



**January 2005 Highlights**  
 - 2004 Ocean Highs & Lows  
 - Moratorium on Offshore Windmills  
 - Take a Polar Plunge for the Ocean

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Clean Ocean Action  
 PO Box 505  
 Sandy Hook, NJ 07732-0505  
 732-872-0111  
 www.CleanOceanAction.org  
 Institute of Coastal Education  
 Wildwood, NJ 609-729-9262



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 \_\_\_\_\_

Please include organization name & contact, if applicable:

Please make check payable to  
 Clean Ocean Action, PO Box 505, Highlands, NJ 07732

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

## January 2005

January 1, Saturday  
 - Polar Bear Plunge to Benefit COA,  
 Donovan's Reef, Sea Bright, 1PM.  
 See inside for details.



January 6-8, Thursday - Saturday  
 - Alliance for NJ Environmental  
 Education Annual Conference, Rider  
 University. For information or to  
 register, visit www.anjee.net.

### 2005 COA Events

[REDACTED LIST OF EVENTS]

### COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS Featuring...Ocean Wreck Divers of NJ

Divers are the eyes of the underwater world and an early warning system because they can see what most people cannot.

The Ocean Wreck Divers of New Jersey, formed in 1978, is a leader in the dive community and in ocean awareness.

Ocean Wreck Divers, based in Toms River, NJ, is a strong voice for diving, national marine conservation, and local artificial reef issues. The group is an advocate for the ocean, working with COA and defending the ocean against pollution at public hearings.

According to Jim Flanagan, President of the group, "A clean ocean is very important. We delight in local diving with its spectacular wrecks and sea life."

The club organizes an active dive season each year, locally and out of state. The club also informs divers. Their website (www.oceanwreckdivers.com) lists dive and lobster regulations and rules, as well as helpful links for divers and ocean advocates.

Perhaps the events for which Ocean Wreck Divers are most well known are the popular annual Scuba Flea Market, where divers can get great deals on gear, and the annual Fishing Flea Market, where fishing enthusiasts can bargain for equipment. The dates for the 2005 flea markets, located in Toms River, are: Scuba (February 20), and Fishing (March 13).

Learn more about Ocean Wreck Divers at their meetings at Ocean County College in Toms River, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month. For more information, visit their website or call 609-242-0212.

### In Memoriam

Frank W. Dent, a true friend of the ocean, avid scuba diver, and active member of Ocean Wreck Divers, passed away November 15. As a lifetime resident of Monmouth County, Frank recognized that the ocean is a gift to be enjoyed and protected. Frank was a great advocate for a clean ocean and for the dive community. Among his many accomplishments was working tirelessly to organize the Ocean Wreck Divers' annual flea markets, which brought thousands of ocean advocates, divers, and fishermen together to share the joys of the ocean and to buy equipment to get closer looks at the wondrous underwater world. Frank will be missed, but we know the stories of his ocean experiences live in our hearts and minds.

### MORATORIUM ON OFFSHORE WINDMILLS

#### Consideration of Environmental & Economic Issues Needed

In mid-December, New Jersey Acting Governor Richard Codey announced he would sign an Executive Order (EO) establishing a moratorium on windmills off the coast to provide time and discussion for appropriate policies that are needed prior to the consideration of offshore wind energy. Shortly after Codey's announcement, NJ Senator Joe Kyrillos (R-13) introduced a bill in the NJ Senate to establish a seven-year moratorium on offshore wind projects.

In the past few years, numerous pre-proposals for wind turbines are in various stages of development along the Atlantic coast. At least nine preliminary proposals for marine-based industrial wind facilities in the NY/NJ Bight exist, with a number of different companies sponsoring the proposals. These proposals include more than 921 wind turbines occupying more than 413 square miles of ocean. Over 90% percent of the preliminary projects would be proposed for federal waters (beyond three miles from shore). Dimensions for these proposed wind facilities may include 417-foot turbines, 328-foot diameter turbine blades, and a 100'x100'x150' service platform to accommodate crew quarters and a helicopter landing pad.

Offshore wind power in other parts of the world has demonstrated its potential—an emissions and pollution-free source of energy. However, these experiences have also demonstrated environmental and economic issues that accompany the use of wind power, including impacts to avian populations, marine impacts, and use of public trust lands. In NJ and the US, there is a lack of comprehensive federal and state policies on offshore wind energy. No regulations address the complex issues arising from this new technology.

Clean Ocean Action (COA) supports Acting Governor Codey's initiative as a responsible and reasonable good governance approach to this proposed ocean based activity. The American Littoral Society (ALS) has taken the regional lead on this issue. To review the position paper which was prepared by ALS and supported by COA, Marine Trades Association of New Jersey, Surfrider Foundation – New Jersey Chapter, and Fishermen's Dock Cooperative, go to [www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org) and follow links for "Issues & Campaigns."

### DELAWARE RIVER BLACKENED BY OIL

Within 10 months, a second oil spill fouled another part of New Jersey's coastline (see March 2004 *Ocean Advocate*). The most recent spill occurred when the *Athos I* dumped as much as 473,500 gallons of heavy Venezuelan crude oil (group 4 oil) in the Delaware River near Paulsboro, NJ, on November 26. Two gashes were found in its hull—6x1.5 feet and 1.5x2.5 feet. The *Athos I*, a Greek tanker, is a 750-foot single-hulled tanker, which is to be phased out by 2010.

Crude oil is the hardest oil to contain in a spill because it is so heavy. Much of the oil is now on the bottom of the River, making cleanup challenging. Tar balls are expected on south Jersey beaches in the coming weeks.

As the oil moves with wind, weather, and tides, it continues to significantly impact water quality, drinking water sources, and wildlife. Oil sheens and oiled birds have been found in NJ, Pennsylvania, and Delaware tributaries. Early estimates show hundreds of birds, including some Bald Eagles, have been injured or killed. Over time, contaminants from the oil will be absorbed by wildlife in and around the River and tributaries and will be passed up the food chain, affecting the quality of the Delaware ecosystem for years to come.



Take a Polar Plunge for the Ocean...  
 see inside for the chilly details.

## COASTAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Nicole Simmons, 732-872-0111, Policy@cleanoceanaction.org

### Raw Sewage: Dilution is Not Solution



The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is expected to release its "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Requirements for Municipal Wastewater Treatment Discharges During Wet Weather Conditions," a policy that would let wastewater treatment plants re-route sewage around secondary treatment units during wet weather. The untreated, but filtered, sewage would then be "blended" with fully treated wastewater before being discharged directly into a waterbody.

The USEPA Administrator is expected to imminently approve this final guidance policy. Citizens, organizations, and elected officials are encouraged to immediately write letters to the Administrator urging the withdrawal of the guidance and to hold fast to and enforce existing rules that address the root causes of wastewater treatment problems. Write to: USEPA Administrator, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

### NJ Bills to Stop Fast Track Introduced

Bi-partisan bills in both the NJ Senate and Assembly were introduced in mid-December to repeal the Fast Track law. S2157 and A3650 are needed to stop Fast Track, which weakens public health and environmental standards, eliminates public participation, and permits polluters to write their own permits. Attending a December 13 press conference in Trenton to announce and support the bills were Senate Minority Leader Leonard Lance (R-23) and Senators Shirley Turner (D-15), Robert Martin (R-26), and Ellen Karcher (D-12), and Assemblymen Reed Gusciora (D-15), John Rooney (R-39), Louis Manzo (D-31), Sean Kean (R-11), Robert Morgan (D-12), Bill Baroni (R-12), and Linda Greenstein (D-12). COA commends the coastal delegation who remain strong in opposition of Fast Track.



Earlier in the month, Governor James McGreevey issued an executive order putting a temporary moratorium on Fast Track's implementation to provide an opportunity for the law to be properly debated. Since then, Acting Governor Richard Codey publicly committed to "making major changes" on Fast Track.

For updates or more information, visit [www.savenj.net](http://www.savenj.net).

### Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant Re-licensing Review



The NJ Assembly Environmental and Solid Waste Committee convened two public meetings, one on December 2 in Brick Township and the second on December 9 in Tinton Falls, to accept testimony on the proposed re-licensing of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Plant in Lacey Township.

Oyster Creek is the oldest nuclear power plant in the nation, coming on-line in 1969, and will operate under its original 40-year license until 2009. The decision to re-license the plant rests with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The reasons against re-licensing Oyster Creek beyond 2009 are numerous, including inappropriate location, aging and degrading infrastructure, problematic storage capabilities, and environmental concerns.

However, COA is focused on the imminent proposal to renew the plant's NJ Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for its once-through cooling system. At the Brick meeting, COA presented testimony expressing concerns with the significant ecological impacts of this system on the marine environment. These impacts include impingement (organisms are too large to pass through the screens and are trapped), entrainment (organisms are small enough to pass through the screens and enter the cooling system where they are subjected to numerous and potentially fatal insults), thermal discharge, and chlorination.

(continued on next column)

## CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

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

### Atlantic Highlands Marina to Dredge

COA submitted comments to NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) on the dredging of Atlantic Highlands Municipal Harbor. The borough proposes dredging ~42,000 cubic yards (CY) from the east end of the harbor, plus an additional undisclosed volume from the west end, with all dredged material placed in a Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) just east of the harbor. Dredging has begun on the west end and the remaining work is awaiting final permit approval. The borough is running against a January 1 deadline that prohibits dredging through May 31 to protect eggs and larvae of winter flounder.

COA is not against maintenance dredging, as it is necessary for safe navigation, but there are several concerns with this project. Sediment sampling data indicated Acute, Chronic and Human Health Surface Water Quality Criteria were exceeded for several contaminants, including mercury, lead and copper. NJDEP should therefore require all effluent be tested prior to discharge from the CDF to ensure water quality is not degraded. We also expressed concern with the capacity of the CDF. The project volume is 42,000+ CY and the capacity of the CDF is only ~45,000 CY. Also, the northern retaining wall is only 18 feet from the Mean High Water Line in some locations, raising concerns over its stability during a major storm event. Visit COA's website under "Issues & Campaigns" to view comments.

### Port Jersey Dredging Project Continues

COA submitted comments to the US Army's Corp of Engineers (USACE) regarding the dredging of Contract Area 2A of the Port Jersey Channel to deepen and widen the existing non-federal 38' channel to a depth of 41' below mean low water. This is part of a larger project that will eventually deepen the channel to 50' and generate a total of over 3.5 million cubic yards (CY) of dredged material. Contract Area 2A includes a proposal to place 95,000 CY of material at the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS). Visit COA's website for our comments.

### (Oyster Creek, continued from left column)

Specifically:

- A study conducted from November 1984 through December 1985 reported 22 million fish and invertebrates were impinged.
- Water is drawn into the plant via the Forked River and released via Oyster Creek, which drains into Barnegat Bay. The flow of the southern portion of Forked River was reversed to accommodate the water needs of the plant.
- Elevated temperatures in Oyster Creek and surrounding waters due to discharge allow tropical/subtropical invasive species to survive. Consequently, two exotic shipworms are creating problems for boat owners.

COA will fight the renewal of Oyster Creek's once-through cooling system.

### What's Cool at I.C.E.?



This month we are featuring ICE as a winter wonderland of activities. Exploration of the various indoor activities is an option for the coastal-minded during cold winter months. Visit the aquarium exhibits to see and learn about NJ's marine life or explore the science stations where you can use microscopes to examine marine specimens, fossils, insects, plant material, and sand from different beaches around the world. The Beach Sweeps display gives a unique perspective on the wastefulness of litter. Ocean advocates of all ages can also test their knowledge of fish and ocean geography with activity boards.

ICE in Wildwood is a very "cool" place to spend some time, all year 'round. As a New Year's resolution, visit ICE (anytime after January 10). Call ICE for winter hours.

### Take a Polar Plunge for the Ocean



The 2nd Annual Sons of Ireland Polar Bear Plunge will take place on New Year's Day, January 1, 2005, and will benefit COA, as well as Teddy's Fund. Headquarters for this year's plunge will be Donovan's Reef in Sea Bright, NJ, and the plunge will occur at 1pm from the beach directly behind Donovan's. Participants should arrive at least 30-minutes early for check-in. Participants, on-lookers, friends, and family are welcome.

Participants are asked to collect pledges to take the plunge. Last year, the event raised over \$10,000 for the 9/11 Fund for the Education of Monmouth County Children. This year, there will be prizes for the top fundraisers, as well as for the best plunge attire or lack thereof.

For information and a pledge form, visit [www.sonsofirelandpolarplunge.com](http://www.sonsofirelandpolarplunge.com) or email questions to [polarbearplunge@comcast.net](mailto:polarbearplunge@comcast.net). The Sons of Ireland is a non-profit association dedicated to the principles of brotherhood, charity, and community service. The group was founded in 2002 with the specific intent of supporting worthy causes and charities in Monmouth County, NJ.

## ARTIFICIAL REEFS

### Draft NJ Artificial Reef Plan

COA submitted comments on the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Draft Artificial Reef Plan (due December 6). To review our comments, visit [www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org) and follow links for "Issues and Campaigns."

### Delaware River (continued from page one)

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is heading the effort to hold the appropriate parties responsible and to ensure that natural resource damages (NRD) are assessed. Bradley Campbell, Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), said NJ will pursue NRD action.

At press time, the cause of the spill was still being determined. Federal investigators believe a possible cause was a pipe three feet in diameter and 15 feet long, located 700 feet from the Citgo pier, the destination for the tanker.

### Citizens Can Help

- DRN seeks volunteer monitors and citizens to help document the extent of the oil spill. Call Faith Zerbe, DRN Monitoring Coordinator at 215-369-1188.
- Take a walk on your local beach, especially in South Jersey. If you see tar balls or other evidence of oil, call 267-765-3439. If you find an injured bird or animal, call the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at 215-365-1558.
- For updates on the spill and important telephone numbers, visit [www.incidentinfo.com](http://www.incidentinfo.com) or [www.delawareriverkeeper.org](http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org).

### Delaware Oil Spill by the Numbers

- 126 miles of River and shoreline impacted
  - Up to 473,500 gallons of oil dumped in the River
  - Over 18,800 gallons of oil-water mixture collected
  - 22 miles of boom laid out
  - Over 129 birds confirmed dead
  - 198 oiled birds captured; of which, 126 have been cleaned
  - Over 1,700 people involved in cleanup
- (as of 12/13/04)