



Clean Ocean Advocate

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December 2009 Highlights

- 2009 Election Follow-up and Going Forward
- Beach Sweep Highlights and Holiday Gift Ideas
- COA makes waves at the NJEA Convention


Thank you for Voting Yes!

On Tuesday, November 3, 2009, New Jersey voted "Yes" on Public Question #1, the Green Acres Clean Water Ballot Issue. The majority of voters, 52.5%, voted for funding of the Green Acres Program, the Farmland Preservation Program, and the NJ Historic Trust. We will now continue for the next two years, giving New Jersey time to identify a long-term funding source for these programs.

Thanks again for voting yes!

Clean Ocean Action
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Highlands, NJ 07732
732-872-0111
www.CleanOceanAction.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED




Happy & "GREEN" Holidays from CLEAN OCEAN ACTION!



- ~ In lieu of physical gifts, ask for donations to your favorite organization/cause...
~ **Emily Hackett, Programs Coordinator**
- ~ Wrap holiday gifts in old newspaper (especially comics) and junk mail...
~ **Meg Gardner, Citizen Action Coordinator**
- ~ Cut down on single use disposable packaging by giving tickets to museums, concerts, and theaters instead of physical gifts...
~ **Tavia Danch, Pollution Prevention Coordinator**
- ~ Recycle gift cards: use pinky shears to cut decorative tags from cards already received to make your own gift cards. Use cloth shopping bags instead of boxes & wrapping paper.
~ **Mary Beth Thompson, Operations Director**
- ~ Freeze those garden herbs by placing them in ice cubes and taking them out to defrost and use throughout the winter.
~ **Jen Smiga, Events and Development Director**
- ~ Make something special such as cookies and cakes and give as gifts...
~ **Heather Saffert, Ph.D., Staff Scientist**
- ~ Instead of material gifts for kids, adopt a pet from an animal shelter, they could use the holiday cheer too.
~ **David Byer, Esq., Water Policy Attorney**
- ~ Have a green party!
~ **Cindy Zipf, Executive Director**

CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

Dave Byer, Esq., Policy@CleanOceanAction.org

NJ Gubernatorial Election

On November 3, Republican candidate Chris Christie defeated Governor Jon Corzine to be New Jersey's next governor. Throughout his campaign, Christie made strong environmental promises to COA and many of our colleagues. One such promise was his opposition to the proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals to import foreign natural gas. Christie will have absolute veto power over all three proposals off Monmouth County. He also promised to tackle two of the greatest threats to Barnegat Bay - the Oyster Creek nuclear plant's water cooling system and nitrogen pollution, which includes run-off from residential fertilizer use. His environmental plan, which explicitly cites COA information, includes his strategy for reducing beach closings due to polluted water and improving communications to the public on such health threats.

Nearly one out of every three votes Christie received came from Ocean and Monmouth Counties. The coastal voting constituency clearly plays a large role in elections with higher than average voter turnout. For the same reason, ocean protection and environmental advocacy has always spanned party lines in New Jersey, being a common goal for many of our leaders.

As Christie's website notes, "protecting our oceans" is one of "the three key themes of Chris' Environmental Policy" and COA applauds this focus on not just an environmental treasure, but on the economic engine that is the Jersey Shore. COA is glad Christie took such bold stances on these and other important issues and we will work with his administration to advance these goals and hold him accountable where appropriate, as COA does with all elected officials.

Our COAlition

Featuring...

Save Barnegat Bay

Save Barnegat Bay (SBB) is a non-profit environmental organization working to conserve undeveloped natural land and clean water throughout the Barnegat Bay watershed. SBB was originally founded as a local chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, a national environmental organization, in 1971.

Overdevelopment continues to threaten water quality in Barnegat Bay by creating polluted run-off, which decreases the amount of wetlands and their ability to purify and absorb high waters at times of flooding, destroys habitat for plant and animal species, and diminishes natural beauty.

SBB works hard to protect natural land from overdevelopment by thoroughly analyzing development proposals on both the local and state level. If necessary SBB will intervene to ensure the adequate protection of these natural resources and has fought court battles with developers, planning and zoning boards, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. In addition, SBB utilizes Green Acres funding to purchase environmentally sensitive land in order to permanently protect it and ensure the public's access of open space.

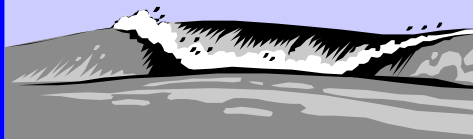
Clean Ocean Action and Save Barnegat Bay have an impressive history of successful collaboration. "Both COA and SBB recognize our shared stake resulting from the fact that runoff and groundwater entering Barnegat Bay ultimately create both our bay and ocean water quality," states SBB's Chairman **William DeCamp**. An example of this extraordinary partnership is the Barnegat Bay Buddy program, a stewardship program designed to raise awareness about the pollution problems in Barnegat Bay. "Our joint efforts to educate the public through Bay Buddy and other vehicles about the problem of excess nitrogen and other forms of pollution have enjoyed more rapid and more extensive success than any educational effort I have seen in two decades," added DeCamp. For more information on Save Barnegat Bay, please visit SaveBarnegatBay.org.

SAVE THE DATE



January 1st: Sons of Ireland Polar Bear Plunge

Plunge (or sponsor a "Plunger") into the icy Atlantic on **January 1, 2010**. Proceeds of the 8th Annual Sons of Ireland Polar Bear Plunge will benefit COA, Special Olympics of NJ, and Campership of Monmouth County. Festivities abound during the all-ages event. Frigid fun to be held at a new location: Asbury Park Convention Hall; 10am-12pm Check-in and 1pm Plunge. Register at www.sonsofireland.org.




Please clip and send to COA.

STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION! ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP FORM

If you are already a member, and would like to continue receiving the Clean Ocean Advocate electronically please detach this form and enclose with your email.

Please print clearly. Thank you.

 **Name** _____

Email _____

Please include organization name & contact, if applicable: _____

Please take a minute to answer the following questions:

- ➔ _____ I agree with and support Clean Ocean Action's decision of an electronic newsletter. If not, here is why _____
 - ➔ _____ On a scale of 1-10 (one being minimum and 10 being maximum) please rate the effectiveness of the Clean Ocean Advocate on keeping you up to date with the latest ocean issues and events.
- Additional Comments:** _____

Mail to: **Clean Ocean Action, 18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732**

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

EVENTS

Jen Smiga, Events@CleanOceanAction.org
Emily Hackett, Programs@CleanOceanAction.org

Support COA with DUCKY LIFE "GIVE BACK" TEA

Ducky Life Tea of Eatontown sells organic, specialty, loose leaf teas, tea accessories, and whimsically packaged gifts. Ducky Life Tea is a socially-conscious company that supports good works and charitable organizations in a variety of ways. It contributes to many worthy causes through the sale of specially identified "give back" teas.

Ducky Life Tea added COA to its list of "give back" causes with Rosie's Rose Melange. "Our business is truly one which has both local and international impact. We have chosen to support the ocean protection efforts



of Clean Ocean Action in this way because if the oceans aren't kept clean there will be no tea," Jane Graver, owner of Duck Life Tea explains.

Effective immediately, 10% of the proceeds from every purchase of this Rosie's Rose Melange "give back" tea will be donated to Clean Ocean Action. To learn more about this growing company and order your first tin or bag of Rosie's Rose Melange, please visit www.duckylife.com.

COA's Holiday Wish List

Help support COA's fall programming and beyond and consider donating one of the tools to help us navigate the waters of ocean advocacy.

- E-Z-Up 10x10 Canopy Tent- Donated
Waves of Thanks to Alyssa Scheffer of Rumson!
- Portable Tripod Projector Screen
- Electronic Credit Card Swiper
- Flip Video Digital Camcorder
- 40 Megapixels Digital Camera- Donated
Waves of Thanks to Bonnie Ross!
- 10 X 10 Heavy Duty Rain Tent
- Fire Wire 800 Hard Drive 250 GB
- Matching Conference Room Chairs (small)

Contact **Emily Hackett** to discuss donation specifics. We are requesting new or like new items. All donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be provided for your generous donation.

CITIZEN ACTION

Meg Gardner, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Seal the Deal!

From December 7 through December 18, 2009, governments from all over the world will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark to produce a comprehensive climate agreement. The main question will be how to protect the planet and create a green economy that will lead to long-term prosperity. In response to this meeting, the UN-led "Seal the Deal" campaign has created a petition to remind our leaders to negotiate a fair, balanced, and effective agreement. This online, global petition will be presented by civil society to the governments of the world. Please take a minute to go online to sign this petition and forward it on to your friends, relatives, and co-workers. The petition can be found at sealthedeal2009.org.



POLLUTION PREVENTION

Tavia Danch, (732) 872-0111; Education@CleanOceanAction.org

Incorporating Ocean Issues into the Classroom

On November 5, COA presented a workshop at the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) Convention in Atlantic City, NJ. During the workshop, teachers learned how to integrate current ocean threats into their classroom through activities and lessons. Teachers were enthusiastic and engaged as they learned about the importance of the coastal environment, how to make model watersheds and other fun hands-on activities, and various ways to promote ocean stewardship. All activities and lessons reference New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards and can be found in COA's "You are the Solution to Pointless Pollution" K-12 education kit which is free and can be ordered or can be downloaded from our website (www.CleanOceanAction.org). Please contact Tavia Danch if your school is interested in hosting a similar workshop to train motivated teachers on integrating ocean pollution issues into various classroom curriculums.



COA's Education Squad...All Aboard...



Presentations can be held within a traditional classroom or incorporated into a field trip to the beach.

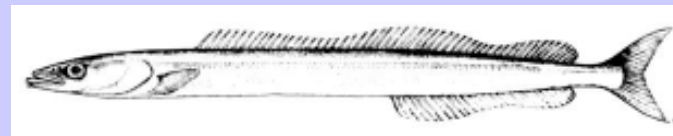
Do you feel passionate about the ocean? Do you feel the need to educate others about the importance of ocean stewardship? Then sign up for Clean Ocean Action's "Ocean Pollution Education Squad"! This initiative is being developed to increase and expand COA's environmental education presentations. COA is calling on experienced educators to assist with conducting presentations about ocean and pollution issues to their area schools and community groups on an "as-needed" basis. All presentations are organized and scheduled by Tavia Danch, COA's Pollution Prevention Coordinator. To become part of the Education Squad, educators must fill out an application, attend an initial session to learn COA's power-point presentation, and attend periodic update sessions to learn about current issues. Education Squad teachers receive a stipend to compensate their time.

Coastal Creature Feature

October's creature, the largest bivalve of the Atlantic, was the surf clam, *Spisula solidissima*. A decline in surf clams has occurred in state waters and throughout the New York Bight over the last 30 years and may be a result of multiple factors. A Rutgers professor has suggested that the decrease in population is due to warmer water temperatures caused by global warming. Surf clams may live up to 25 years. Judge Herb C. Scallop thanks all who submitted guesses and congratulates the contest winner **Mike Horan of Woodbine, NJ!**



Surf Clam
(*Spisula solidissima*)



December Coastal Creature

December's creature feature is a narrow fish that is typically 4 to 6 inches in length. The fish is found in shallow waters with sandy or light gravel seafloor. The fish congregates into dense schools and many can disappear quickly. To escape predators, the fish burrows into the sand. The fish is an important prey species for many fisheries and marine mammals here off the Jersey shore. For a chance to win a COA T-shirt, submit your guess to Judge Bay Striper by mail, fax, email (18 Hartshorne Dr., Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732; 732-872-8041; science@CleanOceanAction.org) or by visiting CleanOceanAction.org. Only one entry per person please.

WASTING OUR WATERS AWAY

Heather Saffert, PhD, Science@CleanOceanAction.org

Barnegat Bay Continues to Pay the Price

Up to 1.7 billion gallons (2.8 % of the volume of the Barnegat Bay) is strained through the Oyster Creek Power Plant, owned by Exelon, each day. Marine life, such as sea turtles and fish, die when they become entrapped by the intake system. Small critters that form the base of the bay's food web are also killed as they are transported through the cooling system and exposed to high heat and toxic chlorine. The plant's destruction of life also exacerbates the bay's nutrient problems and its thermal discharge also has negative affects, both of which might be contributing to the increase in stinging jellyfish in the bay. The Environmental Protection Agency and National Marine Fisheries Services have recognized the adverse impacts to the environment and have called for the plant to install a closed cooling system. The price of cooling



Sunset at Barnegat Bay

systems, which Exelon can afford (Exelon's 2008 profits were \$2-3 billion) and will not be passed on to energy users, is small compared to the high price the Barnegat Bay ecosystem has already paid and continues to pay everyday.

Monmouth Park Race Track Continues to Pollute

In spite of improvements made last spring, high fecal bacteria levels continue to be found in Branchport Creek near the Monmouth Racetrack and are posted on the Monmouth County Health Department's website. Storm drains are currently supposed to divert storm water to Two Rivers Wastewater Treatment facility; however, storm drains were observed to be flowing directly into the creek. Issues with manure management were also seen. In addition, fines from previous violations at the track are still outstanding and remain unsettled.

In September, Oceanport and NJ Sports Exposition Authority (NJSEA) have approved the initiation of a multi-million dollar construction project. While we wait for construction to begin to fix the pollution problems, COA again calls on NJSEA to enforce Best Management Practices and fund the necessary water quality monitoring of affected waterways.



Cleanup of Contamination at Fort Monmouth

The Fort Monmouth military base is due to close on September 15, 2011, however several environmental concerns still need to be addressed. The 1,126 acre property, which is surrounded by Eatontown, Oceanport, and Tinton Falls, is planned to be divided and sold to private interests, the towns, and other government agencies.

COA has evaluated environmental assessment efforts and attended closure-related meetings. Although the Army has slowly investigated the land area and cleaned-up some problems, more transparency, assessment, and cleanup efforts are necessary prior to base closure. The contaminant levels at Fort Monmouth are not high enough to make it a Superfund Site. Yet, several toxic chemicals and radiation levels do exceed state standards in some areas and are high enough to restrict the future use and access of specific land areas. There are old landfills located near streams into which hazardous materials were dumped years ago that have not been adequately capped. The Fort's impacts on downstream waters and sediments still need to be fully assessed. COA is seeking better information and cleanup efforts. More information can be found on COA's website on the Coastal Water Quality Issues page.