



- Company Attempts to Silence New Jersey, Again
- Knowing When to Surf & Swim
- To Fertilize or Not to Fertilize

April 2008 Highlights

*****Eco-Tip of the Month*****
Shrink Your Boat's Impact: With each new boating season, hundreds of tons of non-biodegradable plastic shrink wrap that protects boats from the winter elements is removed and sent to landfills. Many states are establishing shrink wrap recycling programs. The NJ Clean Marina Program expanded its program this year; go to www.njcleanmarina.org for recycling locations. For other states, call your county recycling coordinators to find out where to recycle shrink wrap. Adapted from Marine Trades Association of NJ

Clean Ocean Action
 18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2
 Highlands, NJ 07732
 732-872-0111
www.CleanOceanAction.org
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 - ➡ To renew, please detach this form and enclose with your check.
- Thank you.

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

APRIL

- All Month**
 - *Aveda Earth Month events*, see inside or COA's website for details.
- April 3-6, Thursday-Sunday**
 - *Garden State Film Festival*, Paramount Theater, Asbury Park. Stop by COA's table. For details, go to www.gsff.org.
- April 5, Saturday**
 - *14th Annual COA Flounder Tournament*, Bahrs Landing, Highlands, 9am Blessing of Waters & Breakfast, 3-5pm Weigh-in, 5pm Awards. Free!
- April 12, Saturday**
 - *Earth Share Celebrates NJ Wine Tasting & Art Exhibit*, Dancer Inn, New Egypt, 5-8pm. Call 609-989-1160 for tickets (\$40, \$45 at door).
- April 22, Tuesday**
 - *Earth Day!*
- April 26, Saturday**
 - *COA Spring Beach Sweeps*, statewide, 9am-12:30pm, rain or shine. For sites, see inside.

Our COAlition Featuring... The Ocean Congress



The 2008 Ocean Congress, held in March, brought COA's Participating Organizations and other groups working on ocean pollution issues together to discuss current threats and develop a plan for collective action. COA partnered with Gateway National Recreation Area - Sandy Hook for the event.

Nearly 60 people representing over 30 groups attended the successful event. **US Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-D-6)** reviewed federal legislation for the ocean, including the Clean Ocean Zone.

Tim Dillingham from the American Littoral Society, reviewed state legislative actions, and spoke as a panelist during the policy session. As keynote speaker, **Brian Thompson** of WNBC-NY provided a lively discussion about his perspective on media and environmental issues.

During the policy panel session, **Suzanne Golas, csjp**, of WATERSPIRIT presented the "Big Picture" and how local action has global impacts, while **Tony MacDonald** of the Urban Coast Institute outlined an 8-point agenda for coastal protection. **Dr. Mike Kennish** of Rutgers University and **John Tiedemann** of Monmouth University presented new scientific information about the health of offshore and nearshore ocean waters during the science session. In the third session, **Dr. Bill Rosenblatt** of Surfrider Foundation provided ideas for motivating and activating citizens for a purpose, while **Michelle Knapik** of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation reviewed a strategy to improve advocacy messaging.

While much progress has been made as a coalition, congress participants agreed that much work remains to protect the ocean from pollution.

COMPANY ATTEMPTS TO SILENCE NJ, AGAIN Fishing Grounds Threatened

The Atlantic Sea Island Group (ASIG) continues its relentless pursuit to exclude New Jersey from the review process for the company's proposed massive industrial island to import liquefied natural gas (LNG). As reported in last month's *Clean Ocean Advocate*, ASIG filed a lawsuit against the US Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the US Department of Transportation to take away "adjacent coastal state" (ACS) status from NJ. With this status, NJ has a seat at the table to review the application and has veto power over the project.

The State of New Jersey filed a "Motion to Intervene" so that it can be a party to the lawsuit and protect its rights. In response, the company filed to oppose NJ's request to be party to the lawsuit. MARAD has filed paperwork arguing that the court should throw-out this lawsuit.

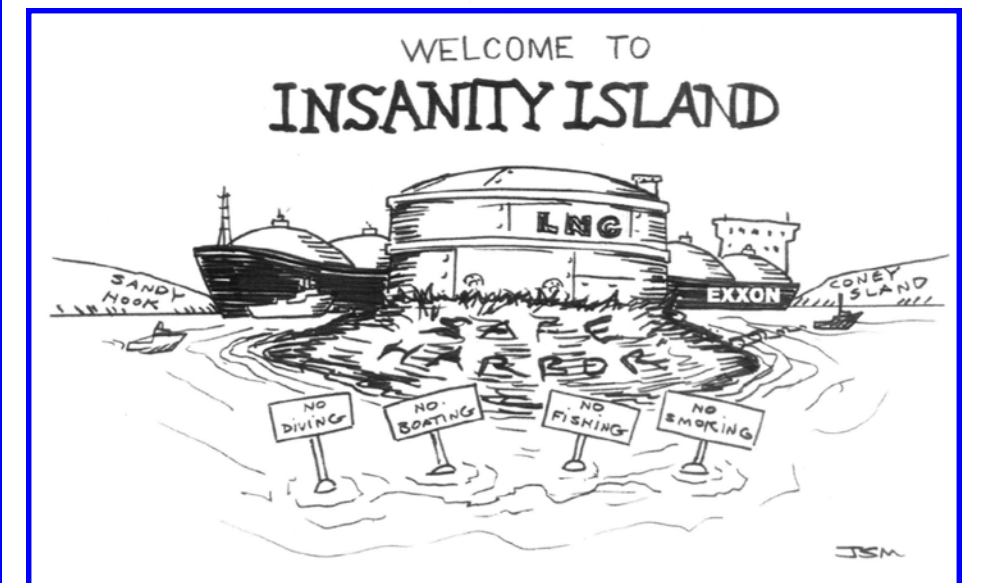
Citizens' Right to Know

As a result of Clean Ocean Action (COA) filing a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request, documents and information related to ASIG's attempts to strip NJ of its voice in the project are now available at www.regulations.gov under Docket #28535. COA is reviewing the newly posted information to ensure all relevant materials are publicly available. Interestingly, COA learned from these new materials that US Senator Inhofe (R-OK) and US Rep. Coble (R-NC) wrote letters to MARAD supporting one of ASIG's arguments against NJ having a role in reviewing the project.

Impacts to Fishing Grounds

The NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife Bureau of Marine Fisheries contacted fishermen to gather information about offshore fishing grounds in preparation for filing their Motion to Intervene. Jim Lovgren, a third generation commercial fisherman and member of the Fishermen's Dock Cooperative in Point Pleasant Beach, outlined in a letter the important role that Cholera Banks plays as a fisheries habitat. This same area is where ASIG proposes to dump 16 million tons of material to build their 116-acre industrial island. Lovgren also exposed the statistical flaws in a study, paid-for by ASIG, which the company is using to say there will be minimal harm from the project.

Take Action to Stop Offshore LNG Projects, see "Stop LNG," page 3



COASTAL WATER QUALITY

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Knowing When to Surf & Swim: The Beach Protection Act

The Beach Protection Act is now gaining attention in the US Senate. This proposed law expands protection of public health by requiring monitoring of beach water quality and notification to the public when health-based pollutant limits are exceeded. US Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) introduced a bill to amend the BEACH Act to strengthen it and require newer rapid testing methods, among other changes. Rapid testing would ensure that the public is notified in a quicker time frame when it is unhealthy to swim, surf,

or otherwise recreate in the ocean. In addition, it would also require states to undertake source tracking and prevention efforts to find and remedy the sources of ocean pollution.

While COA generally supports the bill, COA is working with Lautenberg's office to strengthen certain provisions. New revisions to the bill will include a requirement that the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approve rapid testing methods by a certain date to ensure all coastal states begin using such methods. Also, Sen. Lautenberg is working with Sen. Voinovich (R-OH) to help move the bill forward with bi-partisan support.



CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

US Senators from NJ Help Defeat New Offshore Oil & Gas Drilling



Last month, **US Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ)** and **Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)** lead the fight against a surprise amendment that would have taken the first step toward allowing new oil and natural gas drilling off the US coast. The amendment to the US Senate Budget Bill, proposed by US Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), would have given a "green light" to Virginia to drill off its coast.

COA commends New Jersey's US Senators for defending the ocean. Both Senators expressed concerns for the Jersey shore, which could be impacted by oil and gas activities and spills off Virginia's coast.

"The environment and economy of the Jersey Shore would have been directly threatened by this plan, so we stood up against it," said Senator Menendez. "It was a reckless plan to feed our nation's addiction to oil that posed not only short-term threats, but also could have led us down a slippery slope that ends in drilling up and down the east coast. This problem arises because we are relying exclusively on oil. Instead, we need to become a more energy efficient nation and we need to develop alternative fuels. This was an important victory for New Jersey in the Senate today."

"Drilling so close to the NJ shoreline is no solution to our nation's energy crisis. Oil drilling would threaten the natural beauty and health of our shores and wildlife, as well as the millions of people who live and work nearby. We need to put NJ ahead of the interests of Big Oil," said Senator Lautenberg.

COA joined a dozen regional and national organizations in a letter to Senators, urging them to vote against the amendment. The Senators rejected the amendment with a vote of 47 to 51. US Senators Menendez and Lautenberg, as well as **US Senators Hillary Clinton (D-NY)** and **Charles Schumer (D-NY)**, all voted against the amendment.

POLLUTION PREVENTION

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Students Take Action for the Ocean

In November 2007, students from eight Monmouth County High Schools joined together to engage in ocean advocacy in their communities through COA's Student Ocean Advocates program. Throughout the school year, students have learned about local and global issues related to the health of our ocean, and have launched campaigns to promote the "Three Rs" -- reduce, reuse, and recycle -- as means of reducing nonpoint source pollution to the ocean. To raise money for their campaigns, the SOA students teamed-up with Panera Bread to host a "Panera Nights Fundraiser" on April 7, from 4-9pm, at the Panera Bread in Shrewsbury, NJ. During this time, 5% of the total of all the receipts collected will be donated to the SOA program. Stop by and meet the SOA students, learn about their efforts, support their campaigns, and listen to live music.

Save the Date! SOA students will also share their efforts at a public rally on Wednesday, May 21, at 6pm, at the Eatontown Community Center.

To Fertilize or Not to Fertilize: How to Help Barnegat Bay

The Nitrogen Pollution Action Project began in 2007 to educate citizens, municipalities, and elected officials about solutions to the excess nitrogen polluting Barnegat Bay. Each year, hundreds of tons of nitrogen enter the bay and disrupt its unique ecosystem by reducing the amount of oxygen and sunlight available for fish, shellfish, and underwater plants. Recent research shows that about 30% of polluting nitrogen enters the bay from fertilizer runoff. Therefore, citizens within the

About 30% of polluting nitrogen entering Barnegat Bay is from fertilizer runoff.

Barnegat Bay watershed, which includes Ocean County and parts of Monmouth County, must be mindful about the amount and type of fertilizer applied to their yards. As part of the Action Project, COA is developing a "Barnegat Bay Buddy Certification" program that guides individuals on how to take action to reduce nitrogen pollution in Barnegat Bay.

COASTAL CREATURE FEATURE



Getting ready to dive!
 Northern Gannet, *Morus bassanus*

April Creature: This spring, just as they have done for the past 200 million years, this gentle creature will gather along bay beaches in this region to mate. As they emerge from the muddy bay bottoms where they spend most of their lives, they are recognized by their spiny tail and helmet-shaped body (pictured right). Thanks to the American Littoral Society and NJ Audubon Society, this creature has recently caught the attention of the NJ State Legislature, and harvesting them for bait is now prohibited. For a chance to win a COA T-shirt, submit your guess to COA by mail, fax, or email (18 Hartshorne Dr., Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732; 732-872-8041; Education@CleanOceanAction.org), or complete the online form at www.CleanOceanAction.org.



April Coastal Creature

The Coastal Creature Feature winner will be announced in the June newsletter.

SAVE THE DAY FOR... "BEACHY" FUN IN MAY!

Ted Shred's Beach Cruiser Bike Race

May 10, 2008, 10am
 Gateway National Recreation Area,
 Sandy Hook, Lot E



Family Beach Ball for the Ocean

May 18, 2008, 3-7pm
 Ship Ahoy Beach Club, Sea Bright



For details and tickets for both events, call Emily Hackett at 732-872-0111, send an email to programs@cleanoceanaction.org, or go to www.CleanOceanAction.org.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

The Big Picture: Humans' Impacts on the World's Oceans



According to the researchers with the US National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, humans have exacted a much heavier toll on the seas than initially thought. The first global map of humans' impacts on marine ecosystems revealed that almost half of the oceans have been badly damaged by humanity. Funded by the

US National Science Foundation, the research shows that 41 percent of the oceans have been affected strongly by 17 human activities. Humans have left only four percent of the world's oceans pristine.

Climate change has had the greatest impact, particularly through rising sea temperatures and its effect of acidifying the oceans. Also, researchers say continental shelves and slopes proved to be the most heavily affected areas, especially along densely populated coasts. The research shows that the entire East Coast has been heavily impacted.

While the picture painted by the research is grim, researchers said it could be reversed by urgent action. Let's get to work!

Adapted from NY Times & Times Online

Stop LNG (continued from page 1)

ACT NOW!

Help ensure our ocean is not the world's next lab-rat for Big Oil's latest fossil fuel scam! Tell the NJ & NY Governors to say NO to LNG in the ocean and to oppose "Safe Harbor" & "BlueOcean Energy." The Governors have veto power over the projects.

NJ Governor Jon Corzine: 609-292-6000, or send email message at <http://www.state.nj.us/governor/govmail.html>.

NY Governor David Paterson: 518-474-8390, or send email message at <http://161.11.121.121/govemail>.

For talking points and information about these industrial projects, visit www.CleanOceanAction.org, or call 732-872-0111.