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THE NEWSLETTER IS BACK!
MEET THE NEW CREW!

LABEL

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE
May 2023

SAVE THE DATE

Rally for the Two Rivers EcoFest

June 3

World Ocean day

June 8

COA's Annual Board Meeting with Staff

July 12

COA Surf Open

September or October (TBD)

Cape May Student Summit

October 5

Island Beach State Park Student Summit

October 12

Beach Sweeps

October 21

SEAL 2023-2024 Kickoff!

October 26

HIGHLIGHTS IN NEXT ISSUE

Shore Shindig

SEAL Graduation

Run The Hook

Sandy Hook Student Summits

New Jersey Plastics Advisory Council
First Year Report

Rally for the Two Rivers Relaunch

Beach Sweeps "Roster of the Ridiculous"
Photo Contest Winner

Offshore Wind Issue Round-Up

Rally for the Two Rivers Eco-Fest

Rally for Barnegat Bay Update

New Crew & Summer Interns

...and more!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Defending the Sea Since 1984

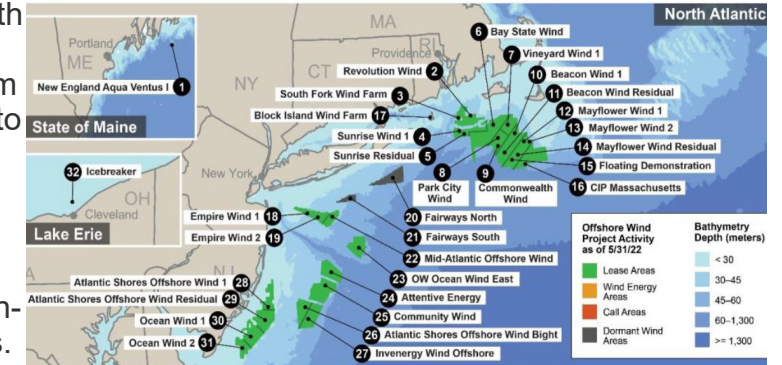
May 2023

POLICY

Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Offshore Wind: Too Much, Too Fast. Make Your Voice Be Heard.

According to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), by 2030 the Northeast marine ecosystem will be occupied by over 2.4 million acres of offshore wind (OSW) energy leases (twice the size of Grand Canyon National Park), 3,400 turbines (as tall as the Chrysler Building), and 10,000 miles of submarine cables (the distance from LA to NYC 3 1/2 times) with an additional 5.7 million acres under review for development. Thirty OSW projects are in process from MA to NJ. Also, there are up to 50 substations, up to 30 stories high, awaiting construction.



There are 30 offshore wind projects from Massachusetts to New Jersey, with more to the north and south. Photo Credit: National Renewable Energy Laboratory

COA supports reasonable and responsible renewable OSW energy; however, the current scope, magnitude, and speed of the industrialization is unprecedented with little to no due diligence to identify, understand, avoid, and address consequences.

Studies on marine life are lacking, incomplete, or inconclusive. Cumulative impacts are largely ignored.

And yet, the NJ Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) is seeking to expand NJ's OSW projects, opening calls for projects which could double current projects. This expansion adds to the extremely reckless pace without good science, due diligence, and governance to ensure the protection of marine life.

In March, COA's Cindy Zipf testified as an invited witness at a Congressional Hearing on Offshore Wind Industrialization in Wildwood, NJ, hosted by Rep. Jefferson Van Drew (R-NJ-2) and attended by US Reps. Chris Smith (R-NJ-4), Andy Harris (R-MD-1), and Scott Perry (R-PA-10) (see COA's website to read COA's testimony). To ensure OSW is reasonable, responsible, and protective of marine life, COA continues to call for a comprehensive, scientific, independent, peer-reviewed pilot study of the true costs and benefits, and risks and returns of offshore wind.

To learn more, sign a petition, and take action, go to CleanOceanAction.org.

Good News on Reducing the Plastic Plague in NJ

On May 4, 2022, the "Single-Use Waste Reduction Act," which bans plastic bags and foam take-out containers, and limits straws, went into full effect. After just 5 months, the NJ Food Council estimated that 3.44 billion plastic bags and 68 million paper bags were eliminated from the waste stream. Progress was also evidenced by the 2022 Beach Sweeps data with these three bad litter actors (plastic bags, straws and foam containers) declining on local beaches by over 35% (see story page 4).



A reason why we need the Plastic Bag Ban law.

COA's Cindy Zipf chairs the Governor-appointed New Jersey Plastics Advisory Council (PAC) which was created by the law to monitor, assess, and evaluate implementation and effectiveness of the law and to identify additional measures to reduce plastic waste through reduction and recycling. On May 4, 2023, the PAC released the First Year Report highlighting the success of the law and outlining future steps.

To get at the larger issue of waste, Senator Smith recently introduced a bill to reduce packaging waste. The "Extended Producer Responsibility" or "EPR" bill (S.426) puts the burdens of packaging material collection and disposal on the companies producing the materials - not municipalities, and reduces packaging to save money and resources.

Unprecedented Numbers of Whales & Marine Mammals Washing Ashore NY-NJ



Whale # 10 in Manasquan, NJ
Photo Credit: Current Media Company

As you may have heard, a grim record of dead whales have stranded in the NY-NJ region since December last year, as well as many dolphins. In early January, with whale number five, COA began to evaluate what might be different. Shipping, fishing, and beach replenishment activities reflect previous years; however, pre-construction survey vessels for offshore wind projects (OSW) were unusual. COA's Kari Martin investigated and found the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which is required by law to protect marine mammals, had issued Incidental Harassment Authorizations (IHA) to an unprecedented 11 companies, allowing them to "take" 63,820 marine protected species including whales, dolphins and seals. The vessels use sonar, boomers and sparkers, all of which can harass these animals by causing them to stop feeding, breathing, nursing, migrating, and other vital activities. NMFS also lists increased vessel strikes from OSW as threats to marine life, but there are no known limits to the number of vessels working in the same region simultaneously. COA believes OSW surveying to be a plausible cause in the whale deaths and is taking action.

On January 9, 2023, COA held a press conference, with several groups joining, releasing a letter to President Biden calling for a halt to OSW survey work until an independent, publicly transparent investigation is complete to ensure survey activity is not the cause of the marine mammal deaths. The response from federal agencies was swift to claim "there is no evidence" that the cause is OSW activity; however, they provide no evidence, which is why COA continues to demand an investigation, robust and sound science, and due diligence to prove OSW is safe for the ocean and marine life.

Stay tuned for updates and actions at CleanOceanAction.org and on our social media.

EVENTS

World Whale Day "Save the Whales" Rally



Save the Whales Rally,
Point Pleasant, NJ

Photo Credit: Christor Lukaszewicz Photography

Organized by two concerned citizens, Leslie Mangold and Trisha DeVoe, the "Save the Whales" rally was a call-to-action and celebration in honor of World Whale Day! As of May 19, we have had over 17 whales wash up or confirmed deceased floating off NJ-NY shores, while many more have been reported floating in open waters but were never confirmed. At the time of the rally, the death toll was at nine, provoking Leslie and Trisha to organize. Through shared concerns, they reached out to Clean Ocean Action for support.

Hundreds came out that cold and windy day to demonstrate their attention to the issue and celebrate these gentle giants of the sea. COA continues to press for an investigation into the cause of deaths.

Thank you to Leslie and Trisha for putting together this great event, to all guest speakers for expressing your concerns, and to all citizens for coming together to demand action to protect the ocean.

COA Meet & Greet: Welcome to the lean, green, ocean pollution fighting team

On Tuesday March 7, we welcomed new volunteers to the COA house. This mighty crew came with array of skills and backgrounds, anywhere from former Department of Environmental Protection staff to self-made Etsy entrepreneurs, but all shared a similar passion—protecting the ocean! It was great to see individuals of all ages and from all over the state come together with ideas, questions, and eagerness to make waves. We look forward to the eventful months ahead with all of you and are happy to have your true-blue support!



COA Meet & Greet 2023

Volunteers learn about the NY Bight's biodiversity

Interested in becoming a volunteer?

Go to CleanOceanAction.org and select the

"Help Your Ocean" tab to see all COA volunteer opportunities!

Eco-Fest Returns to Victory Park on June 3

It's eco-friendly fun for the whole family at Eco-Fest! Hosted by COA and the Rumson Environmental Commission, this FREE event is an environmental celebration of the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers. Join the festivities, provided by Rally for the Two Rivers partners, including seining, eco-friendly crafts, hands-on educational activities, face painting, music, and more!

Participate in the Passport Challenge: Every activity at Eco-Fest earns a stamp in your Eco-Fest Passport! Completed passports unlock "Passport Rewards" - free giveaways, sweet discounts and special prizes from local businesses!

Eco-Fest will take place at Victory Park in Rumson, NJ on June 3 from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm (rain date: June 4).

Welcome New COA Staff Members: Kira, Toni, and Kiki

Kira Cruz is COA's newest Debris Free Sea (DFS) Coordinator. Kira's new role involves organizing the Beach Sweeps programs, debris track down and elimination in various watersheds, and processing data collected for the Annual Beach Sweeps Report. Kira obtained her BS in Marine Science with a concentration in Biology from Stockton University. She also studied abroad at James Cook University in Cairns, Australia, partaking in eelgrass research, husbandry of sharks and other fish at the university's aquarium, and explored the Great Barrier Reef. She has been an avid citizen scientist for multiple environmental organizations (including COA!) enhancing her skills in debris removal, scuba diving, water quality testing, recording data, wildlife management, and education. Kira has always gravitated to COA's mission and is passionate about the ocean. She is excited to expand her role as the DFS Coordinator as she grows with the organization, and honored to be a part of the COA Crew making big waves as she takes on this new position!



Kira Cruz
Debris Free Sea Coordinator

Toni Groet received her B.S in Biology from Auburn University and M.S. in Marine Conservation and Resource Management from University of Southern Alabama. She has worked on a variety of projects ranging from research projects focused on beach tourism, water quality studies, sea turtle conservation and protection, marine mammal strandings and coastal bird monitoring. Toni's family and career led her to New Jersey, where she started as a Beach Sweeps Captain and teaching high school in Atlantic City. Not long after, Toni joined the COA crew as the South Jersey Coordinator, with a goal of expanding COA's presence and strengthening the connections to the communities in southern regions of NJ.



Toni Groet
South Jersey Coordinator

Kiana "Kiki" Miranda graduated from Rutgers University-New Brunswick in 2017 with a BA in Political Science and Journalism. She comes to COA with a versatile background of working with nonprofits focused on community and youth educational development, but her goal has always been to improve individuals' personal perceptions and narratives in relation to the environment. Kiki's passion for civic engagement and love of research brought her to COA. As Public Relations & Communications Coordinator, she seeks to expand COA's reach to engage all communities and individuals in protecting and caring for a clean, healthy ocean.



Kiana "Kiki" Miranda
Public Relations & Communications Coordinator

SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD, Staff Scientist, Science@CleanOceanAction.org

Winter Weather Brings Community Scientists Together

We kicked off 2023 with the launch of our Winter Road Salt Monitoring Program! The program is a project of the New Jersey Watershed Watch (NJWW), which COA started in 2020 to investigate the impacts of deicing applications on local water quality.

Excess salt from deicing applications can enter our waterways through runoff and negatively impact fish and other wildlife. Community scientists trained by COA brave wintry weather to test waterways in the Two Rivers Watershed for chloride (salt) levels from January to April. This community monitoring effort will help to determine the impacts of deicing and road salt applications on upstream tributaries in the watershed.



Community Scientists gathering water samples for road salt monitoring.

COA's Water Quality Team selected 11 locations along the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers for monitoring. Community scientists will use a field chloride test kit and record the data using an ArcGIS Survey123 Form.

Monitoring these locations over the winter months will help to keep us informed on the general water quality of the Two Rivers Watershed. The data will be shared with state and national programs.

Spotlight on COA's Youngest Community Scientist 2023

Reagan Volk, a High School Senior from Rumson Fair Haven Regional High School, started her volunteer internship with Clean Ocean Action in September 2023.

As a volunteer intern, she spends three weekday afternoons at COA and assists Program staff on different activities. Her primary internship focuses on understanding water quality issues, and she is currently reviewing the recreational water quality of New Jersey beaches using NJDEP's Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program data. She also got trained by COA staff to conduct road salt monitoring recently and completed her first sampling and monitoring event as a community scientist in our ongoing collaborative study!



Reagan Volk
Waves of welcome, Reagan!

Become a Community Scientist!

Join the Rally for the Waterways with opportunities available for "Rally for Barnegat Bay" and "Rally for the Two Rivers" (the Navesink and Shrewsbury). To get involved, please contact:

Programs@CleanOceanAction.org

EDUCATION

Kristen Grazioso, Education Coordinator, Education@CleanOceanAction.org
Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Student Environmental Advocates and Leaders (SEALs)

Turning the Tide

The Student Environmental Advocates and Leaders (SEAL) Program completed its third year this May. The program is a result of the Impact 100 Jersey Coast grant which COA was awarded in 2020 to begin a high-impact project addressing local needs. In this case, high school students develop projects to improve a local environmental issue of their choosing, becoming young civic leaders.

Experiencing its largest class yet, 30 phenomenal students from high schools across Monmouth County gathered bi-weekly to learn about community grass-roots activism, environmental issues and advocacy, and how change can be made in their own communities.

The SEAL Program empowers youth to make a difference through civic engagement and project implementation for their communities. The future is bright with SEALs!



Bi-weekly SEAL Meeting 2023
SEAL students gather for their meeting



SEALs gather on the beach.

COA's Student Summit Returns to Staten Island for the First Time Since 2019

On April 27, 2023, Great Kills Park in Staten Island, NY became the classroom setting for over 150 5th-8th grade students local to the region. In collaboration with the Natural Resources Protective Association (NRPA) and the National Park Service, the Staten Island Student Summit returned for its 5th year...and first year back since 2019! Students learned an array of environmental issues, actions, and skills in being true-blue ocean advocates from water seining and fishing to understanding current threats to the local watersheds and performing their own Beach Sweeps.

Waves of thanks to the SEA-rific activity leaders: Natural Resources Protective Association (NRPA), Billion Oyster Project, Blue Heron Nature Center, NYC Parks and Recreation, Gateway National Park Service Team, NY/NJ Baykeeper, NYC H2O, John Malizia, and Howie Fishbein for teaching students these amazing skills and information to becoming everyday environmental advocates!

It was a wonderful day of hands-on, outdoor environmental education by the sea!



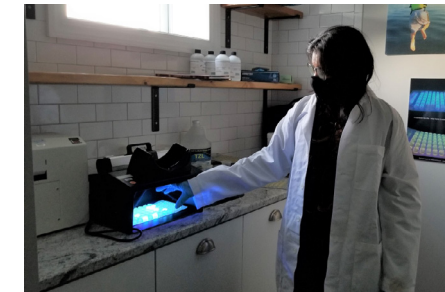
Soak It Up!
Students learn about stormwater water run-off, absorbency, and how these activities affect our watershed.



NYC H2O
Students learn about NYC's drinking water.

2022 OCEAN HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ **Enhanced and expanded outdoor field investigations** with citizen science programs to assess chemical pollution, road salt pollution, and litter to develop solutions.
- ◆ **Installed a new lab at COA Headquarters** to help track down sources of human waste.
- ◆ **Exposed massive, reckless ocean industrialization** of millions of acres without protections for marine life and fought to ensure responsible and reasonable renewable energy.
- ◆ **Amplified youth education** with new virtual and in-person programs and activities.
- ◆ **Stemmed the tide of litter!** In 2022, **plastic shopping bag waste decreased by 37.31%**, thanks to the law COA spearheaded.
- ◆ **Selected to shape statewide future efforts** to reduce plastic waste as **Chair of the NJ Plastic Advisory Council**.
- ◆ **Boosted volunteer engagement** for the small and the tall as citizen scientists, ambassadors, interns, and more.
- ◆ **United true-blue friends of the ocean** with blockbuster events: our **Shore Shindig** and **Surf Open!**
- ◆ **According to Charity Navigator, COA ranked #1 nationally** (and is currently # 2 in 2023) in the Ocean and Coastal Waters category for Leadership & Adaptability and Accountability & Finance.



Water Quality Testing
Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan in the new COA testing lab.



Spring Student Summit 2022
Students in grades 5-8 learn lessons in environmental stewardship.



Garrett Servis, Surf Open 2022
Photo Credit: Robert Siliato



Shore Shindig 2022
Photo Credit: Tom Zapcic



Beach Sweeps 2022
Girl Scouts being true-blue ocean advocates cleaning the seas from debris!



Citizen Scientists Testing Water Quality
Volunteers from COA's Community Science Program test the waters for pathogens.

TRIBUTES

In Memory of:

"All the whales"	Doris Dobrin	Caroline Huber	Dennis Reynolds
The Atlantic City and NJ whales	Beeze and Harry Douty	Michele Ferro Jasionowski	Jane Reynolds
Robert Angello	Austin DuPont	Kathleen Morgan Jeary	Geraldine M. Robinson
Tom Argentieri	Joe Emmanuelle	William Jeffers	Carol Anne Ross
Marilyn Balzer	Samuel Epstein	George, Ethel and Ronnie Jensen	Terri Rowett
Bob Bennekamper	Nancy Ewing	Jersey Girl	Bob Schuster
John Beyczi	Phyllis Feiring	George Jorgensen, Jr.	Peg Scott
Jim Bogardus	Zachary Fink	Lorraine C. Kevra	Dr. Peter Semple
Ken Carlsen	Bob Fitch	Pat Kirsh	Gertrude Skehan
Raymond Carpenter	Carole and George Flora, Sr.	Jean and Max Kushner	Monica Sperling
Peter Cauterucci	Jerome Freedman	Linda Lees	Molly Olivia Steinsapir
Edward Ciemniecki	Bob Gazdus	Jack Lynch	Watson Stillwaggon
Captain Charles Claire	Kieran W. Gaine	Harold J. Malone	TJ Stockdale
Gail Condon	Paul Galeazzi, Jr.	Christopher Mattern	Arthur B. Stupar
Karen J. Cook	Donald C. Gates	Linda McKean	Andrew Thompson
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Mary and Paul Cusano, Sr.	Ben Hamilton	Gary Munter	Clifford C. Wilson Sr.
Kelly Daniels	James Hanlon	Rita and Jim Nugent	Arnold Yarczower
Francesco "Frank" D'Antuono	Rich Hare	Kathleen O'Hagan	Zipf Family
Elaine and Douglass Denman	Barbara Harrington	Ernie Pitsch	

In Honor of:

Alex Adamo	Evan and Robie	Maverick graduating from PT	James Secoda
Darcy Alder	Bill Fitzpatrick	Caitlin McDonald	Karen Shatto
Mark Allen	Kelly Franklin	Frank Montecalvo	Benjamin Silverman's Bar Mitzvah
"All our children"	Debbie Disston and Al Froment	Zane Montclair	Alex and Ari Sincovich
"All the whales"	Kari and Chris Garges	Suzanne and Allan Magaziner	John Anthony Sorrentino, Jr.
Ayyam-i-Ha	Leo and Eytan Goldberg	Ella Mauro	Ryan Struck
Laura Bagwell	Leslie Gordon	Maverick graduating from PT	Harrison Tepper's Bar Mitzvah
Lisa Bagwell	Mary and Jim Hellwege	Caitlin McDonald	Scott S. Thompson
Devon Bradley	Maxfield Himes	Zane Montclair	Margie Tom
Peg and Jim Buckley	Leo Jacobs	Frank Montecalvo	Judith Torrick
The Buckley Siblings	Rick Jones	Owen	Carter Trebach
Layla Buzzell	Wendy Kaplan	Luke O'Hagen	CC Webber
Kristy and Tony Caldarella	Janine Karoly	Kathleen Osborne	Gray Webber
Pam Carlsen	Joshua Keller	Michael Padovano	Sands Webber
Michael Caruso	The marriage of Jackie Rodgers and Chris Kelly	Margo Pellegrino	Meg White
Fabiana Castellanos	Elizabeth Kolodny's Bat Mitzvah	Penelope Elliott, Andrew Cornell, and Lilah Jane	Linda Ellen Wilson and Phillip Terry Buss
COA's 37 years of service	Adam Larson	Gavin Peyton	Nixon Winder
Carly Coble	Linda Lees	Matt Price	Triston Yetso
Abby Cohen's Bat Mitzvah	Colin Loch	Pamela Reynolds and Ugo della Croce	The "YuLews"
Cordelia	Suzanne and Allan Magaziner	Jo Anne Ricci	Cindy Zipf and Family
Jamie Detweiler	Ella Mauro	Charlie River	
Barbara and Ray Dodd		Ben and Riley Salmore	
Fran Donnelly			
Doug Douty			
Ester Mother Nature			



WAVES OF THANKS

for an Inspiring 38th Bi-Annual Spring Beach Sweeps!

The joke was on us this April Fool's Day and it wasn't funny. Overnight, the rainy prediction turned threatening to the safety of Beach Sweepers and, for the first time in decades, COA cancelled the event. It was deeply disappointing to everyone, including the nearly 7,000 of you who pre-registered. With a sea of support and inspiration from Volunteers, Beach Captains, Towns, Sponsors—COA was empowered and enabled to reschedule the Beach Sweeps at over 40 locations across the state with thousands of volunteer participants! Check out some highlights from the April 15th Beach Sweeps at CleanOceanAction.org. Check out next month's newsletter for the unveiling of the winners of the new "Roster of the Ridiculous" photo contest.

Scan the QR Code



Spring 2023 Beach Sweeps Photo Gallery



2022 Beach Sweeps Annual Report



WAVES OF THANKS TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS!

STATEWIDE SPONSORS:



COUNTY SPONSORS:



Additional support provided by Enterprise Holdings Foundation.

2023 Spring Beach Sweeps



Beach Sweeps, Manasquan Beach
Ladies of the fabulous Women's Club of Manasquan.



Beach Sweeps, Sea Bright-Anchorage
A volunteer found shark swimming goggles!



Beach Sweeps, Avon-by-the-Sea
Beach Captain, Sofia, ready for volunteers to arrive!



Beach Sweeps-Atlantic Highlands
Thank you, 4-H Kindness Club, for being friends of the ocean and spreading Earthly kindness!