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- One Fish, Two Fish, Dead Fish, Blue Fish
- Shore Paddle for a clean ocean
- Become a Blue Star town

July 2014 Highlights

- TAKE ACTION TO HELP YOUR OCEAN:**
1. Attend July 2 Emergency Town Hall Meeting to fight imminent seismic testing.
 2. Sign the petition against seismic testing at stoprutgersoceanblasting.org.
 3. Volunteer to be an active ocean advocate thru COAST.

LABEL

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Heather (coast@cleanoceanaction.org) to participate with COA at any of these events!

- 7/2/14** Rally Against Seismic Testing, 5pm, Barnegat
- 7/9/14** Eighth Annual Barnegat Bay Day & Go-Green Expo, 12:00pm-4:00pm, Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences
- 7/12-13/14** Annual Bradley Beach Lobster Festival, 11:00am-9:00pm (Saturday) and 11:00am-6:00pm (Sunday), Bradley Beach
- 7/13/14** Shore Paddle, 8:00am-12noon, Victory Park, Rumson
- 7/16/14** COA Seaside Seminar, 6:00pm-7:30pm, Monmouth Beach Cultural Center
- 7/19/14** Jersey Shore Jazz and Blues Fest, 12:00pm-8:00pm, Point Pleasant
- 7/19/14** Atlantic Highlands Film Fest, 6:00pm-9:00pm, Atlantic Highlands Harbor Marina

TRIBUTES



In Honor Of
Don MacNeal's Birthday

In Memory Of
Dorothy Benson
Al Cross
Samuel Karinja

What'SUP? Shore Paddle for a Clean Ocean!



Join COA and SEA (Surfers' Environmental Alliance) for fun in the sun and water, at "Shore Paddle" on Sunday July 13th, 2014 at Victory

Park in Rumson, NJ! Race start is 9:00 am and the Fun Paddle begins at 9:30 am. Come out and experience this great event on the Navesink River to celebrate the natural beauty of our shore through this Stand-Up Paddleboard (SUP) event.

There will be free SUP Yoga demonstrations, and free SUP and yoga classes for all levels of experience! Family fun activities include seining and water testing with the Monmouth County Parks System, as well as seaside crafts and shell painting. The event will conclude with a Beach Sweep!

Check out www.cleanoceanaction.org or www.facebook.com/shorepaddle for event updates including special events at Molly Maguire's in Rumson, NJ:

- Wednesday, July 9: Stop by the COA table to register to paddle.
- Thursday, July 10: Pre-paddle Party! Molly Maguire's will give 10% of dinner sales to the Shore Paddle and Green Sun Energy Services. Enjoy music and chances to win great gifts! Last chance to sign-up to paddle before the price increases!

To register for Shore Paddle Race or Fun Paddle, please visit PaddleGuru.com/races/ShorePaddle. To join in the 3-mile Fun Paddle, registration is \$75 in advance and \$85 the day of the event. The **WPA Points Sanctioned** 8-mile SUP race is \$85 in advance and \$100 on race day, and top finishers will receive prizes. Registration begins at 8:00 on July 13 at Victory Park in Rumson.

It's never too late to sponsor - many opportunities are available! At time of printing, thank you to our Shore Paddle sponsors: Two River Community Bank, Molly Maguire's Black Point Inn, Proodian Healthcare, Elaine Eadon Realtor, Profulgent Technology and Green Sun Energy Services.

Please call Tory Woods at the Clean Ocean Action office to find out more.

Threat of Seismic Testing Imminent off the Jersey Shore - Emergency Town Hall Meeting on LBI

Alarmingly, the ocean blasting study is moving forward. A federal agency denied NJ's right to review the study due to a timing disagreement and the Marcus G. Langseth - the ocean blasting ship - is now headed toward NJ. You can track it's progress at www.marinetraffic.com. The federal agency reviews are still ongoing and could be completed any day now. COA would like to thank our partner groups and supporters who have made calls or sent letters to NJ elected officials and/or signed our online petition, which has garnered over 16,000 signatures and counting! Visit www.stoprutgersoceanblasting.org to sign the petition.



Photo of bottlenose dolphins courtesy of Scott Longfield

Much has happened in the last month:

- On June 5, the NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee passed Resolution R72 urging rejection of the seismic blasting plans. COA attended the Committee hearing and provided testimony in support of the resolution, which was introduced by Committee Chairman Senator Smith (D-17) with bi-partisan support from Senator Bateman (R-16).
- COA held discussions with U.S. Senators Booker and Menendez regarding the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) request to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to review the proposal to determine its consistency with state laws. The Senators jointly submitted a letter to NOAA on June 16 in support of the NJDEP's request, and COA also sent a letter of support. On June 18, NOAA informed the NJDEP that their request was denied because it wasn't submitted quickly enough.
- COA discussed the authority of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) over the proposed project with U.S. Congressman Pallone, who submitted a letter to BOEM requesting the agency's review of the project. Mr. Pallone's letter argues that under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), BOEM must receive at least 30 days' notice of the project from the applicants, as well as proof that the activity will not harm marine life or conflict with other uses, such as fishing. A response from BOEM has not yet been received.

COA is exploring other avenues for delaying and ultimately stopping the study, and the fight is not over yet! **An Emergency Town Hall meeting will be held at the Barnegat Fire House on July 2nd at 5pm.** Come learn more about this proposal and the potential impacts from invited speakers to include elected officials and representatives from the fishing, recreation, scientific, and environmental communities. Contact Lauren Townsend at ltownsend4@gmail.com for details!

In the meantime, we are calling on our supporters to generate more calls and petition signatures, write letters to the editor, and help us bring new organizations, businesses, and individuals on board this important campaign to protect New Jersey marine life and our coastal economy. Check the COA website for details about this emergency meeting on Long Beach Island on July 2!

EDUCATION

Catie Tobin, Education@cleanoceanaction.org

Become an Education Ambassador

Do you love the ocean? Are you a teacher or are you comfortable doing presentations in front of groups? If so, then the Clean Ocean Action Education Ambassador is the program for you! Ambassadors will assist Clean Ocean Action's education program by conducting presentations about ocean pollution issues to schools and community groups. Ambassadors will be compensated for their time. For more information, please contact Catie Tobin at education@cleanoceanaction.org or visit the website <http://www.cleanoceanaction.org>.

The Municipal Blue Star Program

A Collaboration with Sustainable Jersey



Nearly all of New Jersey's waters fail to meet the fishable, swimmable, and drinkable goals of our laws. Most of these issues are a result of our everyday actions, and the way we use land and water resources.

Fortunately, many water quality issues can be fixed or prevented with small changes within our daily lives and communities. Through the Blue Star initiative, not only will communities become leaders in environmental stewardship, but the beauty and vitality of a clean coastal ecosystem and economy will be ensured.

The municipal Blue Star program combines the visionary Sustainable Jersey program with Clean Ocean Action's focus on water quality protection. Our goal is to inspire coastal towns to achieve Sustainable Jersey Certification and reap its benefits, while at the same time focusing on watershed-wide water quality improvements.

Clean Ocean Action will be going on the 'road' for the summer introducing the Blue Star program statewide by attending various meetings and events to give presentations and to network. The summer-long launch will culminate in an event in September inviting municipal leaders from around the state. The event will highlight an innovative water quality demonstration not yet seen in NJ. Stay tuned!

Any municipality registered or certified in the Sustainable Jersey program is eligible to work on the Blue Star Award. In order to receive Blue Star Certification, the municipality must first become Sustainable Jersey certified.

For more information about getting involved or a list of events we will be attending please contact Catie Tobin. To learn about the Sustainable Jersey Program, please visit: <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/>

SCIENCE AND ADVOCACY

Cara Muscio, Coastal@cleanoceanaction.org

Cassandra Ornell, Science@cleanoceanaction.org

One Fish, Two Fish, Dead Fish, Blue Fish

On the morning of May 12, thousands of dead menhaden or "bunker" fish washed-up from the Shark River as the tide went out, and littered nearby beaches. Throughout the day, fish continued to drift from the inlet and wash-up on the shore, primarily in Avon and Belmar. Early in the day, fishermen and local businesses reported the event, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Monmouth County Health Department collected water quality and fish tissue samples for examination.

Though it is challenging to diagnose an issue after it actually occurs, scientific

consensus is that the kill was a naturally occurring event. Some thought that the warming temperatures and heavy rains throughout the week stirred up nutrients in the water, causing small algae to bloom. When the algae dies, bacteria break it down, and this uses up much of the oxygen in the water, which can stress fish and shellfish. High levels of algae were not found in the water hours after the event, so other people focused on the large size of the bunker school, and how they were chased into the shallows of the Shark River, where oxygen was likely lower than out in the ocean. The sheer number of skittish bunker moving around in a small area could have used up much of the oxygen through the overnight hours. Both of these situations are plausible explanations for a late spring fish kill, and both focus on the fish not being able to survive low oxygen levels.

The public is often on the front line for spotting and reporting environmental health issues, whether dead fish, discolored water, algae blooms, or debris and medical waste. If you see anything unusual along a river, bay, beach, or in the ocean, call the NJ DEP hotline at 1-888-WARN-DEP. You should write down the report number, take photos of what you observe, and note the day, time, and water conditions.



COA Photo

NJDEP Proposes Consolidation and Amendment of Rules Governing Coastal Development

The June 2 New Jersey Register contained a notice from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) that the agency has proposed to consolidate the existing Coastal Permit Program Rules and Coastal Zone Management rules into one chapter and to make other changes on how development in coastal areas will be permitted in the future.

The proposed rules contain several components that appear to be beneficial for water quality, and also some troubling provisions. For example, the definition of "dredged material" is modified so that it makes clear that it is not a solid waste under the Solid Waste rules. This will enable increased beneficial use of dredged materials for beach protection, marsh creation, capping of contaminated soils or sediments, and other projects, as long as the material meets certain criteria. On the other hand, provisions which will allow "permit by certification" for bulkhead reconstruction and recreational dock and pier construction in lagoons will streamline the process for homeowners and businesses, but eliminates much of the oversight on these types of projects, and fails to encourage natural living shorelines as alternatives.

COA is concerned that the proposed rule changes, which represent the first major overhaul of the coastal rules following Sandy, do not go far enough to address the threats that future climate change and sea level rise pose to our coastal areas – in fact, the phrases "climate change" and "sea level rise" are not mentioned even once in the over 1,000-page document released by the NJDEP.

A final public hearing will be held on Wednesday, July 9 at 11:00am at the Coastal Education Center of the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, located at 130 Great Bay Boulevard in Tuckerton. Written comments may be submitted either electronically or via regular mail by August 1, 2014. Visit www.nj.gov/dep/rules for the full proposal and information on how to submit comments.

Process Started to Allow Wind Energy Development off NY

On May 28, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced their intent to prepare an environmental assessment regarding potential commercial wind leases offshore New York. On the same day, BOEM also published a call for information and nominations from companies interested in commercial wind energy leases in this area. BOEM is seeking public comments on both announcements, and comments are due July 14. Importantly, the area of interest overlaps with the proposed Port Ambrose LNG terminal that COA and partner groups have been fighting against for years.

This presents a good opportunity to submit comments that raise questions about how offshore wind development would be possible if Port Ambrose moves forward. To see a map of the proposed wind leasing area and to learn how to submit comments, visit COA's blog.

SUPPORTING COA'S WORK

Diana Reinhardt Paradis, Development@cleanoceanaction.org

Gold's Gym Boardwalk Workout

On June 14, more than 250 fitness enthusiasts took part in a 3½-hour workout on the Long Branch boardwalk, thanks to Gold's Gym! The event to benefit COA featured Paddle Board Fitness, "Jersey Style" Body Combat, Zumba, and other classes led by instructors from Gold's locations in Long Branch, Paramus, Howell and Bridgewater. Special silent auction items were also available. Thanks to Mark Steinfeld, owner of the Long Branch location, and Manager Grace Wrightson, for creating this special event and selecting Clean Ocean Action as the beneficiary. Join us next June for this now-annual event!



C.O.A.S.T. 2014

Heather Schleiffer, Coast@cleanoceanaction.org

COAST Kickoff!

Summer is finally here! Whether sitting on the beach reading a book, cooling off in the water or just hanging out on the boardwalk, there is always a reason to be outside in the hot summer months. Why not add ocean activism to that list?

Throughout July and August, COA will be hosting the 25th annual Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips (C.O.A.S.T.) campaign to educate citizens about current ocean pollution issues. As in previous years, you will find our volunteers at information tables on beaches, beach clubs, and festivals throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties on weekends in July and August.

The (tentative) weekend table schedule is as follows:

- July 5-6: Ship Ahoy Beach Club, Surfrider Beach Club,
- July 12-13: Chapel Beach Club, Driftwood Beach Club, Monmouth Beach Bath and Tennis Club
- July 19-20: Monmouth Beach Bathing Pavilion, Edgewater Beach Club, Breakwater Beach Club, Promenade Beach Club
- July 26-27: Sands Beach Club, Allenhurst Public Beach, Belmar Public Beach, Loch Arbor Public Beach
- August 2-3: Bradley Beach Public Beach 3, Avon Public Beach, Long Branch Public Beach
- August 9-10: Jenkinson's Pavilion, Brick Beach 3, Sea Bright Public Beach
- August 16-17: Lavallette Public Beach, Seaside Park Public Beach, Island Beach State Park

To volunteer at a C.O.A.S.T. table, please call Heather at (732) 872-0111 or email her at Coast@CleanOceanAction.org.

We hope to see lots of supporters on the beaches this summer! Stop by a C.O.A.S.T. table to learn about ocean pollution issues, sign important petitions, donate to our cause, buy popular environmentally-themed merchandise and learn how to become more involved with Clean Ocean Action! Together we can achieve a cleaner ocean!

