

Clean Ocean Advocate



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December 2008 Highlights
- Offshore Oil & Gas Drilling Creeps Toward NJ Coast
- Flip Your Lid for the Ocean with Aveda and COA
- SEAWorthy Holiday Gifts and Eco-tips

CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

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Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling Creeps Toward NJ Coast

With the pitiful prospect of usable oil -- the equivalent of less than one month supply -- the federal government cracked the door to oil and gas drilling off the East Coast for the first time in a quarter-century. The U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) announced the first step to allow drilling 50 miles off the coast of Virginia, which could lead to leases in the Atlantic Ocean by 2011. The proposed leasing area covers 2.9 million acres -- an area about the size of Connecticut. Public comments are due by December 29, 2008.

This federal action has far-reaching repercussions on nearby states. Ocean currents could carry toxins from routine drilling activities and spills northward to Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey beaches. NJ Governor Corzine renewed his opposition to offshore drilling, and U.S. Representative Pallone (NJ-D-6) wrote a letter to MMS requesting the agency to reconsider the proposal. The letter was signed by nine elected officials from NY, MA, VA, and NJ, including US Senators Lautenberg and Menendez (both D-NJ) and Reps. Holt (D-12), Sires (D-13), Payne (D-10), and Pascrell (D-8).

President Bush's lifting of the Executive withdrawal this July and the expiration of the Congressional moratoria on drilling in September now allow lease sales. The new presidential administration can veto the MMS plan and Congress can reinstate the ban on drilling early next year.

This is all despite the fact that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) opposes the lease off Virginia due to interference with rockets and missile launchings from its Wallops Flight Facility. Also, the U.S. Department of Defense is opposed due to interference with weapons tests and training. In addition, unexploded military weapons litter this offshore region.

Keep Us Free from LNG!

Do you want to become more dependent on Russia and the Middle East for energy? Want foreign natural gas that costs up to twice as much as domestic natural gas? Want marine life to suffer from impacts from offshore industrial activities? If your answer is "no," help keep us free from LNG!

Organizations, municipalities, businesses, and citizens are encouraged to learn more and take action to protect the ocean from three proposed LNG importation facilities off the NY/NJ coast. See www.cleanoceanaction.org for: a motivating, celebrity-filled video (including Ted Danson, Laird Hamilton, Halle Berry, Pierce Brosnan, & Daryl Hannah) of a rally against an LNG port off Malibu; a radio announcement opposing LNG ports of our coast; an interview of COA's Dave Byer on WNYC's Radio Leonard Lopate show; and talking points, citizen petition, and COA's special publication on LNG. Call COA to schedule a presentation on this timely topic.

ATTENTION OCEAN ADVOCATES: CLEAN OCEAN ACTION TO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS IN 2009!



Did you attend the first Beach Sweeps?
Did you or do you still own a "Slick the Cat" COA t-shirt?
Did you "March for the Shore?"
Share your COA stories and memorabilia for the 25th Year Celebration; email outreach@cleanoceanaction.org or call COA.

Our COALition

Featuring...
Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce

The Eastern Monmouth Chamber of Commerce (EMACC) "helps business do business." EMACC's purpose is to empower members to enrich their businesses and the eastern Monmouth area through education, networking, and service to the community. Celebrating its 80th anniversary, EMACC's tenure speaks to its effectiveness as a resource to businesses and communities in the region. As a 501(c)6 not-for-profit organization, EMACC serves members through skills-building seminars, legislative advocacy, promotional support, and referral services.

EMACC proudly serves the communities of Eatontown, Fair Haven, Little Silver, Monmouth Beach, Oceanport, Red Bank, Rumson, Sea Bright, Shrewsbury, and Tinton Falls. EMACC programs and services include: business, consumer, and tourism resources; scholarship opportunities for students; and partnerships and support for community groups and agencies.

"With over 550 local business members representing thousands of employees, EMACC is a proud supporter of the tireless efforts of Clean Ocean Action (COA). Many of our members are COA partners - and true 'ocean advocates' - and we applaud COA's hard-fought efforts to keep our waterways clean and safe," said Peder Hagberg, EMACC Chairman and Owner of Currents Magazine.

"We encourage EMACC members to be active volunteers in their community -- whether it is helping children or the ocean," said Lynda Rose, EMACC President and CEO. "Members who participate in their community -- such as COA's Beach Sweeps -- are what helps make Monmouth County so special."

For more information or to join, visit www.EMACC.org.

Adapted from EMACC website

*****Eco-Tip of the Month*****
Organic Fashion is In: Cotton is one of the plants most heavily sprayed with toxic chemicals. It takes about a third of a pound of pesticides and 500 gallons of water to produce one standard t-shirt. Buy organic clothes and items (see inside for organic COA totes and tees) and help prevent tons of pollution.
Adapted from *Our Environment*, Vol. 14, No. 4, by Ingrid Justick

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



December

See inside for eco-friendly tips and gifts this holiday SEASON!



SAVE THE DATE

January 1, Thursday
- 6th Annual Sons of Ireland Polar Bear Plunge, to benefit Clean Ocean Action, Special Olympics of NJ, and Campership of Monmouth County, Convention Center, Asbury Park, NJ, 10am-12pm
Check-in, 1pm Plunge.
For details and to register, go to www.sonsofireland.org.

February 28, Saturday
- Clean Ocean Action's 25th Anniversary Celebration!
Location, time, and other fun details to be announced shortly!
Stay tuned & dig out that COA memorabilia (see page 1)

Please clip and send to COA.

STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION!

MAILING LIST RENEWAL OR SIGN-UP FORM

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.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY

Heather Saffert, Ph.D., 732-872-0111, Science@cleanoceanaction.org
Project comments submitted by COA are posted on our website

New Jersey's Impaired Waterways

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) released its Draft 2008 Integrated Report on Water Quality. The NJDEP compiles the report biannually as mandated by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify and prioritize water quality problems. All NJ ocean waters are impaired for aquatic life use based on low dissolved oxygen levels (DO) and for fish consumption due to high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and mercury in fish. Hotspots of fecal bacteria-impaired waters along the coast also exist. Without the formal declaration of impaired, the state can ignore action to improve these waterbodies.

The ocean from Sandy Hook to Pt. Pleasant was not listed as impaired for shellfish, even though shellfish classification maps have prohibited this area to shellfishing for many years due to pollution. COA recommended this area be listed as impaired to accurately represent this problem.

Barnegat Bay is currently listed as impaired only for low DO for the northern part of bay and for recreation from the northern part of the bay to Barnegat Inlet. Unfortunately, the entire bay is suffering. While excessive inputs of nutrients are known to negatively impact Barnegat Bay and Little Egg Harbor, many of the impacts (e.g., loss of sea grass coverage and decreased shellfish populations) do not qualify as an impairment under the current methods for listing. The NJDEP is working to develop a new marine benthic index to assess the health of estuarine and coastal regions in the future. COA recommended that NJDEP list more areas of Barnegat Bay as impaired, as well as take action now to reduce nitrogen pollution.

EPA: Nitrogen Fertilizer Reduction Ordinance Needed

Alan Steinberg, EPA Regional Administrator, stated at a November meeting organized by the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program (BBNEP) it was essential that Ocean County consider a fertilizer limitation ordinance to reduce nitrogen loadings to Barnegat Bay. Also, EPA identified funding that can be directed toward BBNEP and improving the bay.

Save Barnegat Bay developed a model ordinance for towns to reduce sources of nitrogen to the bay, which is undergoing significant ecological changes due to nitrogen pollution from surrounding communities. This ordinance is under review by BBNEP and government officials. For the ordinance or to learn more about saving Barnegat Bay, call 732-830-3600 or visit www.nitrogenfree.com. Also, to learn about COA's Barnegat Bay Buddy Program, call Tavia Danch or go to our website.

SAVE THE DATE & REGISTER NOW!

New location!

6th Annual Sons of Ireland Polar Bear Plunge

To Benefit Clean Ocean Action, Special Olympics of New Jersey, & Campership of Monmouth County

Thursday, January 1, 2009

10am-12pm Check-in, 1pm Plunge

Convention Center, Asbury Park, NJ

For information or to register:

www.sonsofireland.org

**CITIZEN ACTION**

Carl Guastaferro, 732-872-0111, Citizens@cleanoceanaction.org

Flip Your Lid for the Ocean with Aveda and Clean Ocean Action!

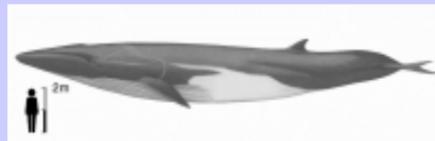
In our October newsletter, COA proudly announced a new partnership with Aveda to recycle plastic bottle caps. With plastic bottle caps being one of the top items collected at the Beach Sweeps, COA is excited to lead a new recycling program that will reduce marine debris. Aveda will create new containers and caps for their beauty products from this stream of recycled plastic caps.

Recycle to Win, Twice! Reducing plastic caps in landfills, on beaches, and in birds' stomachs is a win! To make it even more exciting, organize your family, friends, and classmates to collect plastic bottle caps from common items, such as soda and water bottles, shampoo and lotion containers, and detergent bottles. Register your group with COA (see form on page 4) and bring your caps to COA's Beach Ball event on May 17, 2009. Prizes will be awarded for most caps collected; schools, groups, families, and individuals are welcome to participate. Start collecting now! Contact Carl at COA with questions about the program or for registration.

Businesses Welcome! Spellbinders Surf & Snow in Allenhurst and Long Branch, NJ, recently joined the Aveda Caps Recycling program. Waves of thanks to owners Regina and Ron Fericola for taking action for the ocean by launching the program in their shops. They hope to inspire other surf shops and businesses across the NY/NJ region to join them. Businesses interested in this program should call COA's Jennifer at 732-872-0111.

A Call to Action!

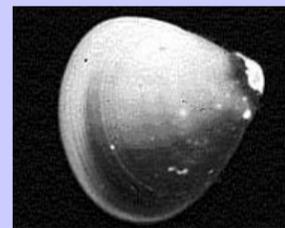
Throughout the year, COA offers several volunteer opportunities to help further our mission, including bi-annual beach cleanups and outreach campaigns at public hearings and festivals. This winter, one of the main objectives for the volunteer program is to inform and motivate our activist network through a series of workshops. If you are interested in participating or signing-up to volunteer, contact Carl at the COA office.

COASTAL CREATURE FEATURE

Finwhale, *Balaenoptera physalus*

The October creature was a **finwhale**, which is among the fastest of the great whales. Two finwhale carcasses washed-up on New Jersey beaches this summer: a 55-foot finwhale at Island Beach State Park (*cause of death - uncertain*), and a 49-foot finwhale in Long Branch (*cause of death - struck by ship*). Fishing gear and ship strikes are the leading causes of mortality of endangered whales. COA received a record number of guesses on this creature feature from around the country. Congratulations to **Tim Winslow of Lexington, SC**, who was chosen randomly from a large tide pool of correct entries!

December Creature: This marine bivalve is among the smallest of its kind, measuring up to only five millimeters (1/5 of an inch). Its surface has a reddish-purple coloration and can be either smooth and round or glossy with ridges. It lives in fine-sands along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. It is a filter feeder that eats diatoms and detritus from the water. For a chance to win a COA T-shirt, send your guess to *Judge Jewel B. Valve* by mail, fax, email (18 Hartshorne Dr., Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732; 732-872-8041; science@cleanoceanaction.org), or by visiting www.cleanoceanaction.org. One entry per person, please.



December Coastal Creature

The Coastal Creature Feature winner will be announced in the February 2009 newsletter.

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Tavia Danch, 732-872-0111, Education@cleanoceanaction.org

Tips for Preventing Pollution This Holiday Season (& Beyond)

The amount of waste generated by people increases by 25 percent between Thanksgiving and New Years Day. As we enter the holiday season, we should incorporate pollution prevention initiatives into our lives to minimize impacts to the environment. In this spirit, COA staff's eco-friendly suggestions are:

Barbara: "For gifts, give donations in the recipient's name to a worthy cause, such as Heifer International."

Carl: "Go organic! Prepare a meal entirely with organic ingredients. As guests comment on the dish, start a conversation about the benefits of organic food."

Cindy: "Forego 'things.' Give the gift of time to enjoy a special meal together, or volunteer services to someone in need in honor of a friend."

Dave: "Skip the meat and dairy, or eat less; more than one-third of all fossil fuels produced in the United States are used to raise animals for food."

Emily: "Bring your own reusable bags while shopping to prevent the use of plastic bags."

Heather: "Buy antiques as presents from stores and auctions. These gifts are unique, well-received, and do not require new manufacturing or resources."

Jenni: "Buy a living evergreen and plant it outside after the holidays."

Jennifer: "Save money and cut down waste by using cloth napkins and cleaning the house with rags rather than paper towels."

Kari: "When shopping, carpool with friends or family, or shop less than 10 miles from home to save gas and reduce pollution."

Tavia: "Reuse the fronts of old cards as gift tags for new presents."

Mary-Beth: "Use tote bags to wrap gifts and tie the handles with a decorative bow. This makes the tote bag part of the gift."

FLOTSAM & JETSAM**National and International Progress on Reducing Ship Pollution**

In July, the U.S. Congress passed the Maritime Pollution Prevention Act (MPPA), which President Bush signed into law. This law implements the 2005 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, known as the MARPOL treaty, in the U.S. The Senate unanimously ratified this treaty to reduce ship pollution in 2006. The new legislation was needed to authorize the EPA and Coast Guard to develop and enforce air emissions standards for domestic and all foreign vessels.

The EPA and Coast Guard, with support of the American Association of Port Authorities and the World Shipping Council, had already been working at the international level in writing amendment proposals to further restrict ship pollution. In October, the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee unanimously adopted several pollution-reducing amendments to international shipping regulations. To decrease greenhouse gas emissions, the committee agreed to greater ship energy efficiency guidelines and to continue investigating options for future reductions. Greater restrictions will be progressively implemented to further reduce particulates, sulfur oxides, and nitrogen oxides from ship emissions. New ship ballast water guidelines were also adopted. As a result of IMO's adoption of amendments, there are now stricter international air emission regulations for shipping.