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Sean Dixon, Esq., Policy@cleanoceanaction.org

("Three Threats to Our Ocean," continued)

NOAA's Sandy Hook Marine Lab to be Closed and Marine Mammal Funding Cut

Third, President Obama announced in the 2013 budget for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that the James J. Howard Fisheries Laboratory on Sandy Hook will be closed – one year after its 50th anniversary celebration. In addition to being a world-class research institution, this lab has a vital education and outreach presence, is home to a premier climate change and ocean acidification lab, and has significant history with the people and communities of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean. The laboratory is an essential part of the local, national, and international marine science community, providing invaluable benefits to the ecosystems of the Atlantic Ocean. In an era of increasing environmental and economic pressure on our oceans and coasts, it should not be the policy of the United States to limit its own ability to study the ocean, learn about its processes, and educate the public.

In another budget-related move, the President proposes to cut all funding of the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant ("Prescott Grant"), which provides essential funding for recovery and treatment of stranded marine mammals, data collection from living or dead stranded marine mammals, and operation costs and staffing needs for stranding centers. The Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine, NJ - which is the only entity in the state authorized to help/heal/rehabilitate marine mammals and sea turtles - depends on this money to keep its doors open, as do other similar facilities nationwide. Marine mammal strandings and the subsequent data collection can often be indicators of fish contaminations or ocean pollution, therefore serving as a critical first alert to the quality of the water.

US Senators Lautenberg and Menendez (both D-NJ) and US Representative Pallone (NJ-D-6) pledged to prevent the closing of the Lab in a letter sent directly to the President. COA drafted a letter to the President and Congress on which organizations can sign-on, and created a citizen petition. At press time and in just one week, over **4,000 citizens** signed COA's petition to US President Barack Obama and Congress to reverse the closure of the NOAA Lab at Sandy Hook and to restore funding to Prescott Grants.

CITIZEN ACTION 3: Sign the petition (see COA's website for link). Tell friends & family to sign, too! Organizations and businesses can sign onto a letter to the President and Congress by contacting COA's office.

Power Transmission Line Proposed for Ocean

COA commented on the proposed Atlantic Wind Connection (AWC) Right-of-Way (ROW) Grant for a power transmission line in the ocean from Virginia to New York. This ROW is a corridor of federal seafloor that AWC would be allowed to use for the transmission line.

The project is for the construction of a 790-mile 2000-megawatt high-voltage direct current transmission line that would collect power generated by future offshore wind farms. Wind facilities could transmit their Alternating Current (AC) power to seven offshore floating platforms that would convert the power to Direct Current (DC), then send it to large onshore facilities where the power would be converted back to AC. However, BOEM states when "wind power generation facilities are not functioning at full capacity" and until they are built, the line would be used for conventionally generated (coal) electricity.

COA recommended the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) deny the application as the project is unneeded, has the potential to impact the ecosystem, economy, and people of the region, and is not allowable under existing federal laws and regulations. While COA supports offshore wind energy, this project is merely an extension of the onshore power grid and is not necessary for the development of coastal wind facilities. See COA's website or contact Sean for a copy of our comments.

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

Tavia Danch, Education@cleanoceanaction.org

Internships Available: Join the COA Crew!

Each year, COA seeks qualified and enthusiastic students to fill rewarding summer internships at our headquarters in Sandy Hook. COA is now accepting applications for the **2012 C.O.A.S.T. Campaign Internship** and a **Beach Sweeps Internship**. See COA's website for detailed job descriptions and application instructions.

Corporate Beach Sweeps & Scavenger Hunt



After continued success with the Corporate Beach Sweeps program (pictured left), COA is launching the Corporate Scavenger Hunt for the 2012 Season (in addition to the signature Corporate Beach Sweeps). For the Scavenger Hunt, participants will work within teams to perform specific actions and gather clues that will allow them to move-on. Teams earn points for cleaning-up the most garbage on the beach, finding answers to questions, taking photographs, and stopping-in at checkpoints. All collected items are worth points and the team with the most points wins.

The Corporate Beach Sweeps programs fill-up quickly; interested businesses and corporations are encouraged to make reservations by contacting Tavia as soon as possible.

Student Ocean Advocates to Launch Campaigns

COA's Student Ocean Advocates (SOA) program brings together exceptional high school students from the region to learn about current threats to our oceans and how to build effective campaigns. The SOA program is currently offered in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. After hearing from local environmental leaders, students are tasked with choosing a specific issue on which to focus their campaigns. This year, Ocean County members chose plastic pollution, while Monmouth County members chose the Clean Ocean Zone. The students will implement action campaigns in their home schools in April.

Spotlight on Environmental Education & Water

In January, COA attended the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education's (ANJEE) Annual Conference. The conference was a great opportunity to spotlight COA's education programs while connecting with educators across the state. COA's display gave teachers opportunities to learn about the Beach Sweeps, Student Summit, and Student Ocean Advocates programs. Guest speakers at this year's conference included "Ocean Doctor" Dr. David E. Guggenheim and Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman, who both gave inspiring speeches on their work and connections to water and water quality.

CITIZEN ACTION

Zach McCue, Citizens@cleanoceanaction.org

Congressman Holt Supports the COZ

A few months ago, COA reported meeting with **U.S. Representative Rush Holt (D-12)** to discuss the Clean Ocean Zone (COZ), offshore oil drilling, and Beach Sweeps. This past month, Congressman Holt said he will officially support the COZ initiative. Congressman Holt is a leader in the U.S. House of Representatives in fighting offshore oil drilling, and his support will help move the COZ forward.

Congressman Holt's support comes at a time when momentum for the COZ continues to grow. COA is gearing-up for a large citizen action campaign to bring attention to the Clean Ocean Zone this summer. To learn more about the COZ and how to become involved, please contact Zach.

Show "Pinterest" in Clean Ocean Action



Expanding our presence in online social media, COA is now on Pinterest. COA will be "pinning" our favorite posters, flyers for upcoming events, and do-it-yourself recycling ideas, as well as sharing ocean-related images and art. To submit an idea to be posted, please email Zach. See what COA likes on Pinterest at pinterest.com/cleanocean.

EVENTS

Emily Hackett, Events@cleanoceanaction.org

Celebrating Winter Wildlife

COA thanks everyone who joined us for the Celebrate Winter Wildlife, Seal Walk and Brunch. Attendees viewed over 30 seals on Sandy Hook on a walk led by expert local naturalist, **Joe Reynolds**. After the walk, guests enjoyed a scrumptious brunch at **Merri-Makers at Water's Edge** in Sea Bright, which included children's activities and a photo presentation of local wildlife. A highlight of the day was Checkers, an African Penguin, who joined us from Jenkinson's Aquarium in Point Pleasant Beach, NJ.

Many thanks to the generous event sponsors: **Chapel Beach Club;** **Jenkinson's Aquarium;** **Joe Reynolds;** and the **Thees, Donovan,** and **Warshauer Families.**



EarthShare Celebrates New Jersey - March 30

Join EarthShare New Jersey for an evening celebrating the bounty and beauty of the state through art, wine, and food. The event is March 30, from 7-10pm, at the Laurita Winery, 35 Archertown Road, New Egypt. The celebration features environmental awareness and members of EarthShare New Jersey, including COA. Visit www.earthsharenj.org for tickets (\$45 each/\$50 at door).

Plan for Some "Beach Ball" Fun

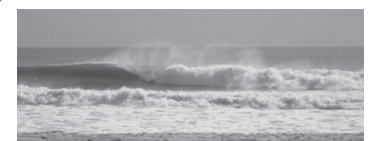
Save the date for COA's upcoming Family Beach Ball for the Ocean! Join us on May 20, from 3-7pm, at Ship Ahoy Beach Club, 800 Ocean Avenue, Sea Bright, NJ. Admission for adults is \$75 (\$100 after May 13); children are FREE. (Two children admitted with each paying adult.) Purchase reservations, sponsorship, or 50-50 raffle tickets on our website or by contacting Emily.



Approximately 30 seals were viewed by attendees at Sandy Hook during our Celebrate Winter Wildlife Event on February 19th



Special thanks to event sponsors, the Mulheren Family of Chapel Beach Club, pictured with Danni Logue (middle) of Jenkinson's Aquarium and "Checkers" the African Penguin



TRIBUTES

In memory of
Walter Poludin

In memory of
Carl Bradley

In honor of
The Walke Family