



Follow COA on Social Media For Ocean Updates!

LABEL

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE
MAY 2024



For more information visit CleanOceanAction.org

Rain date: June 2

Saturday, June 1, 2024, 9 am - 12:30 pm

Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest

FREE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Clean Ocean Action
49 Avenue Blvd.
Long Branch, NJ 07740
www.CleanOceanAction.org



TRIBUTES

In Memory of:

Eileen Rowett Brons
Peter Cauterucci
Matteo Liam Coffey
David Crotty
Joseph A. Hopp
Michele Ferro Jasionowski
Carol Anne Ross
Drew Thompson
Richard Wexler

In Honor of:

Happy 70th Birthday to
Donna Fluhr & John Badenhauen

Volunteer with Clean Ocean Action!

COA has a variety of SEA-rific and exciting opportunities from talking with people at community events to becoming a volunteer Community Scientist! Find the best fit for you and complete a volunteer form today at:

CleanOceanAction.org/Help-Your-Ocean/Volunteer-Opportunities



COA at 40: Celebrating One Campaign Memory at a Time

Mayday is an internationally recognized radio signal for distress. On May 1, 1984, Clean Ocean Action (COA) organized its first press conference located at the Belford Seafood Cooperative, NJ. At the helm was Captain Ed "Moli" Maliszewski who, surrounded by other Co-op members, courageously highlighted the plight of the ocean and marine life from sewage sludge dumping and the impact it was having on the dock's commercial fishermen.

Capt. Moli showed the sludge coated nets and shared stories of bringing the nets home for his children to use wire brushes to clean. The fishermen understood exposing such gruesome conditions could mean people would not buy their fish, but Capt. Moli said the risk was worth raising attention to bring an end to and help close the 12-mile sewage sludge site, where over 8 million gallons of sludge was dumped annually from northern NJ and NY City sewage treatment plants. In Ed's own words "Sludge dumping is destroying our livelihoods. We are an endangered species; we must speak up or all will be lost."

COA rallied and launched campaigns. Within about a year, Chris Daggett, then US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator for Region 2, announced the 12-mile sewage sludge dumpsite would be phased-out by the end of 1987. Sludge dumping moved to the 106-mile site, which was closed after COA rallied more. The site accepted the last sludge barge in June 1992.

Ever onward, together, for the ocean,
Cindy



COA's first press conference in 1984: Captain Ed "Moli" Maliszewski (not pictured) and Belford Seafood Co-op fishermen called attention to the disgusting conditions caused by sewage

OCEAN POLICY

Erika Bosack, Policy Attorney, Policy@CleanOceanAction.org
Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

The Turmoil Continues, Yet Big Plans on Offshore Wind

The turmoil continues for offshore wind (OSW) projects in the region. Companies are selling or dropping offshore wind projects due to financial, technological, or other challenges. Despite this turbulence, NY and NJ will keep pushing for more projects and federal agencies are seeking to weaken rules, expand areas, and provide more funding for offshore wind projects.

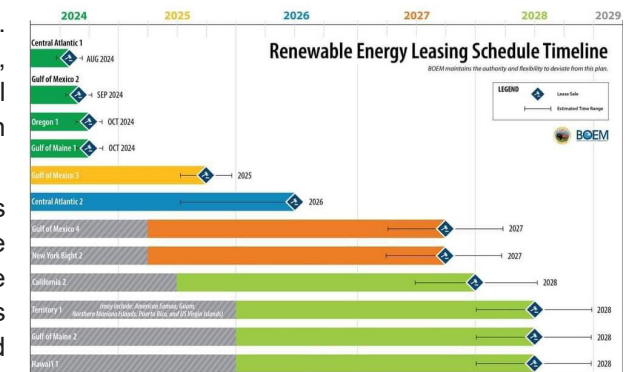
In April, New York announced there would be no contract awards for additional projects for its Third Solicitation for Offshore Wind. The primary cause was that General Electric (GE) announced it would not be able to produce the large 18 megawatt (MW) turbines, so the projects were withdrawn. However, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) did commit to future solicitations.

New Jersey's Board of Public Utilities (BPU) announced the Fourth Solicitation for Offshore Wind on April 29th for up to 4,000 more megawatts of new projects. Five projects have already been approved from the first three OSW solicitations in New Jersey.

The federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced a new "Five-Year Offshore Wind Leasing Schedule" for the United States to expand OSW leases, including off the Atlantic coast. COA is concerned that these new leases will trigger the offshore oil and gas leasing mandate which requires 60 million acres to be offered first before any OSW lease.

BOEM also released OSW Modernization Rules designed to "streamline" and provide more "flexibility" to permitting.

For more information about COA's work on OSW issues, go to CleanOceanAction.org.



The longer bars (in orange and light green) show future offshore wind lease areas through 2028 in the federal government's new 5-year plan for more offshore wind leases off the nations' coasts. Image Credit: BOEM

Two Years into New Jersey's Plastics Reduction Law



Flimsy, heat-stitched "ultrasonic" bags with low durability defined as "reusable" included in NJ's proposed Get Past Plastic regulations

May 4, 2024, marks the two-year anniversary of New Jersey's "Get Past Plastic" law, which prohibits businesses from distributing plastic and paper bags and foam take-out containers, and limits straws to availability upon customer request. The ban on plastic bags has succeeded in eliminating plastic waste. According to data collected from COA's 2022 Beach Sweeps, as well as data from the NJ Food Council as of May 2023, the law has been successful in eliminating billions of plastic bags and single-use paper bags from the waste stream.

To learn more about the Get Past Plastic Law and help inform businesses about the law, go to www.dep.nj.gov/get-past-plastic/. If you notify a company they are in violation of the "Get Past Plastic" Law and the violation continues, please call 1-877-WARN-DEP.

New Regulations for Get Past Plastic Law

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) proposed regulations implementing the law on April 4, 2024. For the most part, the proposed regulations clarify the law in practice, such as settling what products are included in the definitions of plastic and reusable bags. However, COA recommends that some text of the regulations should be modified. For example, the proposed regulations consider flimsy, heat-stitched "ultrasonic" bags (which are created by melting fabric together as opposed to properly sewing and stitching) as reusable bags despite their lower durability. Also, the proposed regulations should clarify factors that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) needs to consider when determining whether an exemption of foam plastic product is "necessary."

The NJDEP held a public hearing on the proposal on May 1, 2024, at which COA and environmental colleagues testified. The agency is accepting written comments from the public until May 31. To submit comments, go to: <https://dep.nj.gov/rules/rule-comment-form/> or scan the QR code.



SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, Water Quality Research Director, Science@CleanOceanAction.org
Kaylee DiPasquale, Community Science Program Coordinator, Programs@CleanOceanAction.org

Recapping Water Quality Monitoring Efforts

The Water Quality Team was busy during the cold, blustery winter of 2024 with different programs and activities to monitor and improve the health of local waterways in Monmouth and Ocean Counties, New Jersey. Here are some notable moments from 2024 so far:

- COA staff conducted road salt monitoring of eight upstream sites in the Two Rivers watershed to investigate the impacts of deicing applications.
- Community scientist volunteers and COA staff continued to collect weekly/biweekly data for ambient monitoring, which is being used to assess and track down sources of bacteria.
- COA conducted a community scientist training session in January and recruited new volunteers.
- COA also hosted the first Rally for the Two Rivers public meeting in February 2024 in a hybrid format where COA and NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) presented the results of the monitoring and track down efforts to date. The meeting also featured presentations from alliance partners.
- Additionally, in the ongoing source track down effort under the NJDEP-funded Rally for Barnegat Bay, wet weather monitoring of select upstream sites were completed successfully for the Boroughs of Island Heights and Ocean Gate under the mini-grants awarded to these Boroughs to investigate stormwater infrastructure. This ongoing ambient monitoring is critical to meet the "Find-it, Fix-it" goal to restore the waterways.



COA's Swarna collects a water sample for testing

COA continues to seek and recruit more volunteers to serve as community scientists. For more information or how to get involved, please contact Programs@CleanOceanAction.org.

SOUTH JERSEY

Toni Groet, South Jersey Coordinator, Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org

Informing Communities about Offshore Wind

Executive Director Cindy Zipf gave an informative presentation about offshore wind energy to interested and passionate locals on April 25th in Cape May Court House. Cindy discussed the organization's position, not opposing offshore wind, and shared information about impacts of offshore wind on the New York/New Jersey marine ecosystem. Attendees were invested and engaged, and the discussions continued with many people staying long after the presentation had ended.

Special thanks to Cape May GOP Chairman Michael Donohue and Cape May County Commissioner Melanie Collette, and to members from local groups, including Defend Brigantine Beach, Protect Our Coast, Sustainable Downbeach, and other groups, for attending. Also, COA thanks and appreciates the staff at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Building in Cape May Court House for welcoming us with open arms.

Stay tuned for more events to share information in the South Jersey region.

If you would like to host or see information sessions like this in your area, please contact Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org.



Members of the Cape May Court House community attend COA's offshore wind information session

EVENTS

Jocelyn Graham, Resource & Development Director, Development@CleanOceanAction.org

Run The Hook: Sold Out! Come Cheer Them On—Mother's Day, May 12



Registration for the race to keep our oceans wild and pollution free has officially sold out, thanks to interested runners and walkers. Spectators are welcome and encouraged to attend Run The Hook on May 12; the race starts at 10am in the area of S. Bragg Drive & Kilpatrick Road on Sandy Hook. The 5K/10K race is rain or shine, so dress for the weather!

Special thanks to event organizer, COA Board of Trustees Secretary and Beacon Events owner Joey Garofalo. A portion of the event's proceeds supports COA's mission to improve and protect the ocean off the NJ/NY coast and local waterways. We're thrilled to celebrate our 9th year collaborating with Run The Hook, raising awareness about ocean pollution. The course is within the scenic setting of Sandy Hook and is a favorite race for many. Wishing all the Run The Hook participants a smooth event!

More details available at RunTheHookNJ.com. Stay tuned for event highlights in COA's June newsletter!

Run The Hook Details:

Location: Field 102, S Bragg Dr. & Kilpatrick Rd., Sandy Hook, NJ

Time: Sunday, May 12, 2024, 10:00AM

BIB Pick-up: Road Runner Sports, Shrewsbury, NJ on Saturday, May 11, 2024 (11AM – 2 PM) or Race Day at Field 102 starting at 8:30AM. Advanced pick-up is highly encouraged!



Families show up to support mothers, friends, and loved ones participating at Run The Hook

SEAL Students' Journey of Learning

In April, students from Rutgers University presented research insights on the topic of microplastics to the Student Environmental Advocates and Leaders (SEAL). The research findings and revelations were shocking and gave the SEALs a glimpse into what the life of a research student can look like and topics they can study. Exposure to different career paths and opportunities in the environmental field is an important part of the SEAL program as many of the high school students prepare to continue in their educational and environmental journeys in the next couple of years or less. Thank you to the Rutgers students who shared their



Rutgers University Nanoplastic Research Students (front) presented to the SEAL Students

findings with the SEAL students and to Dr. Nelsen for setting up this collaboration to inspire youth.

The students may pull from the research presentation for their own community outreach and may include details in their SEAL projects. Nearly 40 SEAL students will **present their projects on May 9 at the SEAL graduation**, where COA will welcome advisors, guest speakers, family, and friends to listen to the students about all they have achieved this year! We look forward to hearing about their project accomplishments, trials, and tribulations. Stay tuned for the amazing highlights from the 2023-2024 SEAL projects.

"Sea-Rific" Staten Island Connections

Student Summit

The 5th Annual Staten Island Student Summit was a success! COA thanks the Natural Resources Protective Association (NRPA) and Great Kills Park National Park Service for helping bring this program to the students of Staten Island, New York. Also, COA is grateful to Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella who attended and welcomed the students to the event and showed his support for marine-based, hands-on learning!

Waves of thanks to the workstation and field trip leaders from Billion Oyster Project, Staten Island Zoo, NYC H2O, NYC Parks – Urban Park Rangers, Blue Heron Nature Center, NY/NJ Baykeeper, and Duro Workforce. By sharing their knowledge and skills, over 100 students received valuable information in marine sciences, including learning about local watersheds and how to protect them and the value of oysters and local marine life. From learning how to kayak, to sweeping the beach at Great Kills, students walked away with connections to the ecosystem that will last. COA appreciates the dedicated teachers and chaperones, and the enthusiastic students, who made the event a success!



Learning about whelks, horseshoe crabs, and more at the Staten Island Student Summit



Students gathered to kick-off the 5th Annual Staten Island Student Summit

Beach Cleanup

To add to the Staten Island collaboration, in late March, COA's Kristen Grazioso attended a cleanup led by the Staten Island Borough Hall in partnership with the College of Staten Island. Great Kills Park was the site of the Staten Island Student Summit in late April.



Howie, Peter, Kristen, and Tiffany at the Staten Island cleanup of Great Kills Park and the White Trail, part of the Greenbelt

Clean "Oceanography" Action Presentation



COA's Cindy Zipf presenting to Oceanography students at BCC

This April, COA's Cindy Zipf visited the Brookdale Community College (BCC) Oceanography class taught by experienced COA volunteer, Kelly Flanagan. Cindy presented to the mixed-major collegiates about COA's history, current campaigns to protect the ocean, and how to get involved. The students were engaged and inspired to ask questions. Thank you, Kelly, for inviting COA to speak with your Oceanography students, and spearheading a group of fantastic future changemakers!

Interested in scheduling a presentation for your students or organization? Fill out a Presentation Request Form found on CleanOceanAction.org (Click "Education Programs" and then "COA Presentations") and send the completed form to Education@CleanOceanAction.org.

Visit or Volunteer for COA this Spring

Looking for fun places to visit and learn about COA's work? Or are you looking to make waves and get involved this spring? Help COA share ways to defend the ocean by meeting and speaking with people at community events, festivals, fairs, and more. Volunteers receive training, learn about COA's latest campaigns, and are provided materials needed to encourage others to join the COAlition to protect the ocean.

Find COA's information and action tables at upcoming events throughout New Jersey (see list below). Stop by to say "hi" and ask questions or sign up to volunteer at events near you!

Interested in volunteering? Please contact Education@CleanOceanAction.org.

Upcoming Events

- **May 12 - Run The Hook, Sandy Hook, NJ, 10am**
- **May 18 - Ocean Fun Days, Island Beach State Park, NJ, 11am - 3pm**
- **May 19 - Ocean Fun Days, Sandy Hook, NJ, 11am - 3pm**
- **May 18 & 19 - Mayfest, Historic Smithville Village, Smithville, NJ, 10am - 5pm**
- **May 19 - Paramus Earth Day Celebration, Paramus Public Library, Paramus, NJ, 1pm - 4pm**
- **May 19 - Ocean Township Green Fest, 703 Deal Rd, Oakhurst, NJ, 10am - 2pm**
- **June 29 - Harbor Fest, (rain date June 30th), Nature Center, Cape May, NJ, 10am - 5pm**



Volunteer, Nancy Falvey, and COA's Toni Groet, engaging the community to defend the ocean

The Dirty Details: 2023 Beach Sweeps Annual Report Released

What trash did volunteers pick-up from New Jersey's beaches in 2023? COA released its 2023 Beach Sweeps Report in April. The report includes the latest litter trends, "Dirty Dozen" list (a list of the top 12 items collected), and whackiest items on the "Roster of the Ridiculous." Despite the inclement weather in 2023, including the first-time ever cancelled Spring Beach Sweeps, 3,664 volunteers braved the elements and removed 176,206 pieces of debris from shores and waterways across the state. Plastic items remain a top ocean offender.

Highlights from the report:

- 79.16% of debris collected was Plastic, including Foam plastic.
- The top 8 items listed in the "Dirty Dozen" for 2023 are, or are comprised of, single-use plastics.
- Plastic Bottle Caps/Lids topped the "Dirty Dozen" list with 23,788, making up 12.94% of the total debris collected for the year.
- Metal Beverage Cans, totaling 4,106, made the "Dirty Dozen" for the first time since 2008.
- Some items on the "Roster of the Ridiculous" included a small refrigerator, a 1960s manufactured dinosaur toy, and a pregnancy test.

For more data and highlights, including our largest "Roster of the Ridiculous", a new perspective of analyzing the data, Beach Sweeps "Wavemakers," and more, dive-in deeper at CleanOceanAction.org or scan the QR code.



A "Sweeping" Success: Another Spring Beach Sweeps in the Books!

On April 13, COA rocked Jersey shores and local waterways across the state with its 39th Annual Spring Beach Sweeps. Thousands of volunteers gathered for the windy day to remove litter, collect important data about the debris, and protect the ocean from pollution. This extraordinary event included: a record breaking 81 sites, a record high of 40 Junior Beach Captain volunteers (both returning and new) to assist Beach Captains; and stickers to promote BYOB ("Bring Your Own Bucket"), encouraging volunteers to bring buckets to reduce the use of plastic bags for collecting litter.



A few highlights from the day include:

- A large group of students from Newark swept the beach clean with dozens of volunteers participating in Keyport.
- Some of the ridiculous items found included a sneaker, old figurine, a toy piggy, and a crab trap.
- Perth Amboy's debut as a Beach Sweeps site was host to a great turnout and a special guest (see photo)!

Waves of thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who participated in the Spring Beach Sweeps; to our dedicated Beach Captains and Jr Beach Captains who organize and manage Sweeps sites; to students and staff at the Marine Academy of Science & Technology (MAST) who assisted with organizing and registration at the Sandy Hook site; MAST student coordinator, Angelina "AJ" Vaclavik, for assisting with Beach Sweeps preparations; Liza Baskin, MAST Marine Research/Oceanography Instructor; National Park Service – Sandy Hook Unit; to the towns who hosted Beach Sweeps and helped support and promote the event; and to the Department of Public Works in each town who help remove the debris collected. COA is grateful for all the commitment, participation, and true-blue support to make the Beach Sweeps program possible.

Waves of special thanks to the dedicated statewide, countywide, and site sponsors for their support for Beach Sweeps and a debris-free ocean! Representatives and employees from many of the businesses who sponsored participated in Beach Sweeps throughout the state.

Statewide Sponsors



BANK OF AMERICA



Hackensack Meridian Health



Countywide Sponsors



Site Sponsors

- Baine Contracting, Maryland Ave, Point Pleasant
- Church & Dwight Co., Inc., Grant Ave, Seaside Park
- Crum & Forster, Brighton Ave, Long Branch
- Enterprise Mobility Foundation, Cedar St Park, Keyport
- Jenkinson's Aquarium, Jenkinson's, Point Pleasant
- Manasquan Bank, Main St Beach, Manasquan
- Memorial Sloan Kettering, Bayshore Waterfront Park, Middletown
- Monmouth Ocean Regional Realtors, Convention Hall, Asbury Park
- Republic Services, 1st Ave Beach, Asbury Park
- ServPro of Aberdeen/Holmdel, Cliffwood Beach, Aberdeen
- Stratus Tech, Convention Hall, Asbury Park



MAST students helped set up for Beach Sweeps registration and welcomed volunteers at Sandy Hook



Special guest, SpongeBob SquarePants, at the first-time Perth Amboy Beach Sweeps site with other volunteers



Bank of America team members participated at Margate City Beach (pictured), West Deptford, and Sandy Hook

EDUCATION

Kristen Grazioso, Education Coordinator, Education@CleanOceanAction.org
Kira Cruz, Debris Free Sea Coordinator, BeachSweeps@CleanOceanAction.org

Eco-Friendly Fun for the Family at Eco-Fest

Come to Victory Park in Rumson, NJ, on Saturday, June 1 from 9:00 am – 12:30pm for the **Rally for Two Rivers Eco-Fest** for a fun-filled morning celebrating the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers! Hosted by Clean Ocean Action and the Rumson Environmental Commission, Eco-Fest brings organizations across the Two Rivers' community to provide special eco-centric activities, including crafts, hands-on demonstrations, face painting, music, and more! Space is still available for environmentally focused organizations to join us for a free educational table. Email inquiries to Education@CleanOceanAction.org.

Take the Passport Challenge

Activities at Eco-Fest offer lessons in environmental stewardship and watershed preservation linked to school climate change curriculum. The **Passport Challenge** encourages attendees to partake in every Eco-Fest activity station to learn about the environment, human impacts to natural resources, watershed mindfulness, and more! As passport holders complete each station, they will fill up their passport with fun stamps. Completed passports can be redeemed for free treats and discounts at participating local businesses. For schools, teachers are encouraged to provide extra credit points on assignments or a homework pass to students who complete the Passport Challenge.

Become a Sponsor

Support environmental learning and the protection of the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers by sponsoring the 6th Annual Eco-Fest! Check out our sponsorship levels and benefits at www.CleanOceanAction.org/Rally-the-Waterways/Rally-for-the-Rivers-Eco-Fest or scan the QR code below, and contact COA's Resource & Development Director, Jocelyn Graham, at JGraham@CleanOceanAction.org.

To ensure your sponsorship spot and inclusion on marketing materials, please respond by May 17, 2024.



Children and families learn about the environment and ways to be an environmental advocate at Eco-Fest



Rally for the Two Rivers Eco-Fest

Saturday, June 1, 2024

9 am - 12:30 pm

Rain Date: June 2

FREE!

Eco-friendly Crafts!

Love Your Rivers

Take the Environmental Passport Challenge! Family Fun!

Victory Park, Rumson, NJ