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December 2007 Highlights

- NJ Wins Veto Rights Over Mega-Offshore Industrial Island
- Become a Marine Mammal Volunteer Responder!
- Go Green This Holiday Season: Tips & Gifts

CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

NJ Wins Veto Rights over Mega-Offshore Industrial Island

The US Maritime Administration and US Coast Guard granted NJ Governor Corzine's request for the state's voice to be heard on an application to build a man-made island for an industrial complex to offload, store, and process liquefied natural gas (LNG). New Jersey and New York are now designated "adjacent coastal states" and have the right to review and approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove the application. Both states are granted the opportunity for at least one public hearing to be held in each state.

The applicant, Atlantic Sea Island Group (ASIG), opposed NJ's voice and wrote a letter to federal agencies asserting that there are "no risks to the coastal environment of the State of New Jersey," among many other baseless claims.

COA applauds the efforts of **NJ Governor Corzine**, and **US Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)** and **US Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-D-6)** who wrote letters in support of Governor Corzine's request. COA thanks the many organizations and citizens who sent letters of support, which are posted on the public docket (visit www.regulations.gov and search for Docket ID 28535).

It is expected that there will be a public scoping hearing in January 2008, in both New Jersey and New York. The public can submit comments at any point during the 240-day review process timeline. For updated facts and ways for you to take action as the review process moves forward, visit COA's website.

This just in: NY Assemblyman Harvey Weisenberg (D-20) is hosting a public forum on the LNG island on Monday, November 19, from 7-10pm at Long Beach City Hall, 1 West Chester Street, Long Beach, NY.

NJDEP to Study Coast for Offshore Windmills

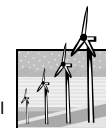
Last month, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) presented details of an 18-month, \$4.5 million study to address the need for baseline ecological/natural resource data as recommended by the Blue Ribbon Panel. The studies will assess the distribution and status of NJ's marine life to determine potential areas for offshore wind development. The scope of work includes the collection of data on the distribution, abundance and migratory patterns of avian, marine mammal, sea turtle, and other species. The study area is from shoreline to 20 nautical miles, from Seaside Park to Stone Harbor, NJ. Information is posted at: www.nj.gov/dep/dsr/ocean-wind.

Work by the contractor, GeoMarine, Inc., is set to begin in January 2008, with an interim report released in January 2009, and a final report in September 2009. The Technical Review Committee for the baseline studies includes representatives from NJDEP, US Department of Interior Minerals Management Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service.

The NJDEP acknowledged the challenges to conducting these studies: (1) obtaining a permit from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration for studying animals protected by the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act; (2) weather, such as visibility and seas; (3) vessels (i.e., storms and availability); and (4) a fixed budget.

Considering these challenges, the choice to begin offshore sampling work in January is perplexing, as the 18-month study will cover two January, February, and March sampling efforts. At this time, biological activity off the coast is low, and visibility, wave height, and storm activity are at their worst.

Meanwhile, the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is accepting bids from offshore wind developers for a pilot project of up to 80 turbines and will provide \$19 million in assistance for the project. The BPU will award the funding in March 2008, while the results from the ecological studies will not be available until September 2009.



Our COalition

Featuring...

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County (UUCMC)

The UUCMC is an intentionally diverse, inter-generational community that welcomes people of all spiritual, philosophical, and social backgrounds. Together, the congregation of 300 members dedicates themselves "to making the world a safer, more loving, just, and ecologically balanced place."



Members initiate and participate in many environmental actions, issues, and events, and their Meetinghouse shows they practice what they teach. "The Earth Window" in their "great room" shows the planet Earth and reminds people of our inter-connectedness with the whole world.

In June 2006, the UUCMC was designated a Green Sanctuary Congregation. To achieve this, UUCMC installed solar panels and programmable thermostats, adjusted the temperatures during cooler/warmer months, installed compact fluorescent light bulbs, and organized programming on global warming. Recently, a community garden was established, with some of the food going to a local soup kitchen.

The UUCMC's several committees provide outlets for action and learning. In addition to overseeing the Green Sanctuary designation, the Social Action Committee supports, sponsors, and participates in a variety of programs. Members are long-time volunteers in COA's Beach Sweeps, especially in Asbury Park, and continue to be active on issues that will help stop pollution.

"We celebrate that in Monmouth County we have our own home-grown groups that organize activities and actions for us to support to help improve our waters," said Jim McCorkel, co-chair of the Social Action Committee, along with co-chair Irene Gibson.

The UUCMC Meetinghouse is located at 1475 West Front Street in Lincroft, NJ. For more information, call 732-747-0707, or email uucmc@uucmc.org, or visit www.uucmc.org.

DECEMBER 2007

December 1, Saturday

- **Billabong Store Grand Opening 5% Day to benefit COA**, 4-8pm, Shrewsbury at the Grove West, 512 Broad Street, Shrewsbury, NJ. Call 732-219-9600.

December 8, Saturday

- **Marine Mammal Stranding Center Volunteer Responder Training Workshop**, Sandy Hook, 1-4pm. Pre-registration is mandatory. See article inside for details.

SAVE THE DATE - 2008

January 1, Tuesday

- **Sons of Ireland Polar Bear Plunge**, 11am, Donovan's Reef, Sea Bright.

January 26, Saturday

- **Brahma Yoga Day**, all day, Brahma Yoga & Spa, Sea Bright.

April, All Month

- **Aveda Earth Month**. Stay tuned for details!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Clean Ocean Action
18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2
Highlands, NJ 07732
732-872-0111
www.CleanOceanAction.org



For holiday eco-tips, see "Go Green" article inside.
Eco-Tip of the Month

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.

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 _____

Email _____

Please include organization name & contact, if applicable:

Please make check payable to
Clean Ocean Action, 18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2, 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.

Connect the Drops!



Be the solution to ocean pollution and create a ripple effect by making a gift to COA during our Annual Holiday Appeal, arriving by mail soon. You have the unique choice to designate your tax-deductible, year-end donation to support one of our many programs from the Water Buddy Action Packet to awarding a school group with the Student Summit, COA's successful seaside symposium. For information, contact Jennifer Smiga (732-872-0111 or events@cleanoceanaction.org).

COASTAL WATER QUALITY

David Byer, 732-872-0111, Policy@cleanoceanaction.org
Kari Martin, 732-872-0111, Outreach@cleanoceanaction.org

NJ Victory: Open Space Ballot Question Passes!

On Election Day, NJ voters approved Ballot Question #3 with 54% of the votes, showing support for open space, farmland, and historic preservation programs in the state. Congratulations to the Keep It Green campaign for the hard work. For the votes and next steps, visit www.njkeepitgreen.org.

Update on Federal Legislation to Protect Beach-goers

US Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-D-6) introduced a bill to amend the BEACH Act, which provides for nationwide water testing at public beaches. Pallone's bill introduces requirements for rapid testing methods (see article below), which would result in faster public notification when coastal waters are polluted. Rep. Oberstar (MN-D-8) introduced a substitute bill in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which he chairs. Oberstar's bill was "marked-up," making it available for consideration before the full US House of Representatives.



A new rapid water test can protect beach-goers

However, the current bill still needs essential revisions to better protect public health. These revisions include language that ensures rapid testing moves forward and beaches continue to be closed as a precaution in areas where known pollution occurs after rainfall.

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Local Action to Support Rapid Water Testing

COA attended a meeting to discuss the work that local universities, including Rutgers and Monmouth, and the Monmouth County Health Department are doing to improve water testing at the state's beaches, lakes, and rivers. A new method called "QPCR" uses modern molecular techniques to identify bacteria in water, with results in about two hours. Research efforts include using this method to distinguish different sources of fecal contamination, thus ensuring elimination efforts are targeting the correct source.

NJ Cuts-out Standards for Artificial Reef Materials

COA supports NJ's artificial reef program and works to ensure it remains the best in the nation. The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife is recommending "a limited revision" to the "Artificial Reef Management Plan for NJ" to reinstate subway cars as acceptable reef material. However, the revisions remove a section that sets standards for "Other Suitable Materials." Also, Appendix A (Policy Directive 2003-02) is deleted, which has provisions such as providing "any material proposed for artificial reefs in the future shall be carefully evaluated to demonstrate that the material is pollution free." The new plan must be revised to include standards. The proposed revisions are posted at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/artreef.htm>.

CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

Jennifer Samson, Ph.D., 732-872-0111, Science@cleanoceanaction.org

Agencies Revise Ocean Dumpsite Cleanup Plan

The US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided a 10-year update on the Site Management and Monitoring Plan for the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS), or old Mud Dumps Site, and put forth a revised plan for managing the site in the future. According to the agencies, almost 31.5 million cubic yards of glacial till, sand, and mud from NY/NJ Harbor has been dumped at HARS as part of the cleanup effort. The agencies seek feedback from interested parties on the plan.

COA requested a meeting for an update on research and studies done and the status of the site before the revised plan is adopted.

Proposed Dredging of NYC Polluted Waterways Stirs Concern

Proposals to dredge Whale Creek Canal in Newtown Creek, as well as the Gowanus Canal, have raised concerns due to the high levels of pollution in the sediments as these waterways and flow into NY/NJ Harbor. The NYC Department of Environmental Protection proposed to dredge the Whale Creek Canal in Brooklyn, which receives pollution from an ongoing oil spill in the industrialized area and from several Superfund sites.

The project proposes dredging 9,000 cubic yards (CY) with upland placement, and 10-year maintenance dredging for the purpose of constructing an interim sludge loading facility. In our comments (period ending October 24), COA requested information on contaminant levels in the mud, dredging methods to be used to reduce resuspension of highly contaminated sediments, and the upland location where the material will be placed.

Similarly, at press time, COA was reviewing a proposal to dredge the Gowanus Canal, Brooklyn. The public comment period ends **November 16**. The applicant, Gowanus Industrial Park, Inc., proposes 10-year maintenance dredging that would result in approximately 46,295 cubic yards of material to be removed.

COA's 2006 Annual Report

Reviews of accomplishments, issues, actions, and financials
Check it out at www.cleanoceanaction.org

COASTAL CREATURE FEATURE



North Atlantic Right Whale
Eubalaena glacialis

December Creature: During the coming winter months, when temperatures in their North Atlantic breeding grounds begin to fall, this species migrates to more southern locations, including the NJ coast. In the United States this creature, sometimes called a "sea dog," is no longer threatened by hunters and now enjoys the recovery of some of their favorite foods, like sea herring. To enter for a chance to win a COA T-shirt, send your guess by mail, fax, or email (18 Hartshorne Dr., Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732; 732-872-8041; education@cleanoceanaction.org)



December Creature

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

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Anna Will, 732-872-0111, Education@cleanoceanaction.org

Become a Marine Mammal Volunteer Responder!

The Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) in Brigantine, NJ, seeks volunteers to respond to sick or injured marine mammals and sea turtles in the state, especially Monmouth County. Volunteers respond to calls received by the Center, help keep the stranded animal safe until staff arrives, photograph and identify animals, and sometimes help staff with safe animal transport.



An entangled grey seal
Photo source: MMSC

To become a MMSC volunteer responder, you must: (1) be 18 years old or over; (2) live and/or work within 45 minutes of the coast; and (3) attend a training workshop. Stranding workshops teach marine mammal identification, review laws protecting marine mammals and sea turtles, and discuss volunteer expectations.

A workshop will be held at the US Coast Guard Station, Sandy Hook, on December 8, 1-4pm. *Pre-registration for the workshop is mandatory.* To register, call or email MMSC at (609) 266-0538 or mmsc@verizon.net by December 4th.

Go Green This Holiday Season



While the holiday season brings plenty of good cheer, it also brings plenty of extra consumption, energy expenditure, and garbage. In fact, between Thanksgiving and New Year's, Americans produce more household waste than any other time of year. Follow these tips to minimize waste:

- ✓ Avoid using disposable plates, cups, and utensils at parties.
- ✓ Wrap gifts with recycled materials like colorful magazine pages, old maps, calendars, and Sunday comics, or use reusable materials like decorative boxes, tins, bags, and cloth ribbon.
- ✓ Protect animals and wildlife by "adopting" them through organizations whose work benefits their habitat or the environment.
- ✓ Bring your own reusable tote bags when you go out holiday shopping.
- ✓ Give environmentally sound gifts: rechargeable batteries, reusable thermoses & water bottles, tote bags, compact fluorescent light bulbs, low-flowing shower heads, and items made from recycled materials.

For more holiday and gift-giving eco-tips, visit www.cleanoceanaction.org.

Ocean Pollution News in Your Mailbox...

Made Possible by Volunteers

Each month, COA's newsletter is published and before it arrives in your mailbox, a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers label and post the newsletter at Building 18 in Sandy Hook. These spectacular ladies are also active with many other organizations in their communities. Waves of thanks to our newsletter mailing crew!



(Sitting, L-R): Janet Hatch, Linda Lees, and Carla Wilkinson
(Standing, L-R): Bobbi Cooley and Jane Conger
Not pictured: Barbara Bennett