



Clean Ocean Advocate

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- Join COA to Launch Our 25th Year of Ocean Advocacy - Feb. 28
 - Jersey Shore Tri Gals Tri-umphant for the Ocean
 - Students Give Pennies for Their Ocean-Friendly Thoughts

February 2009 Highlights

*****URGENT ACTION ALERT*****
 Stop Insanity Island!
 Speak out and defend our ocean
 at two public meetings:
January 27 and 29!
 See page 1 for details or
 www.cleanoceanaction.org

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



✂ 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.

February

February 15, Sunday
 - 22nd Annual Ocean Wreck Divers
 Scuba Supermarket, Toms River
 Intermediate North School, Toms
 River, NJ, 9am-2pm. Stop by or
 volunteer for COA's information
 and action table (call Carl at COA
 to volunteer).

February 28, Saturday
 - Celebration to Launch COA's
 25th Year of Ocean Advocacy,
 7-11pm, Langosta Lounge, 1000
 Ocean Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ.
 Space limited, tickets (\$25)
 required; payment requested by
 Feb. 13. For tickets,
 call 732-872-0111 or send payment
 to COA by mail.

SAVE THE DATE

March 27-29, Friday-Sunday
 - Paddlesport by Jersey Paddler,
 Garden State Exhibit Center,
 Somerset, NJ; \$10 admission,
 children under 14 free. For hours,
 go to www.jerseypaddler.com.
 To volunteer for COA, call Carl.

Our COAlition Planning for COA's Future with the Next Generation

In preparation for our year-long
 25th Anniversary celebration and the
 important battles to protect the ocean
 that lie ahead, COA formed a new
 Committee led by Tyler Thompson of
 Fair Haven. This group of dedicated
 35 year old and younger ocean
 advocates includes concerned surfers,
 businesses professionals, realtors, and
 other young citizens.

Currently, the group is assisting with
 plans for the 25th Anniversary Launch
 Celebration on February 28. At the
 event, they will assist at the Pollution
 Solution Action Stations, educating
 guests about simple ways to take action
 to save the ocean and our planet.

Throughout the year, the Committee
 will host information sessions to learn
 more about the issues impacting the
 ocean. They will use this knowledge to
 organize events to engage the public
 in actions.

"The Next Generation Committee is
 an enthusiastic group with varied
 backgrounds. We have one common
 interest -- to stop ocean pollution," said
**Tyler Thompson, Chair of the Next
 Generation Committee.** "The
 Committee is excited about the
 25th Anniversary and looks forward
 to educating people about the issues
 affecting the health of the ocean and
 inspiring a new wave of activists to join
 the fight!"

To join the Next Generation
 Committee, contact Jennifer Smiga at
 events@cleanoceanaction.org or
 732-872-0111.

*****URGENT ACTION ALERT***** STOP INSANITY ISLAND!



THE FUTURE NY/NJ COAST?

Speak Out & Defend Our Ocean -- NOW!

A 140-acre man-made island (nearly 14 times the size of
 Giants Stadium) is proposed off the Jersey Shore & Long Island.
 The Atlantic Sea Island Group is planning to build a massive industrial
 complex in the ocean for the importation of LNG (liquefied natural gas).
 The private company has *no* experience in LNG operations or
 offshore construction.

The project **THREATENS**: American energy independence,
 our environment, our wallets, and our way of life.

Take Action Against Insanity Island Bring Friends & Family!

Public Meeting – Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Open house 4:30-6pm

Public speaking/meeting 6-8pm

The Sheraton of Eatontown, 6 Industrial Way East,
 Eatontown, NJ 07724

Public Meeting – Thursday, January 29, 2009

Open house 4:30-6pm

Public speaking/meeting 6-8pm

Public Library, 111 West Park Avenue,
 Long Beach, NY 11561

KEEP US FREE FROM LNG!

For more information, including talking points and how to send written
 comments, go to www.CleanOceanAction.org or call 732-872-0111.

Join Clean Ocean Action as we launch our 25th Year of Ocean Advocacy!

Saturday, February 28, 2009, 7-11pm, Langosta Lounge, 1000 Ocean Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ

Tasty vacation inspired cuisine by **Langosta Lounge**, Live music by **De Sol** and **Predator Dub Assassins**
Pollution Solution Action Stations

Casual Dress * Space is limited, tickets required * Tickets are \$25

Payment requested by February 13 * Tickets mailed upon receipt of payment

Reserve and pay with MasterCard or Visa by calling 732-872-0111, or send a check to COA.

CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

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

Stormwater Permits Show Progress, Improvements Still Needed

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) recently issued a Draft Renewal Municipal Stormwater General Permit. The permit is required to allow stormwater discharge through the storm drainage systems of municipalities (Tiers A and B), and highway agency and public complexes.



The draft permit proposed to eliminate a 7-day yard waste timeframe between street placement and pickup, which would allow waste to sit indefinitely. Prolonged leaf litter on streets increases likelihood of clogged storm drains and nutrient pollution to our waterways. COA urged that this time limit not be eliminated, but extended to 14-days to accommodate the needs of citizens and municipalities to gather and collect waste in a reasonable time frame.

Leaking refuse and waste containers were also identified as pollution sources. A new Refuse Container Ordinance in the permit will require inspection and compliance to prevent pollution. In addition, COA recommended that a statewide fertilizer management ordinance be implemented to reduce nitrogen pollution to coastal waters, and insisted that the permits be modified for consistency with federal laws and requirements, such as the Endangered Species Act.

Coalition, Citizens, and Officials Against Offshore Drilling

COA submitted comments on behalf of 21 organizations and 16 concerned citizens to the U.S. Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) to stop the proposed sale of a lease area off nearby Virginia's coast for oil and gas drilling. Leasing this site for exploration and drilling flies in the face of 25 years of good governance policies to protect environmentally sensitive areas, counters efforts to reduce climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions, and puts the regional economic and environmental productivity and potential at risk for a small amount of oil and gas. Using 2030 national consumption rates, MMS estimates that the area off Virginia contains only enough recoverable oil for 1.8 to 2.9 days, and for 3.4 to 6.8 days for natural gas.

Congressional leaders -- including **US Senators Menendez and Lautenberg (both D-NJ), US Representatives Pallone (D-6), Holt (D-12), Sires (D-13), Payne (D-10), and Pascrell (D-8) from NJ, and Rep. Hinchey (NY-D-22), Moran (VA-D-8), and Markey (MA-D-7)** sent a

joint letter to MMS, expressing concern for the "fragile coastal ecosystems and economies of coastal states" and argued, "to put our beaches, fishing, and tourism economy at risk for such minimal resources is short-sighted."

Also, **US Senator Menendez (D-NJ)** secured a commitment to give coastal states a seat at the table as plans for potential drilling along the coasts is considered.

See the video (at 5:10 mark): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EK6wEmErJs>.



The Dangers of Drilling: A fire in 2007 on an oil rig, Gulf of Mexico

CITIZEN ACTION

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

Recycle Your Plastic Caps - A Campaign & Contest Update

The "Flip Your Lids" Caps Campaign has set sail and COA is proud to announce that over 3,000 participants are involved from a variety of civic organizations -- schools, environmental clubs, nonprofits, religious organizations, and scouting groups. Individuals and families have also registered to collect caps to be recycled and reduce marine debris. Spellbinder's Surf Shop of Allenhurst and Torcon, Inc. of Red Bank are the first businesses to join the caps campaign.

Registration is still open for the "Flip Your Lids" Plastic Caps Recycling Campaign Contest. Winners will be announced at the COA Family Beach Party on May 17, 2009. Call COA for tickets to the event (need not be present to win prizes). For updates on awards and contest activity, as well as the campaign, go to www.cleanoceanaction.org.

Volunteer for the Ocean

COA seeks volunteers to advocate for a clean ocean and engage citizens in actions to protect the ocean at upcoming events and festivals. Contact Carl to sign-up for:

February 15: 22nd Annual Ocean Wreck Divers Scuba Supermarket, Intermediate North School, Toms River, NJ, 9am-2pm

March 27-29: Paddlesport, presented by The Jersey Paddler, Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, NJ; Setup + event hours: March 27 - Noon-9pm, March 28 - 9 am-6pm, March 29 - 10am-4:30pm

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Rising Waters & Pollution

Recently, the Jacques Cousteau National Estuary Research Reserve Program held a planning workshop on sea level rise for the mid-Atlantic coast. The heavily populated and developed coastline of New Jersey is vulnerable to sea level rise and presents many challenges for communities. Climatic changes have been also predicted to increase the intensity of rain events in New Jersey, thereby also increasing the risks of flooding and storm-related pollution. New Jersey has lost coastal wetlands over the last century. Reductions in natural coastal buffers, such as wetlands, expose land areas and also decrease the buffer's capability to entrap sediments and contaminants, resulting in greater sediment loadings and pollution to coastal waters.

COASTAL CREATURE FEATURE



Amethyst Gem Clam
Gemma gemma

The December creature feature was the **amethyst gem clam**. This tiny bivalve is found in sediments from intertidal waters to depths of 6 meters (or about 20 feet). They live up to three years and may reproduce in the spring and fall. Water fowl, snails, crustaceans (i.e., amphipods, crabs, shrimp), and some cnidarians (i.e., sea anemones, hydrozoa) all feed on the gem clam. Judge Jewel B. Valve congratulates the contest winner, **Douglas Lopez of Keyport, NJ**, for his correct guess!

February's creature feature is a popular panfish that is commonly found from Cape Hatteras to Cape Cod. The fish can weigh as much as 3.3 pounds and has an average lifespan of 15 years. The fish is a bottom feeder that eats small crustaceans, worms, and molluscs. For a chance to win a COA T-shirt, submit your guess (one entry per person) to Judge Mac Kerel by mail, fax, email (18 Hartshorne Dr., Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732; 732-872-8041; science@CleanOceanAction.org), or at www.CleanOceanAction.org. Winner to be announced in the April newsletter.



February Creature

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

EVENTS

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

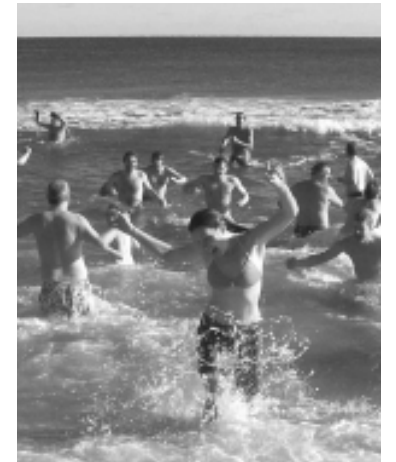
A Frigid Plunge for a Good Cause

More than 125 brave people -- including COA's own Emily Hackett (see photo, center) -- took the plunge into the icy Atlantic Ocean outside Asbury Park's Convention Hall on New Year's Day. The water was cold, the air even colder, but the spirits were warm. The **Sixth Annual Sons of Ireland Polar Bear Plunge** raised money for COA, Campership of Monmouth County, and Special Olympics of NJ.

Before the plunge, participants and spectators gathered in Convention Hall and most participants kept their layers on until the last possible moment. The plungers were led to the water by bagpipe and awaited the singing of the national anthem seconds before the plunge.

"The 44-degree water felt warm compared to the 22-degree air temperature!" said **Emily Hackett, COA's Programs Coordinator**.

It was a fun day for all and another fantastic event. Many thanks to the hardworking crew of the Sons of Ireland for their continued support.



Jersey Shore Tri Gals Tri-umphant for the Ocean

A group of three women started **Jersey Shore Tri Gals (JSTG)** in 2004; now they are 100 women strong. The Tri Gals presented COA with a generous donation to support our efforts for a clean ocean.

"We certainly appreciate the work you do to keep our waters clean. We swim in the ocean twice a week during the summer, so we know how hard you work," said **Pam Mancuso, member of JSTG**.

The mission of Jersey Shore Tri Gals is to provide an emotionally and physically safe environment for women of all ages to train and compete in swimming, biking, and running events. Visit www.jerseyshoretrigals.com for more information. COA thanks all the Tri Gals!



Tri Gal Board Members & COA Staff

Students Give Pennies for Their Ocean-Friendly Thoughts

The students of **Eisenhower Middle School in Freehold, NJ**, raised over \$2,600 in just two weeks during a Words of Wisdom Team "penny war" fundraiser. The penny war is an annual event organized by team advisor and science teacher Scott Reily. Students in the group voted to send the funds raised to COA. Students will expand their effort by participating in our Beach Sweeps this April. Waves of thanks to these remarkable students!



Students & teachers of Eisenhower Middle School present their efforts to COA