

Clean Ocean Advocate



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LABEL

LNG Update
2015: A Look at the Year Ahead
Styrofoam Bans in NYC

February 2015 Highlights

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TRIBUTES



In Honor of

Raymond Dodd
Olivia Fair
Rav & Sandy Friedel
Kim & Michael Kuehne
William Lavin
Laura Mowczan
Frank Nicholson
Nicole Pavlin
James Rowley
Liz Fordi and Adam Rechnitz's Wedding
Matthias van Oosterhout

In Honor of

Laura Wigginton
Cindy Zipf
Lisa and Nicole's Wedding

In Memory of

Dery & Barbara Bennett
Adelaide Gabel
JJ Moon Isherwood
Ethel & Geroge Jensen
James Ochs
Anne Webster
Frances Woods



LNG Public Hearing Press Conference in Jamaica, NY.



Assemblywoman Casagrande and Senator Beck oppose Port Ambrose.



LNG Public Hearing in Eatontown, NJ.



Citizens speak against the proposed LNG Facility in Eatontown, NJ.

Port Ambrose Update

2015 kicked off with a splash, with hundreds attending public hearings on the Port Ambrose liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility proposed off our shores of NY and NJ. The hearings were hosted by the U.S. Coast Guard and Maritime Administration, federal agencies responsible for reviewing the Port Ambrose application, and were held on January 7th in Jamaica, New York and January 8th in Eatontown, New Jersey.

At both hearings, we had a strong showing from anti-LNG coalition members and concerned citizens, and over 90% of the testimonies delivered were in opposition to Port Ambrose. Approximately 400 people attended Wednesday's hearing in New York, and Thursday's New Jersey hearing turned out over 500 people. Both hearings were preceded by press conferences hosted by Surfrider Foundation (Wednesday) and COA (Thursday), where the media had an opportunity to hear from environmental groups, elected officials, public health advocates, fishermen, local residents, and other concerned citizens.. The New Jersey hearing was especially exciting as State Senator Jennifer Beck and Assemblywoman Caroline Casagrande both provided a testimony and announced the introduction of companion resolutions in the State Senate and Assembly in opposition to Port Ambrose.

We are so appreciative of everyone who made time in their busy schedules, right after the holidays, to attend come out to the hearings. Everyone who appeared in solidarity against Port Ambrose and spoke at the press conferences, signed a petition, or delivered testimony is playing an important role in defending the marine ecosystem that we have all worked so hard to improve and the region that thrives on a clean ocean economy. Thanks too for supporting a green energy future that will not contribute to the devastating effects of climate change and sea level rise, and exposing the lie that Port Ambrose is for imports.

What's next in the Port Ambrose fight?

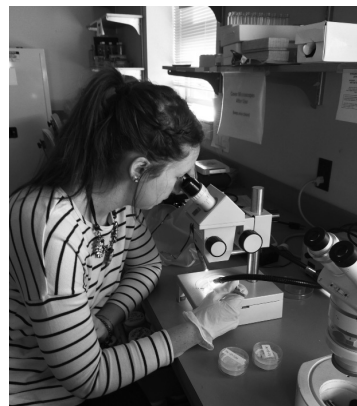
In the months to come, there will be one more set of public hearings. In the interim, please voice your opposition on the Federal Docket by submitting comments, which you can do until March 17. Information on ways to submit comments can be found here and to comment directly to the docket, click here. We also have the time now to get towns throughout New Jersey and New York as well as the New Jersey state legislature to pass the resolutions (SR21, AR17) opposing Port Ambrose, and to continue to urge Governors Christie and Cuomo to veto Port Ambrose when the time comes. Let's work together to make sure we sink this proposal once and for all!

Science and Education

Catie Tobin, education@cleanoceanaction.org

Clean Ocean Action's Microplastic Research Project

Clean Ocean Action is hard at work investigating microplastics in beach sand and coastal waters! In the summer of 2014, Cassandra Ornell, Staff Scientist, and Catie Tobin, Marine Science Education Coordinator, teamed up/collaborated with scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) along with students from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST).



Over the past few months, the team has been hard at work testing various methods that would provide the best data. After time spent with the different systems in the lab, the project has finally moved into the identification stage in which the team is viewing their samples under the microscope. As of last week, January ?? the first microbead was seen, confirming the hypothesis that microplastics are present in the New Jersey coastal area.

In the months ahead, the team will continue the identification phase with the hopes of releasing the data in tandem with the year of celebration for the 30th Beach Sweep Anniversary. Stay tuned for updates!

Single-Use Styrofoam Ban in NYC'

Beginning on July 1, 2015, single-use Styrofoam products will be banned in New York City as per a decision made by Mayor De Blasio in the beginning of January. Food service establishments, stores and manufacturers will not be allowed to possess, sell, or offer for use single service Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) foam articles or polystyrene loose fill packaging. New York City is now the largest city in the country to ban EPS foam.

The decision came after the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) investigated the ability of foam to be recycled and determined that it could not be properly disposed. The DSNY consulted with corporations, such as the Dart Container Corporation, non-profits, vendors, and other stakeholders.

In addition to phasing out single-use Styrofoam products, NYC's Department of Education will be utilizing foam trays with compostable plates in schools as of May 1st.

In 2013 alone, during Clean Ocean Action's Beach Sweeps, volunteers picked up a total of 28,618 foam plastic items, which could be further broken down into fast food containers, cups, pieces, etc. This ban will not only help the waterways of NYC, but it will also protect areas downstream of New York from getting polluted with excess Styrofoam.

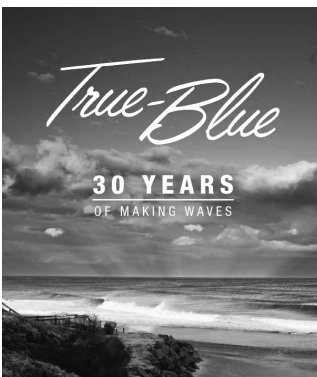
30th Anniversary of the Beach Sweeps kicks off this year! We have exciting new opportunities and events planned!



Registration is now open! Sign up today at a beach near you.

To sponsor a beach with your family, friends, or workplace please call Tory at 732-872-0111 or events@cleanoceanaction.org. This is a great way to show your support for clean beaches and to help COA provide the supplies needed at each location.

COA's 30th Anniversary Book, "True Blue: 30- Years of Making Waves"



We are pleased to announce that the commemorative book will be released in early February!

True Blue:30-Years of Making Waves tells the stories and accomplishments of COA, influential individuals, and successful programs that make a difference for our ocean.

As guests of Denim & Pearls saw at the event, the book is a beautiful keepsake that tells the story of the Jersey Shore and the obstacles that together we have overcome.

To pre-order or purchase your copy of True Blue, please contact the office at 732-872-0111.

Barbara Bennett - Remembering a Feisty True-blue Friend

It is with distress we inform you that Barbara Bennett unexpectedly passed on Saturday, January 24, after a brief illness.

Many of you know that Barbara Bennett has helped foster the growth and success of Clean Ocean Action since its earliest days. She so believed in the people and work that she volunteered for over 30 years. As the wife of COA's founder, Dery Bennett, Barbara "littorally" was at the genesis of the organization.

Barbara's strong, vibrant, no nonsense approach to life was steadfast, and it was always motivating. Barbara shared her wisdom, writing skills, perceptions, humor, and talents.

No task was too great or small. Barbara came to the office regularly to research and respond to letters from children and citizens around the world. Her acumen and poise for writing was pivotal; she answered children's endless questions about whales, and how to save the ocean. She also ensured the success of Beach Sweeps by carefully packing supplies for over 70 towns—counting, sorting, organizing each sites' materials twice a year, every year.

Barbara also entered data from events and programs; stamped newsletters, stuffed envelopes, and was our "robo-caller" for important meetings. In short, she responded to the call for action, no matter the task.

Barbara was remarkable; she believed in us all and made everyone feel meaningful and special. She set a standard for dedication and life. Barbara's legacy will always be present.



Events

Tory Woods, events@cleanoceanaction.org

Save the Date!

2015 Events Calendar

February 21st & 22nd- Asbury Park Beer Festival
Enjoy a day of beer tasting benefiting Clean Ocean Action.

March 16th-LNG Comments Due
A link to the comments and more information can be found on our website

March 22nd-World Water Day

April- AVEDA Earth Month
A full month of cut-a-thons, beach clean ups, and fundraising events at participating locations. Support your local, sustainable salon and clean water.

April 25th- 30th Annual Beach Sweeps
With over 70 different locations in New Jersey, this is the perfect way to give back and make a difference for the ocean.

May 4th (Week of)- Final LNG Public Hearings
Location and time to be determined

May 11-14th- Blue Vision Summit
May 13 & 14th-Annual Student Summit at Sandy Hook, NJ

June 8th- World Water Day
Kick off the summer season at the beach with Clean Ocean Action!

June 15th (Week of) – Final LNG decision
Write and call your governors to VETO Port Ambrose! This is the final say in the potentially devastating facility.

Summer
Volunteer with COA at one of our many tabling opportunities. The perfect way to give back to your community and spread the mission of cleaner oceans for all.

Participate in COA's Corporate Sweeps program. You and your co-workers can enjoy a day of teambuilding and volunteering on Sandy Hook. Contact Catie Tobin for additional Details.

July- Beach Club Bash!
At participating Beach Clubs in Monmouth County to raise money, awareness, and win the ultimate prize of being the most ocean-friendly beach club.

September 26th-Shore Paddle
SUP Event on the Navesink River in a new location at Marine Park, Red Bank, NJ

October 8th Annual Student Summit in
Island Beach State Park, NJ

Coming this Fall!
Sandy Paws for the COZ! A dog walk on any beach in NJ with the main event in Asbury Park, NJ.

Stay posted for additional ocean threats, issues, and ways to volunteer with Clean Ocean Action.