



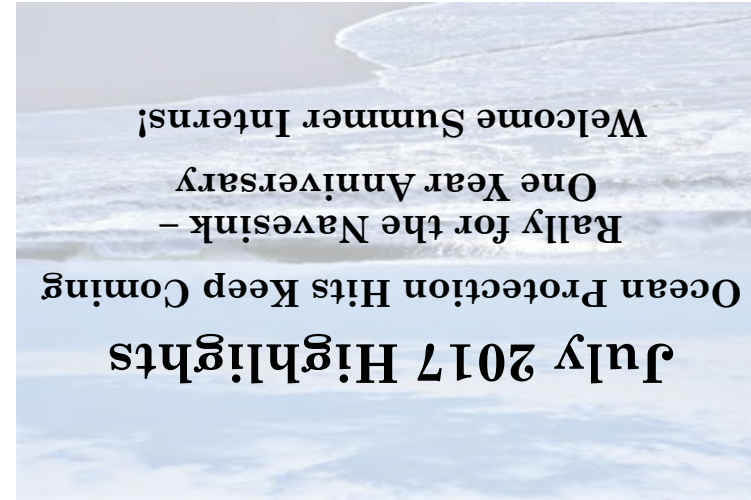
Follow COA on Social Media For Ocean Updates!

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LABEL

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE July 2017

Photo courtesy of Todd Thompson



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Photo courtesy of Ryan Struck Photography

DÉJÀ VU - SEISMIC TESTING BACK AGAIN



Image courtesy of Jon Portman

On June 6, 2017, a federal agency (National Marine Fisheries Services/NMFS) announced its review of five corporations' requests to conduct seismic testing (aka Ocean Blasting) in the Atlantic. This action, a direct result of the Trump Administration's America-First Offshore Energy Strategy, is the first step toward offshore drilling for oil and gas.

The notice included five separate Intentional Harassment Authorizations (IHA), which would allow five corporations hired by the oil and gas industry to intentionally blast over 138,000 marine mammals. The applications do not consider the impact of overlapping, concurrent blasting on marine life, nor do they mention the many fish and invertebrate species that will be shocked, stunned and possibly killed by the blasts.

Organizations up and down the coast have responded immediately by drafting comments and empowering citizens to show strong, united opposition to these authorizations and to the fast-tracking of offshore drilling in general. Currently, 125 east coast municipalities, over 1,200 elected officials and an alliance of over 41,000 businesses and 500,000 fishing families, have publicly opposed seismic airgun blasting and/or offshore drilling. The opposition is great, yet the fight is not over. **To submit your comments and voices in opposition, go to COA's website today. The public comment period ends July 6!**

Ocean Under Siege: New Attacks

In addition to the above threats from ocean blasting and drilling, the Trump Administration continues to bombard the oceans with the America-First Offshore Energy Strategy. On June 26, 2017, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service (NOS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced that they will be conducting a review of all Marine Sanctuaries and Monuments designated or expanded since April 28, 2007. The Secretary of Commerce will then use this review to prepare a report in accordance with Trump's Executive Order to provide an "analysis" of the lost "opportunity costs" of potential energy and mineral exploration resulting from designations of Marine Sanctuaries or Marine Monuments. This "lost opportunity" analysis paired with the current America-First Offshore Energy places even more ocean areas at grave risk for destruction.

This specific notice opens the comment period, which ends on July 27, 2017, for 11 Marine Sanctuaries and Monuments, including the

NJ Delegation Shows 100% Bi-Partisan Concern

On June 9, 2017, the NJ delegation reacted quickly and unanimously for the first time as they signed-on to a letter voicing their strong bi-partisan concern for the proposed seismic testing. The delegation, led by Congressman Frank Pallone (D, Congressional District 6) wrote, "We are deeply concerned about the prospect of seismic testing being conducted within the Atlantic, and the damage such testing could cause to our coastal communities, both environmentally and economically." The delegation highlighted the government agencies' lack of transparency by asking that the applications are rejected and requesting longer comment periods, as well as public hearings for each of the proposed authorizations.



Congressman LoBiondo Calls Seismic Blasting "Barbaric"



On June 19, 2017, Vicki Clark and the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce hosted a press conference in partnership with Congressman Frank LoBiondo (R, Congressional District 2), the New Jersey Tourism Industry Association, and the Business Alliance for the Protection of the Atlantic Coast (see photo). At the event, Congressman LoBiondo called seismic blasting barbaric and voiced his intention to protect our coast from offshore drilling every step of the way.

Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument, which are located immediately off the NY/NJ coast. The other areas included are the Channel Islands, Cordell Bank, Greater Farallones, Marianas Trench, Monterey Bay, American Samoa, Pacific Remote Islands, Papahānaumokuākea, Rose Atoll Marine, and Thunder Bay. The damage does not stop there, this one notice is part of greater efforts that could lead to the reduction of more than two dozen monuments and sanctuaries designated and expanded within the past 10 years.

Organizations and citizens have from June 26 to July 27 to voice their opposition by mail or electronic submission. To view the official notice and submit your comment visit the Federal Register and search "Review of National Marine Sanctuaries and Marine National Monuments Designated or Expanded Since April 28, 2007; Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment." For more information or guidance on how to access the notice and comment feel free to contact advocate@cleanoceanaction.org.

All At Once



Jack Johnson, environmentalist and avid surfer, signs the New Jersey flag in opposition of offshore oil and gas drilling!



Jack Johnson with COA's Development Director, Tory Woods, and ocean advocate volunteer, Kelsey Davis.

TRIBUTES



Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

In Memory of:

Ben Hamilton
Samuel Karinja
William Lavin
Carlotta Niles
Joseph Osinski
Justin Pomphrey
Carol Anne Ross

In Honor of:

Wedding of VJ Carbone and Michael Trusnovac
Happy Father's Day to William Dillman
Deborah Geiger
Ian Levine's Lemonade Stand
Happy Birthday to Norma Silva

POLICY

Zach Lees, Ocean Policy Attorney
policy@CleanOceanAction.org

New Pipeline Project Expansion

On July 13, 2017, the NJ/NY Baykeeper will be holding a public meeting to discuss actions that communities and individuals can take to help stop the Transco Pipeline. Williams, a provider of energy infrastructure, has proposed a 23.4-mile pipeline project to expand its existing Transco transmission system to transport natural gas. The 50-year-old pipelines would transport natural gas from fracking wells in the Marcellus shale regions in Pennsylvania and the Gulf Coast to Mercer, Somerset and Middlesex Counties in NJ and under the Raritan Bay in NY. The potential impacts are grave due to compression stations and pipeline leaks of methane and exhaust which contain carcinogens and other toxic chemicals. This dangerous pollution will impact fishing, boating and recreational activities in our communities. **The meeting will be held Thursday, July 13, at Keyport High School at 351 Broad Street, Keyport, NJ 07735.**



For updates contact COA's Policy Intern Melanie Daly by email at advocate@cleanoceanaction.org.

Do You Know What You're Swimming In?

The NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) assesses water quality at approximately 180 ocean and 35 bay monitoring stations along the NJ coast beginning mid-May and ending in mid-September. These samples are tested for Enterococci, a type of bacteria in animal and human feces. The presence of these bacteria could indicate the possible contamination of waters people use for enjoyment and relaxation. Swimming advisories are issued based on the amount of bacteria per 100mL of sample. If the concentration of bacteria in a sample exceeds the state standard (greater than 104 colonies), a swimming advisory is put into place and further sampling is done each day. If two consecutive daily samples are greater than the standard amount, the beach closes until the subsequent results are below the standard. The NJDOH notes that regional health or enforcement agencies can close beaches at any time they feel necessary to ensure public and health safety.

(The NJ Department of Environmental Protection manages the NJ Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program referenced above where county health departments conduct water quality monitoring on recreational beaches in NJ.)

Stay tuned to COA's Facebook page every Tuesday throughout the summer for updates on beach advisories and closings. Additional information on this program can be found at njbeaches.org.

Is Your Company Sustainable?

COA's Corporate Beach Sweep Program is professionally staffed and customized for corporations, combining educational programming and team building. Since the onset of the program in 2005, over 3,000 Corporate Beach Sweep volunteers have gathered to clean the beaches of debris and collect important data. This summer COA's Marine Debris Intern, Maureen Sullivan, is conducting an exciting research project analyzing corporations' reductions of single use plastics as a result of participation in the Program. After the event, participants will complete a short survey regarding their company's sustainability practices. By evaluating the responses of the survey, this assessment will assist COA in recommending strategies to help corporations become more sustainable.



SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, Staff Scientist; Science@CleanOceanAction.org

Rally for the Navesink Turns One!

As the Ocean Advocate goes to press, Rally for the Navesink celebrates its One Year Anniversary at the June 29 meeting at Bingham Hall in Rumson, NJ! Waves of thanks to the many supporters and the 25 groups in the alliance for an outstanding first year.

Here are just a few highlights:

- Environmental Canine Services helped track down five sources of human waste discharging into the river, which have been eliminated.
- Established a volunteer citizen monitoring program with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.
- Established the concept of "Watershed Mindfulness" and created new effective education programs, including "Know your Water Address" and "Soak It Up."
- Doubled the time the Royal Flush pump-out boat will be on the water, managed by NY/NJ Baykeeper.
- Released "First Fives" for citizens, schools, towns, and businesses – initial five actions to help improve water quality.

Rally for the Navesink Alliance, coordinated by COA, includes: American Littoral Society ~ Bayshore Anglers Association ~ Bayshore Regional Watershed Council ~ Clean Ocean Action ~ Conserve Claypit Creek ~ Hartshorne Woods Association ~ Monmouth Boat Club ~ Monmouth Conservation Foundation ~ Navesink Business Group ~ Navesink Maritime Heritage Association and River Scouts ~ Navesink Shrewsbury River Fishing Club ~ Navesink River Rowing Club ~ NJ Friends of Clearwater ~ NY/NJ Baykeeper ~ Oceanport Water Watch Committee ~ Oceanic Free Library ~ Pirates Care ~ Recreational Fishing Alliance ~ Red Bank Business Alliance ~ River Rats ~ Riverview Medical Center ~ Rumson Garden Club ~ Shrewsbury Sailing & Yacht Club ~ Sierra Club-Shore Group ~ Surfrider-Jersey Shore Chapter

Navesink River Citizen Water Quality Monitoring

On June 14, 2017, COA and the NJDEP launched the Navesink Ambient Citizen Water Quality Monitoring and Source Tracking Program. This is a weekly sampling program that will be conducted for 52 weeks at 18 sites in five towns until June 2018 by citizen scientists in the watershed. This collaboration between the DEP and COA, along with support from Navesink River Municipalities Committee, is the first time that citizen scientist volunteers will participate to help "Find and Fix" the sources of bacterial pollution in the Navesink River. COA is the field coordinator for this sampling program and is mobilizing volunteers and other resources to help collect samples, then courier them to NJDEP's Leeds Point Laboratory every week. Each sample is analyzed for fecal indicator bacteria, including Enterococci. COA is receiving excellent feedback from our volunteers and everyone awaits the DEP's water quality analysis.



COA is confident that this collaborative citizen monitoring program can be used as a model for uniting different groups and entities to find and fix water quality impairments in other watersheds. All updates related to this sampling program can be found on the Facebook page, "Rally for the Navesink."

Spotlight on Seals, Seismic and MMSC



75,000 views on Facebook – our first video ever to go viral!

Also in June, "Phil" the seal was released by the National Aquarium, a non-profit public aquarium based in Baltimore, MD. Phil was rescued in DE as he crawled his way through the mud from one pond to another and rehabilitated at the aquarium.

The viral activity of COA's videos proves that people care about protecting these beautiful ocean mammals. The seals are just one kind of marine life that will be shocked, stunned, and possibly killed by seismic blasting. In fact, through COA's social media these images were linked to a Citizens' Call to Action against seismic blasting. Numerous citizens wrote to NOAA and NMFS and voiced their vehement opposition to seismic blasting in the Atlantic.



Watershed towns: Rumson, Fair Haven, Middletown, Red Bank, Tinton Falls, and Colts Neck

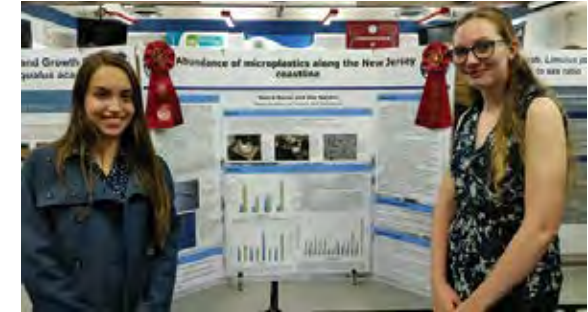
OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Mae Henry, Marine Program Associate; Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org
Amanda Wheeler, Volunteer & Education Coordinator; citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Spring into Summer Vacation

The 2016-2017 school year ended with exciting outreach adventures! Here are a few highlights:

- Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST) Interns, Sierra Byrne and Zoe Sucato, were awarded an "Excellence in Marine Research" award. This award for their microplastics research with COA was presented by Liza Baskin, capstone teacher for the Biological Oceanography program. Congratulations, graduates!
- COA was recognized at Long Branch's George L. Catrambone Elementary School's U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon awards ceremony for sustainable schools. Congratulations, GLC!
- After COA presentations, Amerigo A. Anastasia School students wrote letters to persuade their local officials in Long Branch to curb beach litter by having concessions serve "straws only upon request." Great job, AAA!
- In May and June, COA provided advocacy education to over 2,700 students from pre-school students (Learning Path Preschool) to college level (Monmouth University). Many thanks to all the teachers!



For more information about our educational programming, please contact Amanda Wheeler at AWheeler@cleanoceanaction.org.

It's a Jersey Shore Thing to Support Clean Ocean Action!



For example, enjoy:

- Patagonia's "Fish People" free showing at Glide Surf Co in Asbury on Friday, June 30th
- Community night at Russell & Bette's in Rumson, NJ, on Thursday, July 27th
- "2nd Jetty's (Sea Bright, NJ) Happy Lobster Dish: all summer a portion of the proceeds is donated to COA
- Angel's Envy Distillery (NYC) events throughout the summer: a portion of the proceeds of drinks served without straws is donated to COA

Treat yourself and the environment with a Jersey Shore Thing (JST). Businesses involved raise funds for COA while giving special deals to you, the consumer! With entrée specials, raffles, percent days, and more, these businesses have all decided that the ocean is important to them. Come out and show your support!

Check out our website and Facebook page to get a full list of Jersey Shore Thing events and participants. Do you own a business and want to get involved with COA? Become a Shore Thing! Contact Tory at TWoods@CleanOceanAction.org to join the mission and help protect our waters.

Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips (COAST)

July is kick-off month for C.O.A.S.T.! Let's get ready to hit the beach and make this year's campaign the most successful one to date! C.O.A.S.T. is an outreach program educating beachgoers about ocean and watershed issues. This year the goal is to expand beyond the shore and include inland areas. John Chiarella, the 2017 C.O.A.S.T. Intern is including new community events, such as local farmers markets and businesses through COA's 'Jersey Shore Thing' (see article above). These opportunities will provide an entirely new audience, and thanks to the help of our enthusiastic volunteers, more ocean defenders will be ready to jump into action! At a time when ocean blasting threatens to devastate the Mid-Atlantic, this help couldn't be more valuable. To learn more, visit our blog at cleanoceanaction.blogspot.com or email John at coast@cleanoceanaction.org.



COA Welcomes Six Impressive Summer Interns!



Interns (L to R) John Chiarella, Josh Keller, Nicole Brennan, Maureen Sullivan, Melanie Daly, Val Taranto

Nicole Brennan is COA's Science Intern. She is a 2017 graduate of URI with a BS in Geology/Geological Oceanography with field experience as a "Research Intern in Ocean Sciences Fellowship" with Rutgers University in Chile, as well as experience in the Sea Level Research Lab at URI. At COA, Nicole is launching and staffing the implementation of the citizen water quality monitoring program, Rally for the Navesink, as well as other water quality initiatives.

John Chiarella, C.O.A.S.T. Intern (Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips), attends Fordham University as a History major with a Theatre/Communications minor. John has previous non-profit experience interning for Move for Hunger in Asbury Park and as a crew member of the Student Conservation Association at Sandy Hook. He is focusing on providing information to businesses and citizens about how they can make a difference in the quality of NJ's coastal waters.

Melanie Daly, Policy Intern, is heading into her second year as a law student at New York Law School. She is ranked 7th in her class, and has just been appointed to the Law Review. She is a graduate of UVM and was involved with COA's Beach Sweeps and other initiatives during high school. This summer, Mel is working on stopping seismic testing and expansion of offshore oil and gas development, as well as watchdogging and researching proposals for potential threats to water quality.

Josh Keller is the Nonprofit Management Intern. He is a junior at Eckerd College, St Petersburg, FL as a Marine Science major and Computer Science minor. Josh is an avid boater and is passionate about protection of marine ecosystems. He is very familiar with COA, as he worked on many programs while attending MAST High School and his parents have been involved since the 1980's. This summer Josh assists with development, communications, and general office management.

Maureen Sullivan, Marine Debris Intern, is a graduate of Bucknell University and will be attaining her Masters of Science from the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmosphere Science in December. Maureen's focus at Rosenstiel is on Coastal Zone Management and she is writing her thesis on Marine Debris. At COA, Maureen assists with the Corporate Beach Sweeps and statewide Beach Sweeps programs, as well as corporate sustainability.

Valerie Taranto joins the team part-time as the Nonprofit Intern assisting the Development Director with correspondence, data entry, and general office work. Val was also an intern during the school year while attending MAST and in the Fall will attend the University of Southern California in LA with a major in Sustainable Architecture.

All six interns bring many talents and skills, and they are individually already making a difference at COA. Please attend COA events and activities this summer to meet them and dive into the summer with these energetic and enthusiastic students! Welcome to the COA Crew!

Paddlers Race for Clean Water!



What a great way to spend Father's Day weekend!



Preparing for the race!



The Dream Team: Race Director Harris Davis, COA Development Director Tory Woods, Chairperson Andrea Reichert

A beautiful, foggy, late spring morning on the Shrewsbury River provided the perfect conditions for paddlers at COA's Shore Paddle event on May 17! The new location at the Shrewsbury Sailing & Yacht Club (SSYC) was an excellent venue for spectators, family, and friends. Over 125 standup paddleboard, prone, kayak, outrigger, and surfski paddlers signed-up to help raise awareness and funds for COA's year-round water quality programs.

Paddlers took to the water and participated in either the 2 Mile Fun Paddle or the 5 Mile Race. The new race course, which consisted of three laps, allowed participants to test their speed and turns while spectators viewed from the upper deck. The racers competed in a variety of categories including age and board size. Up-cycled trophies from Beacon Awards were given to the top three finishers, as well as Thule backpacks and gear for the first place winners. In memory of Ben Hamilton, avid paddle boarder, surfer, and COA friend, the first annual "Ben Hamilton Volunteer Award" was presented to John Quinn, past Commodore of SSYC. John is an outstanding volunteer and without his help the Shore Paddle would not be possible.

Throughout the morning, the Shore Paddle offered many activities, such as complimentary sailing sessions, SUP Yoga with Flow Paddle Yoga, SUP demos by Aqua Vida, education

by David P Civile Foundation, many SUP vendors, face painting, and more!

The event continued with an After Party at the clubhouse, where guests enjoyed waterfront views and dancing to live music by the Sam Sims Band, whose music provided the perfect ocean friendly vibe. To uphold COA's environmental

missions, participants were given re-useable pint glasses and enjoyed a complimentary Bloody Mary bar, donated by Tito's Vodka, along with craft beers by SweetWater Brewing. The amazing team of volunteers grilled up barbecue style food with additional donations provided by Surf BBQ, Wenning's Foods, and Sickles.

Many thanks to the Shrewsbury Sailing & Yacht Club for hosting the Shore Paddle! Special thanks to the dedicated volunteers, safety boat captains, Oceanport First Aid Squad, donors, and participants.

The Shore Paddle was a great success and continues to grow! We hope you will join us next year at this fun, family friendly event on the beautiful Shrewsbury River. Follow the Shore Paddle throughout the year on Facebook and follow the new Instagram account @COA_ShorePaddle for more photos and event updates!



...and they're off!



Race winners proudly displaying their re-purposed trophies



Outriggers and surfskis participated this year for 1st time!