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LABEL

# CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE March 2017



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# CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Defending the Sea Since 1984

March 2017  
Photo courtesy of Bryan Zinski

## “World Water Day” Live at Jenkinson’s Aquarium: Calling All Teachers and Students!

Clean Ocean Action, in partnership with Jenkinson’s Aquarium in Point Pleasant, NJ, invites educators and students to celebrate World Water Day on March 22nd. Clean water is essential to all life and to raise awareness of its importance, the United Nations declared World Water Day (WWD) an international day of recognition for clean water.

and depend on clean water, the impact ordinary people can have to help solve water pollution problems and, of course, about the amazing Jenkinson’s Aquarium and its animals and staff.

We are planning to archive the broadcast to other outlets to enable all schools to view the Facebook LIVE event at a convenient time and use it as a reference for future lessons on water quality.

COA is celebrating WWD by connecting the drops and highlighting that all waterways flow to the sea. COA has compiled interesting and fun videos for grades K-12 to initiate watery lessons in classrooms prior to March 22nd. The videos and lessons will certainly stimulate questions on the topics of marine debris, other pollutants that plague our waterways, and what students can do to help stem the tide of pollution. We encourage teachers to collect their students’ questions, and submit them via e-mail to our education staff at COA. On March 22nd, we will answer questions at Jenkinson’s Aquarium where we will be broadcasting LIVE on Facebook. Questions are invited about the effects of pollution on our waterways, the health of all that live in



Details will be sent to schools in the beginning of March via principals’ email addresses and will be available on our website, www.cleanoceanaction.org. In advance of the event, please “like” and “follow” us on Facebook for up to date information about COA’s World Water Day. Feel free to contact Amanda Wheeler, Education and Volunteer Coordinator at citizens@cleanoceanaction.org or Mae Henry, Marine Program Associate, at outreach@cleanoceanaction.org for more information. Visit www.worldwaterday.org for more information about the United Nations initiative.



### Cat Tip Card:

Hot off the press! COA has produced a new card in our series of ten tips, to educate cat owners about the harm their cat can do to our waterways. Cat waste should never be flushed! The litter material can clog sewage system pipes and damage septic systems. Some cat waste can contain a parasite, *T. Gondii*, which is dangerous

to humans and marine life, and cannot be removed during wastewater treatment. The 10 Tips for Cat Owners card also reviews what environmentally friendly choices you can make when it comes to your cat.

If you would like the tip cards or further information please contact Mae Henry at Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org .

### TRIBUTES



Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

#### In Memory of:

William Lavin  
Margaret (Peggy) McNulty  
Carol Anne Ross

#### In Honor of:

Mingchich Chiu  
Happy 40th Birthday to Carl DeMuth  
Merry Christmas to Peter Harrington



### NJ and Delaware River Assessment

COA and Dr. Jay Kelly from RVCC have been conducting an assessment of litter accumulation along the Delaware River in southern NJ, which is subject to tidal influences. This joint investigation also involves clean-ups at select “hot spot” locations, and details were reported in a previous COA newsletter.

COA and RVCC participated in the “7th Biennial Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit - Reflecting on Progress, Charting the Future” in January 2017. Dr. Kelly, on behalf of COA and RVCC, presented a talk on “Identifying Litter Accumulation Areas on the Tidal Portions of the Delaware River: Field Surveys, Laboratory Analyses, and Cleanups”, that was well received.

View a video of the pilot clean-up project that resulted from the initial litter assessment on YouTube: “Clean Ocean Action Delaware River Beach Sweep.”



### The New Jersey Premiere of a Plastic Ocean



Clean Ocean Action and Monmouth University’s Urban Coast Institute will be screening *A Plastic Ocean* at Monmouth University in Pozycki Hall on Thursday, March 30th at 6:00pm. *A Plastic Ocean* is a new feature-length adventure documentary that brings to light the consequences of our global disposable lifestyle. The film will be followed by a dynamic

solutions speaker Gary Sondermeyer, Bayshore Recycling Vice President of Operations. COA will also have four additional screenings in NYC, and Ocean, Atlantic and Cape May Counties. Please visit our Facebook Event or our website for registration for this free event. Space is limited. For more information or collaboration opportunities contact: Clean Ocean Action 732-872-0111, info@CleanOceanAction

# POLICY

## OCEAN WATCH

Zach Lees, Ocean Policy Attorney  
policy@CleanOceanAction.org

As we revealed last month, Clean Ocean Action is proud to announce a new weekly feature on our blog, called OCEAN WATCH, a weekly recap of federal and regional actions that impact the coastal and marine water quality and ecosystems of the mid-Atlantic Ocean. In the last several weeks, executive orders, cabinet nominations, and a host of new legislation has poured from Washington DC. These actions will both directly and indirectly impact our beloved Mid-Atlantic Ocean and coastal region. Each week, we summarize these major actions, and show how the direction of national energy, climate, and regulatory policy will impact the mid-Atlantic region. We encourage you to check it out once a week to stay up to date: [www.cleanoceanaction.blogspot.com](http://www.cleanoceanaction.blogspot.com)

## Innovative Dredging Projects

As we like to say here at Clean Ocean Action, “We Know Mud”, and for the last 30+ years, we have been working on

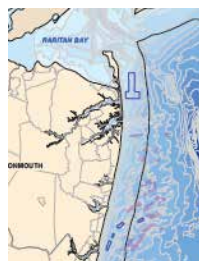


developing community driven solutions to dredge material management and ensure that dredging and placement

options are environmentally friendly and properly located. If you haven't seen our blog in a while, we suggest you check out several dredging-related stories we posted there ([www.cleanoceanaction.blogspot.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.blogspot.org)). All of these projects are tied together with a common thread – “beneficial use” of dredge material. Most recently, the Sandy Hook Channel – a major artery for shipping and recreational boating for those moving in and out of Raritan Bay was being encroached upon by shifting sands at the tip of Sandy Hook. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) proposed dredging the channel to maintain safe navigation. Most noteworthy is the innovative placement option, where sand removed from the channel will be placed at

the Sea Bright Borrow Area. This borrow area is the largest source of sand for beach nourishment projects in Northern Coastal NJ. COA has been advocating for many years for the placement of material from these types of locations back to the borrow area to spare other natural sand formations from harvest, and beneficially use the dredge material from the channel. This is an example of a win-win – for navigation, for coastal communities, and for marine life that live on these natural lumps. The goal is that the replenishment of these borrow areas will alleviate some of the need for harvesting from untouched areas.

There are other areas in NJ that can make this work, including major inlets and other areas of sand accretion. We are identifying these locations, and the borrow areas close to them that have been used in the past, so the USACE can then dredge them for navigation and place that material in the borrow area for storage.



## Meeting with Congressman MacArthur

On February 23, Clean Ocean Action Executive Director Cindy Zipf, Policy Attorney Zach Lees, and COA Board Members Bob Bennekamper, Tom Fagan with Communications Workers of America #1075, and Jim Lovgren with the Fishermen's Dock Cooperative in Point Pleasant, as well as Ernie Panacek,



General Manager of Viking Village, met with Congressman Tom MacArthur (R-NJ, District 3), to discuss priorities for protecting our region's clean ocean economy from ocean industrialization and pollution impacts. The Clean Ocean Zone (COZ) was specifically discussed and future follow-up is planned.

We are proud to work with our elected officials to safeguard clean water in our coastal and marine waters. This resource sustains a \$42 billion dollar a year economy built on tourism, recreational and commercial fishing, and related jobs. COA encourages everyone to engage with their elected officials and make it clear to them that clean water cannot be compromised:

**Federal:**  
Call your US Senators: [https://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)  
Call your US House of Representative: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/> State Level:  
Contact your Governor: <https://www.usa.gov/state-governor>  
For NJ residents, contact your State Senate and Assembly Representatives:  
<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/njmap210.html>  
For NY residents, contact your State Senate and Assembly Representatives:  
<http://www.elections.ny.gov/district-map/district-map.html>

# OUTREACH & EDUCATION

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

## Rally for the Navesink Meeting: Oysters & Pump-out Boats

Rally for the Navesink will be hosting the March meeting at Viola L. Sickles School's All Purpose Room on March 8th at 6:30PM. NY/NJ Baykeeper and American Littoral Society will present on oysters: their history, unique biology and ecology, and their decline and hopeful return to the Navesink River. Monmouth County Health Department will present information on boat waste, human health risks, and the Royal Flush (pump-out boat). *If you are interested in attending the Rally for the Navesink March 8th meeting or for more information, please contact Mae Henry at [outreach@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:outreach@CleanOceanAction.org).*



## Watershed Mindfulness Workshop II

Join teachers from all around the Navesink Watershed for the next Watershed Mindfulness Education Workshop from 4:00pm – 5:30pm on March 16th at the Middletown Public Library, 55 New Monmouth Rd.

Come share ideas! Find out what river-friendly lessons and curricula teachers are using throughout the watershed to teach the next generation about water quality issues in the Navesink River and what students can do to become better watershed stewards.

The agenda will include discussions about—

- March 8th Rally for the Navesink meeting
- Formation of a Project Wet workshop for teacher certification
- COA's World Water Day live event at Jenkinson's Aquarium
- Curricula currently used or available
- “Next steps”

For more information, contact Amanda Wheeler, Education and Volunteer Coordinator, at [citizens@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:citizens@cleanoceanaction.org).

## Welcome, Amy Arietta!



COA welcomes Amy Arietta, our Program and Administrative Coordinator. She has deep roots and a passion for the protecting the environment. Amy is a professional with over 25 years of experience in program coordination and logistics, office and HR management, administration, and writing. Amy is also highly qualified in various system applications.

Amy's enthusiasm, many talents and strong work ethic will add dynamic and proficient qualities to COA's programs and overall management, specifically with the Beach Sweeps, Aveda, fundraising events, and office coordination.

Welcome to the crew, Amy!  
Full steam ahead!

## Stand Up for Clean Water at Shore Paddle!

This is the perfect event to enjoy all that New Jersey's waters have to offer while raising important funds to support clean water. This family, friendly event will be held at the unique and beautiful Shrewsbury Sailing and Yacht Club in Oceanport. A new 5-mile course will offer the perfect view for spectators from the rooftop of the clubhouse. While paddlers are on the water, there will be free SUP lessons, board demos, kid activities, and a fun after party featuring the Sam Sims Band! Register today at [Paddleguru.com](http://Paddleguru.com) and help support clean water!



# SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, Staff Scientist; Science@CleanOceanAction.org  
Catie Tobin, Microplastic Researcher; Education@CleanOceanAction.org

## Data Science Hackathon Tackles Marine Debris and Environmental Sustainability

On Saturday, February 25th, Bloomberg L.P., in conjunction with Clean Ocean Action and the Data Science Institute (DSI), hosted a Data Science Hackathon focused on Environmental Sustainability, and Policy & Social Responsibility. The hackathon was an extension of the work that Bloomberg L.P. has been doing with COA in recent years. More specifically, the company has been analyzing COA's Beach Sweeps data while also providing insights into better data management opportunities.



Under Bloomberg L.P.'s leadership, student participants from DSI, Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), & Columbia's Journalism School worked alongside Bloomberg mentors to help analyze the Beach Sweeps data. This was a unique opportunity for all involved, as it marked one of the first time the company has hosted this type of an event using

outside data, especially from one of their non-profit partners.

Participants in the Hackathon were energized and made key recommendations to improve awareness about marine debris:

- The Coast is not just a beach: work to drive outreach activities in industrial areas near water bodies
- Identify and focus on under-served areas through comprehensive field surveys
- Increase accountability with policy changes and enforcement

• Increase community involvement  
The quote of the day was, “Miles to sweep before we sleep!”

Not only have Bloomberg employees been

volunteering their time to this project through their ‘Dollar for Your Hours’ Program, but they also volunteer their services as active participants in the Beach Sweeps each year.

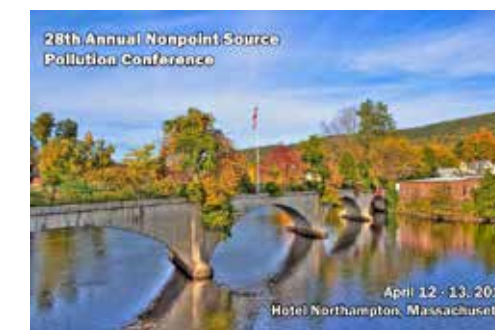
COA is working with Bloomberg to present an analysis of our 20+ year data set. The analysis will be released in the form of a report. Stay tuned!

## Source Tracking Presentation at National Conference

COA's Navesink watershed source tracking work has been accepted for a national technical presentation at the 28th annual Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) Conference organized by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC). The commission is a premier forum for sharing information and improving communication on NPS pollution issues and projects. The conference brings together those involved in NPS pollution management, including participants from state, federal, and municipal governments, private sector, academia, and watershed organizations.

As a part of the Rally for the Navesink initiative, COA conducted an innovative, collaborative investigation with Environmental Canine Services (ECS) on microbial source tracking in the Navesink watershed in 2016. ECS canines are specifically scent-trained to alert only to the presence of human wastewater. These canines were employed to successfully track and identify human wastewater

contamination in stormwater runoff and sewer infrastructure that discharge into the river. The canine test results were also consistent with NJDEP's analyses, and were generally verified under both dry and wet-weather conditions.



COA will be presenting on April 12, 2017 in Northampton, MA. One key area that COA's presentation will focus on is the successful collaboration among diverse groups, towns, NJDEP, local communities and the canines, which made this work possible in the Navesink.