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**February 2008 Highlights**  
- State Approval Puts Nuke Plant Closer to Re-licensing  
- Offshore Fossil Fuel Scams  
- Plunging into 2008 for the Ocean

## STATE APPROVAL PUTS NUKE PLANT CLOSER TO RE-LICENSING

Groups Condemn "Deal with Devil"



On December 28, 2007, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) approved the operations at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) as consistent with NJ's Coastal Zone Management Program. This approval puts the plant's proposed re-licensing for 20 years a major step closer. The OCNGS is the oldest operating nuclear power plant in the nation. "NJ Governor Corzine gave Barnegat Bay the spent fuel rod shaft by granting OCNGS a green light for 20 more years of marine life annihilation, including one of the most endangered turtles," said **Cindy Ziff, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action (COA)**. "The state concedes that harm to marine life has and continues to occur from the plant, but makes a deal with the devil to allow Oyster Creek to continue this devastation with pathetic, unproven, and absurd 'mitigation' measures. In only one-way is the operation of OCNGS consistent – it consistently kills vast quantities of marine life." This approval followed another fish kill due to operations on December 20, which killed over 5,000 fish. The NJDEP is expected to decide on the water discharge permit for OCNGS in the next few months, which will reveal if the state will require closed-cycle cooling towers to be installed.

## THE SAGA CONTINUES WITH OFFSHORE FOSSIL FUEL SCAMS

**Facts about Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG):**

- LNG is a fossil fuel, pollutes, and produces 20-40% more greenhouse gas emissions than domestic gas
- LNG is not domestic and increases our dependence on foreign fossil fuels
- LNG facilities are harmful to marine life and exclude public access
- LNG is expensive and an unsafe and risky business
- LNG facilities near our port will threaten the flow of commerce

**Highlights and updates on the Mega-Island:**

- ◆ Howard Bovers, Chairman of Atlantic Sea Island Group (ASIG), continues to fight NJ's right to vote on the mega-island off NJ's coast. Governor Corzine objected to these efforts in a letter to the federal Maritime Administration, and NJDEP wrote a letter affirming the risks to NJ's coast and economy.
- ◆ NJDEP is also appealing the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) decision in October to deny NJ's right to review the coastal consistency of the island. NOAA's decision was based on a technicality that NJ did not get paperwork in on-time to some parties.
- ◆ The NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) wrote to the US Coast Guard, saying ASIG's application was "incomplete" and "the project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental, social and recreational effects."

**More information on ExxonMobil's "Floater":**

- ▶ The application for a floating terminal 20 miles off NJ has not yet been filed.
- ▶ The technology ExxonMobil is proposing is unproven and has been rejected in other parts of the country. Indeed, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) vetoed a similar project as it "would result in significant and unmitigated impacts to California's air quality and marine life."
- ▶ The same technology is proposed in Long Island Sound and is vehemently opposed by over 80,000 citizens and many elected officials.

**TAKE ACTION! To see how, see "Actions to Oppose LNG Projects," pg. 2**

## Our COalition

Featuring...  
**The Raritan Riverkeeper**

Every waterway needs a guardian. Bill Schultz is the **Raritan Riverkeeper** and citizen guardian of the Raritan River. The Raritan Riverkeeper's mission is to protect, preserve, and restore the ecological integrity and productivity of the river, its tributaries, and watershed. As the citizen conservation advocate for the river and its shores, Bill stops polluters, champions public access, and influences land use decisions. The Riverkeeper advocates for the river's environmental importance, and its value as a recreational and cultural resource. The Raritan River was once the poster child for polluted rivers, and industry and municipalities treated it as an open sewer. Today, thanks to the Clean Water Act and citizen groups like the Raritan Riverkeeper, the river is cleaner. Ultimately, the goal is to move toward all bodies of water being both swimmable and fishable. Of course, there is much work to be done. The Raritan is still the 14<sup>th</sup> most polluted waterway in the nation, with 20 federal Superfund sites and 200 toxic sites along its banks and its tributaries. "I speak for the fish and sue the polluters," said **Bill Schultz**, summarizing his position as the Raritan Riverkeeper. The Raritan Riverkeeper has partnered with Clean Ocean Action (COA) on a number of issues, ranging from finding and fighting sources of pollution causing fish advisories and taking action against litter in our waterways by organizing cleanups as part of COA's Beach Sweeps program. The Raritan Riverkeeper is a program of NY/NJ Baykeeper and affiliated with the Waterkeeper Alliance. For ways to help the Raritan River, call 732-442-6313, or email raritan.riverkeeper@verizon.net.



Adapted from NY/Baykeeper, Waterkeeper Alliance, & The Daily Targum

**\*\*\*Eco-Tip of the Month\*\*\***  
**A Laundry Load on the Environment:** Each of the estimated 35 billion loads of laundry washed annually by American households contributes a large amount of irritants and pollutants to our environment. Use green alternatives for detergents and softeners. Energy Star rated machines, and dry clothes on clothes lines. Lighten the load by wearing clothes more than once and only wash items that are *really* dirty.  
*Source: Our Environment, Vol. 13, No. 5, by Ingrid Justick*

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www.CleanOceanAction.org  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## FEBRUARY

**February 23, Saturday**  
- **Beach-nesting Birds Volunteer Workshop**, Taylor Pavilion, Belmar, 1pm. Registration required. See *inside* for details.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**March 28, Friday**  
- **PaddleSport 2008 Reel Paddling Film Fest**, Garden State Exhibit & Convention Center, Somerset, 7-9pm. \$5 donation per screening benefits COA. To volunteer for COA on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of Paddlesport, see *inside*.

**April 5, Saturday**  
- **14<sup>th</sup> Annual COA Flounder Tournament**, Bahrs Landing, Highlands, 9am Blessing of Waters & Breakfast, 3-5pm Weigh-in, 5pm Awards. Free to all ages! Prizes, chowder, & flat-out fishing fun! Register on COA's website.

**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).

✂ 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.

### Actions to Oppose LNG Projects

COA is coordinating a campaign to oppose two LNG projects. For detailed factsheets, opposition statements, and action items, go to [www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org).

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

**Join the Campaign:** To show broad opposition to these harmful projects, organizations can sign opposition statements.

**Contact the NY/NJ Governors:** Write to NJ Governor Corzine or NY Governor Spitzer to express your concerns with the projects, and urge them to oppose these industrial projects in the ocean.

Stay tuned for more citizen action opportunities! To get alerts, join COA's E-action alert system, The Wave; to sign-up, go to our website. For more information about the campaign, contact Kari or Dave at COA.

### CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

Jennifer Samson, Ph.D., 732-872-0111, [Science@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Science@cleanoceanaction.org)  
Project comments submitted by COA are posted on our website

#### Questioning Mud from NY/NJ Harbor Deepening

Clean Ocean Action recently submitted comments on two different Deepening Projects in the New York/New Jersey Harbor that propose to place dredged material in the ocean at the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS). One project will take 262,000 cubic yards (CY) of Pleistocene Red Clay from six different berths at Port Newark, while another will remove sand from the Anchorage Channel near Brooklyn.



The Anchorage Channel project also includes an option to use some of the sand material to restore eroded wetlands in Jamaica Bay. The restoration project would place approximately 190,000 of the 600,000 CY of HARS-suitable material at Elders Point West Marsh Island. COA urged the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to ensure all interested Jamaica Bay environmental and community groups were included in the planning and development of any wetland restoration proposed in the Bay.

In addition to these two projects, COA is also reviewing a recent Public Notice that proposes the placement of 260,000 CY of dredged material at HARS from Wards Point Bend/Sequine Point as part of an ACOE maintenance dredging project. COA is concerned about the quality of the dredged material for use in HARS remediation, as the last time this area was dredged (in 2004) the material did not meet HARS disposal criteria. To learn more about this project, contact Jenni. **Comments are due to the ACOE by February 11, 2008.**

### FLOTSAM & JETSAM

#### Become an Endangered Beach Nesting Bird Volunteer

Shark River Cleanup Coalition and Wreck Pond Watershed Association, in cooperation with the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, seek volunteers to monitor endangered beach nesting birds, including Piping Plovers and Least Terns, in southern Monmouth County. A workshop to train volunteers will be held on February 23 for the 2008 season, for beaches in Belmar, Spring Lake, and Sea Girt. Volunteers monitor endangered beach nesting bird sites starting when the birds arrive in the spring and continuing through the summer months when the chicks fledge.

The workshop is hosted by the Belmar Environmental Commission and will be held at Taylor Pavilion in Belmar on Saturday, February 23, at 1pm. No birding experience is required. Space is limited. To register, call 732-449-8764 or email [wreckpond@hotmail.com](mailto:wreckpond@hotmail.com).



Photo by Chris Davidson

### POLLUTION PREVENTION

Anna Will, 732-872-0111, [Education@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Education@cleanoceanaction.org)  
Helen Edwards, 732-272-2197, [SJPrograms@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:SJPrograms@cleanoceanaction.org)

#### Ahoy, Volunteers!

Looking to get on-board with COA's seaworthy efforts? Volunteers are essential to our work, which is educating citizens and decision makers about the ways to protect and restore our ocean. Find an event where you can volunteer for 2-4 hours and share your love for big blue:

**February 17, 8:30am-2pm:**

21<sup>st</sup> Annual Ocean Wreck Divers Scuba Flea Market, Toms River Intermediate School North, Toms River.

**February 24, 10am-4pm:**

Kids Can Expo, Convention Hall, Cape May.

**March 28, 12pm-9pm, March 29,**

**9am-6pm, March 30, 10am-4:30pm:**  
Paddlesport 2008, Garden State Exhibit and Convention Center, Somerset.

To volunteer for COA at these fun events, contact Anna, Helen, or Emily.

#### Attention Middle School Teachers!

COA invites NJ Middle Schools (grades 5-8) in Northern and Central Counties (Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Middlesex, Somerset, Union, Essex, Hudson, Bergen, Passaic, and Morris) to participate in the **20<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Student Summit** at Sandy Hook on May 8 or 9. For information and the required application, visit COA's website or contact Anna. Terms of participation apply and schools are limited to bringing 30 students maximum.



**What was the #1 item collected by volunteers at the 2006 Beach Sweeps? Find out in the Annual Beach Sweeps report on COA's website. Stay tuned for the dirty details from the 2007 cleanups.**

### COASTAL CREATURE FEATURE



Harbor Seal, *Phoca vitulina*

The December Creature was the **Harbor Seal**. This seal is normally in New Jersey waters from December through March. Keep an eye out! The seals have been spotted this winter in local waters. They are often found basking on near-shore ledges in bays, harbors, and estuaries. Harbor Seals have a distinctive dog-like profile and can vary in color from light gray or tan, to brown and red with dark or light spots. Adult seals grow to between 5 and 6 feet. They are generally curious, and sometimes come close to boats and humans. Congratulations to **Abigail Hazlett of Newark, NJ**, for being selected from a pool of correct entries.

**February Creature:** This ornithoid lives and breeds in the far north, but spends winters in southern locations, including along the New Jersey coast. This feathered friend might be mistaken for a large gull, but its pointed tail, yellowish head, and dark gray or black outer wings distinguish it. To capture food, this bird makes plunging dives into the water for fish. 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; or [education@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:education@CleanOceanAction.org)).



February Creature

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

### EVENTS

Jennifer Smiga, 732-872-0111, [Events@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Events@cleanoceanaction.org)  
Emily Hackett, 732-872-0111, [Programs@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Programs@cleanoceanaction.org)

#### Plunging into 2008 for the Ocean

Thanks to COA's seaworthy friends, **The Sons of Ireland of Monmouth County**, New Year's Day 2008 was not only a celebration of a new year, but also a glorious day for the ocean. For the past five years, a dedicated crew has hosted the annual Sons of Ireland Polar Bear Plunge, where over 200 families gather at Donovan's Reef in Sea Bright for festivities and plunge into the icy Atlantic Ocean for local groups. In 2008, money raised from the event will be split between COA and Holiday Express. COA is honored to be part of this exciting annual event.

"It just fits well. The plunge is in the ocean, and COA makes sure it is clean," said **Dennis Nitka**, a founding member of the Sons of Ireland.

Founded in 2002, The Sons of Ireland is a non-profit association dedicated to the principles of brotherhood, charity and community service. For information and pictures from the successful event, visit [www.sonsofireland.org](http://www.sonsofireland.org).



Polar Bear Plungers take to the icy, big waves on New Year's Day



(L-R) Jennifer Smiga of COA, Michelle Farley, Carolyn Geiger, Wheelie Lutkewitte, Trish Brennan, Mairead Clifford, and Leslie Curran welcomed the day's Polar Bear Plungers



(Right) (L-R) Shay Walczak, Frank Walczak, John Kelleher, Cindy Ziff of COA, and Dennis Nitka

#### COA Navigates Four-Star Waters

Recently, COA received news from **Charity Navigator**, America's premier independent charity evaluator.

**Trent Stamp, President of Charity Navigator**, said, "We are proud to announce Clean Ocean Action has earned our second consecutive 4-star rating for its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances. Only 15% of the charities we've rated have received at least two consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Clean Ocean Action outperforms most charities in America in its efforts to operate in the most fiscally responsible way possible. This 'exceptional' designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Clean Ocean Action from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust."

Based in Mahwah, NJ, Charity Navigator works to advance a more efficient and responsive philanthropic marketplace by evaluating the financial health of America's largest charities. For more information visit [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org).

