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LABEL

17 Mile Swim for the COZ  
Seismic Study Completed  
Hungry Humpback

## August 2015 Highlights

Clean Ocean Action  
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### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Melissa at [coast@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:coast@cleanoceanaction.org) to participate with COA at any of these events!

- August 7th:** Beach Ball-A\_Palooza, Lakewood
- August 8th - 9th:** Lavallette Beach
- August 8th - 9th:** Elberon Bathing Club
- August 8th - 9th:** Avon-by-the-Sea Beach
- August 15th - 16th:** Ocean Grove Beach
- August 15th - 16th:** Island Beach State Park Beach
- September 12th:** Friends of Clearwater Festival
- September 13th:** Beach Plum Fest., Island Beach State Park
- September 11th - 13th:** Asbury Park Oyster Festival
- September 19th:** Wind & Sea Festival, Port Monmouth
- September 19th:** Festival of the Sea, Point Pleasant
- September 19th:** Sandy Hook Bio Blitz

Interested in volunteering? Please visit our website and fill out a volunteer form or contact Nicole at [outreach@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:outreach@cleanoceanaction.org)

### TRIBUTES



*In Honor of:*  
50th Wedding Anniversary of  
Lori & Rich Skoller  
Nancy Billyer & Demetrios Hadgis'  
Wedding  
Janine Karoly  
Building 18 Hutz Cup Champs

*In Memory of:*  
Walter Ronald Aravich  
Samuel Karinja  
William Lavin  
Chuck Oliver

### Silent Seas

#### Ocean Blasting Study Completed

The marine environment and the lives it supports are now free from constant blasting. On Monday, July 6th, the Rutgers seismic study was completed. Wave of thanks to everyone for your tireless support and continued fight against this study. This fight has shown us that there are numerous inconsistencies and flaws in the environmental review process. Although there were three whale deaths and numerous fishing anomalies, we will not know if these are attributed to the Rutgers study. That is due in part because the scientists refused to conduct any such studies of marine life.

We will continue to work diligently to ensure that the environmental and public review process for all potentially harmful projects are upheld to the highest standard and encourage the public to remain engaged on all environmental issues affecting the marine environment.

Because the seismic survey has been completed, the fishing groups and National Science Foundation have mutually agreed to withdraw the motion for a preliminary injunction of the lawsuit. However, the substantive portions of the suit will go forward. The lawsuit by the NJDEP challenging the way the project was approved is also active. We will keep everyone informed if a hearing date is announced.

Thank you again for your support and fight these last two years. We will continue working to put in place policies that truly protect our marine environment and ensure this doesn't happen in the future.

#### Diving into the Deep Water Port Act

Clean Ocean Action recently submitted comments on the US Coast Guard's (USCG) and Maritime Administration's (MARAD) proposed revisions to the Deep Water Port Act (DWPA).

Please visit our website to read COA's comments and our blog for a more detailed analysis of the Deep Water Port Act.

### A Historic Swim for the COZ by a Remarkable Woman

Just keep swimming! Just keep swimming! On July 22, 2015, Patricia Sener, Executive Director of Coney Island Brighton Beach Open Water Swimmers (CIBBOWS), did just that and made history to help protect the ocean. After 11 hours, 8 minutes, and 35 seconds



Patricia swam 17 miles and arrived on the beach in Long Island. The epic swim began at 11:03 AM as Patricia launched from Sandy Hook and swam across the New York/New Jersey Bight to Atlantic Beach, Long Island and ended after 10 PM – all for the COZ (Clean Ocean Zone). Patricia is the first person to swim across this ecologically diverse and busy shipping region. During her swim, Patricia was visited by humpback whales and had to stop to let huge ships pass. She also swam in the pitch dark with only a light stick, and as the waters

became cold she became nearly hypothermic.

Patricia's tenacity and spirit is inspired by the beauty and commitment to protect these exceptional waters. To top it off, she also raised over \$3000 to support the ocean. One additional extraordinary fact: she and her crew planned it all in just 5 days.

We are awed and inspired by Patricia and her crew's 11 hour journey, and their commitment to a clean and healthy ocean.

Read more about their 11 hour odyssey on their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/CIBBOWS](http://www.facebook.com/CIBBOWS).



Waves of thanks!

### A Whale of a Good Time



Talk about being at the right place at the right time! While out on a boat off Sandy Hook, Ryan Struck, a professional photographer, captured a humpback whale feeding on thousands of fish. This picture quickly went viral – spreading around social media and in various news outlets around New Jersey.

## Policy

Zach Lees, [policy@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:policy@cleanoceanaction.org)

### Shark River: The Dredge Debate

Ask anyone who has piloted a boat through Shark River and they will tell you how shallow and dangerous it can be, especially around low tide. For the last two decades, local, state, and federal officials, as well as concerned citizens, have been working on a feasible plan that will make Shark River navigable once again.

Everyone agrees that dredging is necessary. Where opinions differ is how much dredging should take place, where the dredged material will be dried out, and ultimately, where it will be managed. In such a densely populated area, how towns choose to handle dredge material has become the proverbial stick in the mud. However, there is finally some hope.



This past month the NJ Department of Transportation, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Towns of Neptune and

Belmar have come together with local and state law makers to design a dredging plan for the 105,000 cubic yards of material clogging Shark River's state-managed channels. One of the temporary management areas is on Seaview Island, which was a dredged material disposal area until 30 years ago. Understandably, some residents are concerned while others are supportive of the much-needed dredging project. The good news is that the material tested clean by meeting the residential direct contact standards. The material will be placed at the Monmouth County landfill to be used beneficially.

This has the potential to vastly improve navigability for boaters, while also minimizing impacts to the environment. COA has closely followed these developments and will continue working to facilitate communication.

### National Ocean Policy: 5 Years Later

In July of 2010, the Obama Administration ordered the creation of a National Ocean Council to oversee the implementation of his National Ocean Policy (NOP) to connect the decision making processes of state and federal agencies in a collaborative process, while creating an opportunity for citizen, private industry, and eNGO advisory input.

COA has tried to ensure that NOP offered a true participatory process for the communities whose livelihoods depend upon a clean ocean and bear the brunt of the many uses of our ocean and coastal area. Since the inception of NOP, COA has remained outspoken in support of the citizens who live in these areas, and for the health and wellbeing of the ocean itself.

So what has been accomplished on the 5 year anniversary of the NOP? As cooperation and collaboration between agencies has improved, and the body of science and research for which to make decisions has grown, the participatory process we advocated for so stridently is deficient to say the least. The actions of the Obama Administration speak louder than any policy could. The waters of the mid-Atlantic have been opened to oil and gas exploration, the Arctic has been opened to oil drilling, and offshore LNG terminals threaten our coastlines. There is a continued push for development in the most fragile and vulnerable portions of our coastal areas, and the ocean ecosystem we take for granted is showing multiple signs of collapse. COA will continue to engage the policymakers and advocate loudly on behalf of the oceans' health, first and foremost.

## Education

Catie Tobin, [education@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:education@cleanoceanaction.org)

### Inaugural Blue Star Award Presented to Long Beach Township

Clean Ocean Action's Municipal Blue Star Program was established in 2014 to encourage towns in coastal regions and beyond to prioritize water quality protection measures, while achieving Sustainable Jersey Certification. The Sustainable Jersey program is an action and point-based certification for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, reduce costs, and take steps to improve their quality of life over the long term. These two programs encourage communities to promote healthy waters, resilient communities, and environmentally sound practices.

On Friday, July 24th, COA awarded the first of two inaugural Clean Ocean Action Municipal Blue Star Certifications to Long Beach Township, NJ, to recognize their efforts to improve water quality. Long Beach Township has been a pioneer in their region for sustainability work and planning for resiliency. They are influencing success in their neighboring towns, which ultimately is in the best interest of the watershed and estuary.

Long Beach Township achieved 140 of the necessary 75 points to attain the Municipal Blue Star certification. Examples of the actions that they completed include Community Education & Outreach, Education for Sustainability Programs, Rain Garden Installation, and Recycling Education & Enforcement. In addition to Sustainable Jersey projects, towns are required to choose one of COA's additional actions. Long Beach Township completed the Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk action. Outcomes from this project include infrastructure upgrades for water and sewer piping, as well as finalized plans to rebuild all pump stations above base flood levels to avoid storm damage and shut downs.

COA will be awarding Wall Township, the second of the two inaugural towns, in a ceremony on Wednesday, August 26th at 7:30pm at the Municipal Building. Congratulations to our Blue Star inductees!

### No Go for Foam in NYC

You may notice something different the next time you order take out or a hot coffee in New York City – no more foam! As of July 1st, New York City has become the largest city to ban the sale, possession, and distribution of single-use polystyrene foam. This ban includes cups, bowls, plates, take out containers, trays, and packaging peanuts. Foam cannot be recycled and due to its light weight it tends to blow around, littering the city and waterways. New York City has joined Washington DC, Minneapolis, and San Francisco, who have also banned foam products. This ban will eliminate the use of one of the worst plastic pollution offenders. What city or town will be next? Urge your town to take action.

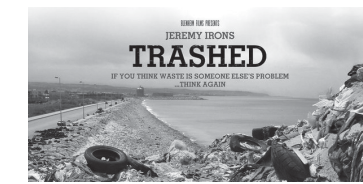
While this ban is a step in the right direction, most communities still use foam. You can make a difference by bringing your own coffee cup, water bottle, and reusable utensils. Want more tips to reduce your plastic footprint? Sign the plastic pledge on our website to receive weekly tips to help purge plastics!



## Events

Tory Woods, [coast@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:coast@cleanoceanaction.org)

### COA Movie Night



Save the date! Movie night benefiting COA on Wednesday, August 5th at 7 PM is hosted by United by Blue on the Asbury Park Boardwalk, featuring the critically acclaimed documentary, "Trashed". Throughout the day, 10% of all sales will benefit COA and the fight against ocean pollution. Light food and drinks will be provided.

Be sure to bring your own beach chair. Come shop and support COA, enjoy a free documentary, then a beach bonfire!

### Art Tour for the Shore

In honor of the 30th Anniversary of the Beach Sweeps program, COA is hosting an "Art Tour for the Shore." This tour will be held throughout the month of August, with the proceeds funding COA's work keeping the ocean clean.

The purpose of the Art Tour for the Shore is to highlight the bountiful ocean and beaches, and the work that COA and our supporters do to help maintain their beauty and reduce ocean pollution.

We are pleased to announce our first three highlighted artists: **Peggy Nitka** at Alice's Kitchen in Sea Bright, NJ. Join us for a percent day with a portion of the proceeds from all guests benefiting COA on August 18th. **Robyn Prezioso** at Pop's Garage in Asbury Park **Ryan Struck** at Pop's Garage in Shrewsbury Please join us at any of the above locations to support local artists, businesses, and COA!

### From Trash to Treasure

During the summer many beaches are swept daily to remove unsightly debris, but pieces still get left behind. What if you could use this trash and pollution to make something beautiful and meaningful?

This is the goal for our new community art project! Launching in August, this volunteer project will use pieces of debris removed from various beaches, to then be added to a mosaic installation. We will be hosting small cleanups twice a month until the fall Beach Sweeps on October 24th. Please visit our Facebook page or MeetUp for a complete listing of cleanups and locations!

### Jump on Board

Registration is now open for COA's Shore Paddle event at 9am on Saturday, September 26th at Marine Park in Red Bank, NJ! Your kind donations will benefit COA's mission to improve and protect our waterways and beaches. This year's fun activities will include a 6.5 mile WPA Points Sanctioned SUP race, 2.5 mile Fun Paddle for all experience levels, and a half mile Kids Paddle! There will be activities for the whole family including, free SUP demonstrations, SUP and land yoga classes, and an after party at Jamian's in Red Bank.



### Sandy Paws for a Clean Ocean

On Saturday, October 10th at 9am COA will be hosting our inaugural COA Sandy Paws fundraiser event! This COZ-wide dog walk invites all dogs, owners, and pet lovers to join us for a day of awareness at your local beach or at the main "tail"-gating event on the Asbury Park Boardwalk.

Sponsorship and vendor opportunities are available. To be a "Lead Dog" and organize a walk near you, please contact Tory Woods.

