



July 2004 Highlights
 - C.O.A.S.T. Into Summer
 - Summer Catch: Health Advisories for NJ Fish & Crabs
 - Join a Seaweed Rebellion

C.O.A.S.T. INTO SUMMER

COA Volunteers Gear Up for Summer Campaign Support the Clean Ocean Zone

Kate Tatem, 732-872-0111, Coast@cleanoceanaction.org



Volunteer at a COAST table.

Excited to spend the day soaking up sun at the beach? Eager to help the ocean? Volunteering for Clean Ocean Action (COA) provides a perfect way to combine these activities! Help teach shore residents and tourists about ocean pollution and ways to prevent it by volunteering for our 14th annual **C.O.A.S.T. or Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips** educational campaign. It's a great way to be a voice for the ocean and help protect it.

This summer's COAST focus is building citizen and town support for the Clean Ocean Zone (COZ), a project of COA. This new legislative initiative will lock-out future pollution and harmful activities in the waters off New York and New Jersey, and lock-in the great progress made in ocean protection, including the closure of all eight ocean dumpsites.

To volunteer for COAST, all it takes is 4 hours on a weekend in July or early August (between the hours of 10AM and 3PM) to be a part of this amazing effort. All ages are welcome. COAST sites are located at beach clubs and towns in Monmouth and Ocean Counties (see list below). To sign up for a date and location, contact Kate Tatem, 2004 COAST Intern.

Thank you to those ocean advocates who attended the two fun volunteer training sessions at Jenkinson's Aquarium and in Bradley Beach. Now, to the COAST!

COAST 2004 Sites:

Volunteers are still needed at some locations. Also, if you are not volunteering, remember to stop by one of our information tables, say hello to our volunteer, show your support for the Clean Ocean Zone, sign a petition, learn ways you can help be the solution to ocean pollution, and don't forget to buy a T-shirt.

July 3 & 4: Avon, Deal, Bradley Beach, and Long Branch

July 10 & 11: Promenade Beach Club (Long Branch), Driftwood Beach Club (Sea Bright), *Chapel Beach Club (Sea Bright), *Monmouth Beach Bath & Tennis Club

July 17 & 18: Sands Beach Club (Sea Bright), Sea Bright Public Beach, Loch Arbour, Ship Ahoy Beach Club (Sea Bright)

July 24 & 25: Keansburg Boardwalk, Surf Rider Beach Club (Sea Bright), *Ridsen Beach Club (Point Pleasant), *Water's Edge Beach Club (Sea Bright)

July 31 & August 1: Belmar, Manasquan, *Point Pleasant Beach, *Spring Lake, *Sea Girt

August 7 & 8: Island Beach State Park, Ocean Grove, *Ortley Beach (Dover Township), *Seaside Park

*These sites have yet to be confirmed.

Top 5 Reasons to be a COAST Volunteer

1. Feel great by helping to keep the ocean clean, for this summer and future generations.
 2. Enjoy a day at the beach.
 3. Freebies! Get a limited edition T-shirt or exclusive 2004 tote bag when you volunteer for COAST.
 4. Boost a resume or college application with volunteer hours and experience.
 5. Learn something new.
- and the number one reason is...

COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS Featuring... Save Barnegat Bay

Since our bays and oceans are closely connected, it is most fitting to have **Save Barnegat Bay** (SBB) as part of our COAlition. SBB is a small not-for-profit environmental group working to conserve undeveloped natural land and clean water throughout the Barnegat Bay watershed, over 660 square miles in Ocean County and parts of Monmouth County, NJ.

Founded first in 1971 as a local chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, a leading national environmental organization, SBB is an environmental leader in NJ and a crucial voice for Barnegat Bay.

Over the years SBB has taken-on developers, planning, and zoning boards, and the NJDEP in court battles to conserve land and improve water quality. SBB also uses Green Acres, foundation, and other funding to purchase environmentally sensitive land in order to convey it to public ownership as permanently protected natural open space, with appropriate public access allowed.

Some of SBB's most noteworthy accomplishments include its success in helping to create NJ's first Marine Conservation Zone around the Sedge Islands at Island Beach State Park in 2001. In 1987, SBB successfully lobbied for the Barnegat Bay Study bill, the legislation that led the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program.

SBB's continuous battle is over-development, which is the primary threat to the Barnegat Bay ecosystem and to the quality of life for those who live in or visit the Bay area. The group is also leading the charge against "pay to play" practices in New Jersey, which have an adverse affect on environmental policies.

To help further its mission, SBB holds an annual meeting (*next: June 28, 2004*), local waterway cleanups, and fundraising events. The small staff of SBB, led by Willie deCamp, Jr. (also Vice President of COA's Board of Trustees), and Jennifer O'Reilly, have made big strides in protecting the Bay.

SBB is looking for volunteers. To lend a hand or learn more about SBB, stop by their office at 906 B Grand Central Avenue (Route 35 North) in Lavallette, call 732-830-3600, or visit www.savebarnegatbay.org.



Clean Ocean Action
 PO Box 505
 Sandy Hook, NJ 07732-0505
 732-872-0111
 www.CleanOceanAction.org
 Institute of Coastal Education
 Wildwood, NJ 609-729-9262

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

July 2004

July 1, Thursday
 - **COAST Kick-off Press Conference**, Pavilion (5th and Ocean Avenues), Bradley Beach.

July, Saturdays & Sundays
 - **2004 Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips (COAST) Campaign**, beaches and beach clubs in Monmouth & Ocean Counties. For sites, see page 1 of this *Ocean Advocate*.
 - **Young Scientists Programs**, call Margate Community Education and Recreation Department (609-823-6658):
 - **"WOW" - World of Whales (July 5)**
 Students learn to rescue a whale.
 - **Time to Hit the beach (July 12)**
 Exploring "The Zone" where the surf meets the sand.
 - **Let the Sun Shine (July 19)**
 Kids study the science of sun & light.
 - **Taking Flight (July 26)**
 The science of flight and animals that mastered flying techniques.

July 31, Saturday
 - **"Party With Purpose,"** to benefit COA, Bar A, 16th Ave., Belmar, 3PM-8PM, \$15. BBQ, DJ, games, and raffles. Pay at the door.

✂ Please clip and send to COA.

STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION!

MAILING LIST RENEWAL FORM

- ➡ If you received a message on your address label, it's time to renew.
 - ➡ Your contribution will ensure that you receive this monthly newsletter, action alerts, and notices of events for one year.
 - ➡ To renew, please detach this form and enclose with your check.
- Thank you.

Enclosed is my check for (please check one):

\$25 Individual/Family \$15 Student/Senior
 \$50 Participating Organizations

Name _____
 Street _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please include organization name & contact, if applicable:

Please make check payable to
 Clean Ocean Action, PO Box 505, Highlands, NJ 07732

Contributions are tax deductible.

HELP KICK-OFF C.O.A.S.T. 2004!

JOIN COA & VOLUNTEERS AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE

Thursday, July 1, 1PM
 Pavilion at 5th & Ocean Avenues
 Bradley Beach



CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

Kristen Milligan, Ph.D., Science@cleanoceanaction.org
For more information or to review comments,
visit Action Alerts at www.CleanOceanAction.org

Summer Catch: Health Advisories for NJ Fish & Crabs

On June 8, COA attended the conference, "Seafood: Assessing the Benefits and Risks," sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the NJ Departments of Agriculture and Resource Management and Family & Consumer Sciences. The conference provided an overview of fish consumption advisories and the health benefits of eating seafood. There are multiple health benefits to including fish in your diet; however, it is important to be aware of federal and local fish consumption advisories. These advisories stem from years of pollution in our waterways. The toxins from a legacy of pollution made their way into the bottom sediments, the base of the marine food chain, and are taken up by worms, crabs, and fish that consume these sediments.

For information about health advisories for fish and crabs from NJ waters, check the **2004 Guide to Health Advisories for Eating Fish and Crabs Caught in New Jersey Waters** at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/njmainfish.htm>. (Includes links to advisories for Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New York.) The Guide combines all the consumption advisories related to Mercury, PCB, and Dioxin formally listed in several publications. For information, contact the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) (1-609-984-6070), or the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services (1-609-588-3123 or www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/foodweb).

The Empire State Strikes Back

On June 4, NYS Department of State (NYSDES) Secretary Randy A. Daniels announced NYSDES's opposition to US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to designate two ocean disposal sites in Long Island Sound (LIS). NY used legal provisions under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act that allows a state to object to federal activities that are found to be inconsistent with a state's coastal program. NY found that the proposal for two dumpsites was indeed inconsistent and that alternatives such as environmentally sound treatment technologies exist, but were ignored by EPA's proposal.

"Allowing dredged materials to be dumped in LIS would imperil the health of this vital waterway and impact the economic and recreational activities in shoreline communities," Daniels said.

This extraordinary success was made possible thanks to the Friends of Long Island Sound, especially Julie Evans-Brumm who has championed this issue for over 15 years, as well as the Citizens Campaign for the Environment, which began a major effort this spring to rally public opposition to EPA's proposal. Hundreds of letters and telephone calls to elected officials resulted. Though the fight is far from over, this victory is cause for celebration and high praise.

(Text provided by Julie Evans-Brumm and Office of NYS Secretary Daniels)

COASTAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Back to the Beach With Poor Water Quality

So far, this summer beach season has been marked by poor water quality. In early June, garbage slicks littered beaches from Sea Bright to Island Beach State Park. Flights surveying ocean waters also found garbage slicks. Most recently, elevated bacterial levels caused health officials to close beaches in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Beach closures occurred in Allenhurst (between Corlies and Cedar Aves.), Spring Lake (Brown Ave.), Harvey Cedars (75th St.), and Ship Bottom (3rd Ave.). The Spring Lake closures were in response to a preemptive beach closure that were triggered by rainfall (the more rain, the more bacteria from Wreck Pond).

The State of New Jersey is using a new bacterial indicator called Enterococcus. According to state officials, there are no clear reasons for these most recent beach closures and NJDEP is investigating the closures. Potential reasons could be leaking sewage pipes and stormwater runoff, but the answer is yet unknown. COA is investigating and will keep you informed.

Is your beach closed? To find out before you hit the sand, call NJDEP's 24-hour beach closure hotline at 1-800-648-SAND, or visit www.nj.gov/dep/beaches.



WASTING OUR WATERS AWAY

Lauren Koch, Water Policy Intern, 732-872-0111, policy@cleanoceanaction.org

Beneficial Reuse of Wastewater in New Jersey



New Jersey's coastal communities discharge approximately 170 million gallons of wastewater per day into the Atlantic Ocean. If this water was not removed from the natural system, it would have remained in rivers and streams supporting aquatic life, or in the ground replenishing water bodies and providing a barrier to salt water that would otherwise infiltrate inland waterways. Beneficially reusing water is a viable alternative to discharging wastewater effluent into surface water that allows us to conserve precious potable water supplies. It also reminds us to conserve water at home and work at all times.

Beneficial reuse is the process in which wastewater undergoes a high degree of treatment and is used for applications which demand water of less-than-potable quality, such as irrigation, recreation, maintenance, environmental restoration, and industrial processes. A limited number of facilities in New Jersey administer a reuse program directed by unclear regulatory structure and guidelines that have not been publicly reviewed as set forth by NJDEP. Other states such as Florida, which has the capacity to reuse over 50% of its wastewater, have clearly outlined regulations facilitating the safe, beneficial reuse of wastewater. COA is reviewing successful reuse programs in other states and urging NJDEP to enact such regulations to secure New Jersey a safe and abundant water supply.

New Jersey's coastal communities discharge approximately 170 million gallons of wastewater per day into the Atlantic Ocean.

NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

A Fish on Every Storm Drain

In 1986, COA introduced stenciling storm drains with a blue fish to educate people about the problem of "pointless" or nonpoint source pollution. Marking storm drains is a great tool in the protection of our waterways. It reminds people that what goes into the storm drain -- oil, fertilizers, pesticides, litter (e.g., cigarette butts) -- does not disappear, but continues down the pipe and into our waterways, including the ultimate sink, the ocean.

The state of New Jersey has mandated that all storm drains be identified, mapped, and marked during the next five years. As each storm drain is identified, its Global Positioning System (GPS) location is recorded and a five-digit number is assigned to the drain. Each location will then be added to the state's Geographic Information System (GIS).

It is also a great opportunity to mark the drains and many towns are leading their own stenciling projects. For example, Cape May County has over 13,000 storm drains and will be marking them with "No Dumping! Drains to Our Waterway," and a logo still to be selected in a contest. The activity is also popular with scouts and youth groups. In Rumson, Nico Hall stenciled all the town's storm drains using COA's kit as part of his Eagle Scout project. COA's program includes 2 stencils, instruction cards, and door hangers that are distributed to homes and businesses in the stenciled area to educate local citizens about the effort. For more information about or to order a COA stencil kit, see www.cleanoceanaction.org (follow "stenciling") or call 732-872-0111 or 609-729-9262.



Students experience a mock whale stranding.

Institute of Coastal Education
Pacific Avenue, Wildwood
Tony Totah, 609-729-9262,
Wildwood@cleanoceanaction.org.

(What's Cool at Ice and Coastal Creature Feature will appear every other month. Please see last month's newsletter to guess the June Coastal Creature.)

What's Cool at ICE?

The Institute of Coastal Education (ICE) offers fun summer programs in Wildwood. New this year, the Wildwood School system is hosting "Camp Wildwood." As part of that program, COA's Tony Totah will lead marine science lessons on Tuesdays and Thursdays in July and early August. The camp allows participants to be junior scientists and explore some of the interesting habitats and fascinating marine life of south Jersey. During the five weeks, these young scientists will explore beach, dune, and wetland habitats, and learn about whales, fish, and marine invertebrates. Participants will also learn about the "human factor" and its roll. For more information about Camp Wildwood or other ICE programs, call ICE at 609-729-9262.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Join a Seaweed Rebellion



The Blue Frontier Campaign (www.bluefront.org) and marine conservation organizations are sponsoring a 'Blue Vision' Conference, July 11-13, 2004, in Washington D.C. Organizers say it is time to build a "seaweed" (marine grassroots) rebellion, capable of producing solutions to restore the ocean. Hundreds of marine activists from throughout the US will gather for three exciting days of meetings and lobbying Congress for the enactment of a new Oceans Policy Act. Participants will have opportunities for discussions with local, regional, and national leaders of "blue" citizen groups, members of the Pew and US Ocean Policy Commissions, and ocean champions from the US House and Senate. Visit www.bluevizmeet.org to register, or contact David Helvarg at Blue Frontier (Helvarg@bluefront.org, 202-387-8030).

Environmental Triumph Trampled by Legislative Debacle — "The Fast Track" Bill



On June 10, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act was approved by the NJ Legislature with overwhelming bipartisan support. The Act stops reckless over-development, protects drinking water for 4.5 million residents, and preserves an ecologically rich region of northwest NJ, known as the Highlands Region.

However, celebration for this landmark legislation ended as swift "payback" legislative action undercut current existing environmental protection. Lawmakers unveiled a proposal that would significantly speed development on more than a third of the state's vacant land and weaken important protections in coastal areas, freshwater wetlands, and endangered species habitat. Also, the bill would remove any state oversight of proposals to site the landfall of utilities originating in coastal areas, including petroleum, natural gas, water, and sewer pipes and electric, television, telecommunications, and fiber optic cables.

In a flash, S-1368 (sponsors Senators Sweeney and Codey) and A-3008 (sponsors Assemblymen Sires and McKeon) were moved on June 14 and approved by the entire legislature on June 17. The bills streamlines or "fast tracks" the building-permit process in much of the state by granting developers automatic approval of zoning or environmental applications that are still undecided by NJDEP after 45 days. The bills also appoint a special ombudsman who could veto or override environmental policy and agency decisions. The bill was strongly cheered by NJ Governor McGreevey and significant pressure was imposed on elected officials to support this devastating legislation. Voting against the legislation were **Senators Connors (R-9), Ciesla* (R-10), Palaia (R-11), and Karcher (D-12), and Assemblymen Gibson (R-1), Connors (R-9), Rumpf (R-9), Holzapfel (R-10), Wolfe (R-10), Corodemus (R-11), Kean (R-11), Morgan (D-12), Panter (D-12), Azzolina (R-13), and Singer** (R-30)**. Check www.njlegislature.gov or call COA for contact information for your elected officials.

The bill, which has not been signed into law by the Governor yet, will reduce citizens' quality of life and will further exacerbate and pollute the state's already overburdened water supplies. Though the Governor supports the bill now, he has 45 days to reconsider before signing the bill. No date for signing has been set. Citizens should call the Governor (609-292-6000) and urge him to veto the bill.

*Senator Ciesla voted for the bill in committee releasing it to the Senate floor, but voted against the bill.

**Assemblyman Singer changed his vote to "no" after the fact.

SAVE THE DATE!

September 17, 2004, 6 PM.

SUNSET AT

SANDY HOOK

Sea Gulls' Nest, Sandy Hook
(Hurricane Date: September 19)

An Autumn Celebration
at the Shore
to benefit COA

Seafood and Fabulous Fare from
Favorite Shore Restaurants, Wine and
Beer, Live Jammin' Tunes for Dancing,
Silent and Clam Shell Gift Auctions
For information and reservations,
call 732-872-0111.