



- Winter Flounder Advisory -- Call to Action  
 - Oil & Gas Drilling Proposal Impacts Jersey Shore  
 - Get Informed & Take Action - April 6

## April 2006 Highlights

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Clean Ocean Action  
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 732-872-0111  
 www.CleanOceanAction.org  
 Institute of Coastal Education  
 Wildwood, NJ 609-729-9262



Please clip and send to COA.

### STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION!

#### MAILING LIST RENEWAL OR SIGN-UP 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.

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Please include organization name & contact, if applicable:

Please make check payable to  
**Clean Ocean Action, PO Box 505, Highlands, NJ 07732**  
 To pay with MasterCard or Visa, please call 732-872-0111.

COA is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax deductible.

### April 2006

#### April 1, Saturday

- 12th Annual John Murphy & Bob Hunter Memorial Flounder Tournament, Bahrs Landing.
- FREE Environmental Education Forum, Richard Stockton College, COA will present two workshops. Call Amber Hoover at 609-748-6097.

#### April 8, Saturday

- NJ Environmental Federation Annual Conference, 8am-5pm, Princeton University. To register, visit [www.cleanwateraction.org](http://www.cleanwateraction.org).

#### April 29, Saturday

- COA Spring Beach Sweeps, 9am-12:30pm, see insert for sites.
- 1st Annual Sportbike Diva's Motorcycle Poker Run to Benefit COA, Xtreme Machine, Millstone Township. Contact Robert Gaida at [phantomrider09@aol.com](mailto:phantomrider09@aol.com).

For a list of Spring & Earth Day events, see page 2 of the insert.

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### May 21, Sunday

- 2nd Annual Family Luau for the Ocean, 3-7pm, rain or shine, Ship Ahoy Beach Club, Sea Bright. For tickets, visit COA's website.

#### COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Featuring...

#### New Jersey Environmental Federation

The New Jersey Environmental Federation (NJEF) works to protect the environment, public health, economic well-being, and quality of life in our communities. NJEF is the local chapter of the national Clean Water Action.

NJEF has nearly 70,000 individual members and is a network of over 100 environmental, community, religious, labor, and student member groups. Professional organizers and door to door and telephone canvassers inform and activate members and citizens on NJEF issues. Also, NJEF's Vote Environment Committee endorses candidates who best represent the public interest in environmental issues.

In its 22 year history, NJEF has achieved many landmark victories:

- drinking water "right to know" bill
- School Integrated Pest Management Act, requiring less pesticide use and parental notification
- clean car legislation for cleaner air
- NJ Highlands Act
- strongest protection for NJ's drinking water.

NJEF's current priorities include drinking water, pesticides, Category One waterway designations, air toxics, Clean Water Act enforcement, healthy schools, and global warming/renewable energy. NJEF works for environmental justice - where no one community is put at more risk of harm from pollution than others due to the color of their skin, economic class or lack of political clout. NJEF and Clean Ocean Action (COA) work together on many issues.

"COA's focus on preserving and restoring the health of the marine environment allows NJEF to focus on mobilizing the public and solving pollution problems on land and upstream from the Jersey Shore," said Amy Goldsmith, NJEF Executive Director.

Learn more about NJEF on April 8, at its 20th Annual Conference at Princeton University. To register, call 732-280-8988, or go to [www.cleanwateraction.org](http://www.cleanwateraction.org).

Adapted from NJEF Website

### Winter Flounder Advisory Prompts Tournament to Become a Call to Action

On the opening day of winter flounder season, winter flounder caught in Raritan Bay and Upper New York Bay was added to NJ's consumption advisory list due to PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) contamination. The joint advisory from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the Department of Health and Senior Services advises that people should only eat one meal per month. Levels of PCBs in these fish from these waters are up to three times the action level for high-risk populations, defined as infants, children, pregnant and nursing women, and women of childbearing age.

"It is a devastating blow," said Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action (COA). "By now, our waters should be clean enough to take species off the list—not add them. It is imperative that efforts to reduce sources of pollution are improved and that we get tough against polluters."

PCB hotspots in and around NY/NJ Harbor, especially General Electric (GE) sites on the Hudson River, continue to act as sources of contamination in fish tissues. According to numerous studies, the dominant source of PCBs in the Hudson-Raritan Estuary (as much as 85%) is from GE. Until the mid-1970s, two GE plants located on the Upper Hudson River discharged over 1.3 million pounds of PCBs into the river. In February 2002, after nearly three decades of study and proposed action, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required GE to remove 2.65 million tons of PCB-contaminated mud from hotspots in a 40-mile stretch of the river. Recently, GE requested yet another delay to the cleanup plan, arguing that more time is needed to construct and set up remediation sites.

"PCBs are long-lived, lurking in the sediments of waterways and working their way up the food chain. The cleanup is essential to the health of marine life and citizens. Delay of the cleanup is unacceptable," said Jennifer Samson, Principal Scientist at COA.

The advisory prompted COA to focus the 12th Annual Winter Flounder Tournament on April 1 (see calendar) on a "Citizens' Call for Action" to cleanup PCBs in our waterways. Citizens will be asked to send a video message to GE, and sign petitions that will be sent to NJ Governor Jon Corzine and NY Governor George Pataki. The petition will call on the Governors to:

1. Pressure US President Bush to ensure federal agencies hold GE firm to the cleanup deadlines;
2. Require GE to fund additional monitoring of fish contamination throughout the region to protect public health and the marine environment;
3. Prioritize enforcement actions where fish consumption advisories exist to make polluters pay and ensure swift cleanups.

"PCBs threaten the health of marine life, citizens, and the economy. It is now up to citizens to demand action for healthier waters and hold polluters accountable," said Kari Jermansen, Outreach Director for COA.

The data prompting NJ to establish the winter flounder advisory have significant implications for many other fish in the region. Originally, studies showed that fish with lower fat levels, such as winter flounder, do not accumulate PCBs at concentrations high enough to require consumption advisories. Now, PCB concentrations may be too high in many more fish.



Winter Flounder

For the updated NJDEP fish consumption advisories, including winter flounder, go to [www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/njmainfish.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/njmainfish.htm).

## COASTAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Nicole Simmons, 732-872-0111, Policy@cleanoceanaction.org

### NJ Reviews Coastal Program Progress in 5-Year Assessment

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is accepting comments on the draft Coastal Management Program Assessment for 2001-2005 (available at [www.nj.gov/dep/cmp/czm\\_news.html](http://www.nj.gov/dep/cmp/czm_news.html)). The Assessment is performed every five years as required by the federal Coastal Zone Management Act. The Assessment reviews topic areas within the state coastal management program, including aquaculture, coastal hazards, coastal wetlands, cumulative and secondary impacts, energy and government facility siting, marine debris, ocean resources, public access, and special area management planning. In the Assessment, the state describes how it has met, or not met, objectives.

COA's initial review, in preparation to submit comments, reveals that the current assessment is woefully inadequate in meeting objectives. Also, COA will further review the Assessment to determine if the State met the plans laid out in the previous assessment in 2001. Comments were originally due March 31. However, at press time, this deadline has been unofficially extended to April 12.

### Proposed Reductions of Bacteria in Waterways

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) represent the amount of a pollutant a waterbody can receive without violating the state's surface water quality criteria. A TMDL is developed based on available pollution data and an assessment of potential pollutant sources. This information is used to allocate load capacities among the different point and non-point sources of pollution, and sets goals and implementation strategies to reduce pollutants that is necessary for the waterbody to meet water quality standards.

The NJDEP recently released proposed TMDLs for Total Coliforms (bacteria) for 36 waterbodies that were previously identified as shellfish-impaired waters due to poor water quality. For example, proposed TMDLs for Watershed Area 12 include total coliform load reductions for the Manasquan River Estuary, Shark River Estuary, Navesink River Estuary, Shrewsbury River Estuary, and Waackaack Creek Estuary. The NJDEP is accepting public comments on the proposed TMDLs through April 7. The documents are available at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watershedmgt/tmdl.htm>.

## CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

### \$40 Million Later...

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the NJ Department of Transportation's Office of Maritime Resources recently showcased a sediment decontamination technology, called Biogenesis, that uses high-pressure water and detergents to remove contaminants and produce topsoil. Biogenesis is one of four technologies participating in a dredged material decontamination program that has received over \$40 million in federal and state funds over 12 years. The federally-mandated goals program were to develop one or more technologies on a commercial-scale that demonstrated a capacity to process at least 500,000 cubic yards/year in an economically-feasible and environmentally-responsible manner.

At this point, COA's position is that this showcase was premature, at best, as Biogenesis has yet to prove that this technology can adequately decontaminate sediments or successfully operate at the required rate. Also, based on current estimates, the processing cost significantly exceeds the cost of technologies currently available for managing dredged sediments with comparable contaminant loads. The purpose of the decontamination program was to provide cost-effective options for beneficial re-use of dredged material that would ultimately produce a marketable end-product. Based on COA's ongoing investigation, none of the technologies in the program are on target to provide an affordable, alternative treatment train for dredged material from navigational dredging operations in the NY/NJ Harbor. COA will continue to investigate this program and provide updates.

### Citizens Invited to Monmouth County Bayshore Meetings

The Bayshore Regional Watershed Council (BRWC) is developing a regional dredged material management plan for the northern bayshore in Monmouth County, NJ. In November 2005, a public forum was held in Atlantic Highlands. A second open public forum, to be held on May 11 at 10:30am at the Atlantic Highlands Senior Center, will provide citizens with an update on the progress of the plan's development. Citizens are also invited to attend the regular meeting of BRWC that evening, which will also include an update and discussion of the plan. The evening meeting will be held at 7:30pm at Keyport Borough Hall. For information about these meetings, or the plan, contact Nicole or Kari at COA.

## CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

### Oil & Gas Drilling Proposal Imperils Jersey Shore -- Citizen Action Needed

Citizens must act now to protect our coasts. A new plan for 2007-2012 by the federal Minerals Management Service (MMS) would open offshore areas protected for 25 years to offshore oil and gas drilling. The MMS proposal includes plans for offshore drilling off the coast of Virginia, less than 100 miles from the Jersey Shore.

Beaches and coastal waters are threatened. The nation's shorelines are vacation destinations for millions of Americans each year, and the economic lifeline for coastal communities fueled by tourism and commercial and recreational fishing.

Oil and gas drilling creates excessive amounts of waste and debris. This waste often contains lead and mercury. Other pollutants, such as benzene, arsenic, zinc, and some radioactive materials are routinely released during drilling. Also, seismic surveys are harmful to marine mammals. If the MMS plan is approved, oil and gas drilling could become a reality along the shores of more coastal states.

**You can help!** Public comments to MMS are due April 1 and can be submitted online at [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov), or mailed to: Renee Orr, 5-Years Program Manager, Minerals Management Service (MS-4010), Room 3120, 381 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 20170.

Also, organizations are urged to sign onto COA's comments to MMS. COA strongly supports permanent protection from oil and gas drilling for our beaches and coastal waters. To sign on, please contact Nicole at COA by April 10.



Atlantic Brant  
*Branta bernicla hrota*

### Coastal Creature Feature

February's Creature Feature was the **Atlantic Brant**, a smaller cousin of the Canada goose. Atlantic brant mate for life, unless one mate is lost. Brant winter in large flocks along the Atlantic Coast from Massachusetts to North Carolina, however, a whopping 70% of the population winters in New Jersey. The brant will be leaving New Jersey to breed in the Arctic in mid-May.

**April's Creature Feature** gets its name from the dark instrument-shaped pattern that is on the back of its coat. This creature is most commonly found in the frigid waters of the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans, but has been known to go as far south as Virginia. Newborn pups have a pure white coat and are very photogenic. To enter for a chance to win a COA T-shirt, send your guess by mail, fax, or e-mail (PO Box 505, Sandy Hook, NJ 07732; FAX 732-872-8041; Education@CleanOceanAction.org).

(Coastal Creature Feature appears every other month in the *Clean Ocean Advocate*.)

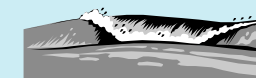


April Creature

(Photo taken at Sandy Hook  
by Joe Reynolds of  
Atlantic Highlands)

### GET INFORMED AND TAKE ACTION...

Ocean Pollution Information Session  
Hosted by Clean Ocean Action  
April 6, 2006, 7:30pm, Taylor Pavilion, Belmar



Learn about the latest threats to the ocean and the ongoing campaign to permanently protect the waters off the New Jersey and New York coast.

Volunteers, organizations, and citizens are welcome to attend.

To RSVP or for directions, please contact Kari (732-872-0111 or [outreach@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:outreach@cleanoceanaction.org)). Light refreshments will be served.

## EDUCATION

Holly Jantz, 732-872-0111, Education@cleanoceanaction.org

### COA Brings Learning to Life!

Schools can still apply to attend COA's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Summit, sponsored by Commerce Bank, on May 16 and 17, at Sandy Hook. The free event is open to public and private middle schools (grades 5-8) from northern and central NJ counties. The program presents students with an interdisciplinary marine and environmental education experience that complements the NJ Science Standards. Students experience a roundtable of six workstations and twelve interactive field activities, including these new field activities: fly-fishing with Bayshore Saltwater Flyrodders, and beachcombing with American Littoral Society. To apply online, visit COA's website ("Education" & "Student Summit").

This year, the Summit features a new partnership with Commerce Bank. The company provides financial and other support to educational, community, human service, arts, and health-related programs. Their Corporate Giving Program has contributed more than \$46 million to nonprofit organizations.

"Commerce is committed to partnering with local organizations to improve the quality of life for residents. We want to help protect our environment, and also find fun and creative ways to keep children interested in math and science," said Jim Kiernan, Market Manager, Commerce Bank Shore Market.

In honoring its commitment to bring financial education to families and educators in the communities it serves, Commerce Bank created the Commerce WOW!Zone – a fun, educational, and interactive financial-literacy program aimed at providing children and teens with valuable information about money, saving, banking, and investing. Visit [www.wowzone.com](http://www.wowzone.com) for more information.

## EVENTS

Jennifer Smiga, 732-872-0111, Events@cleanoceanaction.org

### Whole Foods Market -- 5% Day to Benefit COA, April 19<sup>th</sup>

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, Whole Foods Market of Middletown, located at State Route 35 North & Chapel Hill Road, will donate five percent of your total purchase (before taxes) to Clean Ocean Action. Three times per year, individual Whole Foods Markets across the country hold Five Percent Days (or Community Giving Days), donating 5% of that day's net sales to a local or regional nonprofit or educational organization. Big waves of thanks to the customers and team at Whole Foods for the continued generosity!

### 2006 Paddlesport Film Festival Raises Funds for a Clean Ocean

Special thanks to the Durrue Family and the entire staff of Jersey Paddler in Brick for donating over \$500 of admission fees to COA from the National Paddling Film Festival (NPF) at Paddlesport 2006. For 23 years, the nonprofit NPF has brought together paddling enthusiasts from around the world to share their talents and paddling experiences and help generate fun and funds for organizations leading waterway conservation efforts.

Donations received from the film festival will be used to support a kayak/canoe cleanup in the Sandy Hook Bay area. The date is to be determined. To sign up for a kayak/canoe cleanup, contact Kari at COA (732-872-0111 or [outreach@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:outreach@cleanoceanaction.org)).