



Clean Ocean Advocate

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- Senate Environment Committee Hears Oyster Creek Bill to Help Barnegat Bay!
- Clean Ocean Action Celebrates 25 Years of Beach Sweeps!
- COA Comments on Proposed Rules for Wind and Solar Energy in the Coastal Zone.

January 2010 Highlights



Clean Ocean Action
wishes you a
Happy New Year!

Need a New Years
Resolution? Check out
COA's Call to Action
booklet on
CleanOceanAction.org

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

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← _____ 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.

2010 SAVE THE DATE

A Snapshot: COA Events & Programs

- January 1:** Sons of Ireland Polar Bear Plunge; Convention Hall, Asbury Park
- March:** Beach Sweeps 25! A 2010 Symposium to highlight a Generation of Action Against Littered Beaches
- March 26:** EarthShare Celebrates New Jersey Wine Tasting; Laurita Winery, New Egypt, NJ
- April:** Aveda Month
- April 24:** 25th Annual Spring Beach Sweeps; Statewide, NJ
- May:** Spring Student Summit; Sandy Hook, NJ
- May 23:** Beach Ball; Ship Ahoy Beach Club, Sea Bright, NJ
- June-August:** Corporate Sweeps; Sandy Hook, NJ
- September:** Sunset at Sandy Hook; Sea Gulls Nest, Sandy Hook, NJ
- October:** Fall Student Summit; Island Beach State Park, NJ
- October 23:** 25th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps; Statewide, NJ

Our COAlition

Featuring...



The **Sons of Ireland** is a non-profit organization dedicated to the principles of brotherhood, charity and community service. The group was founded in 2002 by a group of five friends who live locally with the specific intent of supporting worthy charities and causes in Monmouth County, New Jersey.

The idea for forming Sons of Ireland began eight years ago with their first "Polar Bear Plunge." The thirty-five participants that year decided to write checks to support the 9/11 fund, which was raising money for children who lost parents during the 9/11 tragedy. "When we saw that a random group of thirty-five guys could raise a significant amount of money for a charity, we decided we should become an official 501(c)(3) and support other local causes" said Sean Clifford, one of the groups' founding members. While their main fund raising activity is the annual Polar Bear Plunge, Sons of Ireland also sponsors other organizations' events throughout the community including additional COA events such as the Beach Ball and Sunset at Sandy Hook.

Sons of Ireland chose COA as an organization to support because "we all live and/or grew up in the area and we saw the mess the ocean was in the 70's and early 80's. We all spend time at the beach; we take our kids to the beach and we want to help keep our waters safe to swim in," said Dennis Nitka, who is also one of the group's founding members.

The **2010 Polar Bear Plunge** will take place on New Year's Day at the Convention Hall in Asbury Park. Plunge (or sponsor a "Plunger") as a portion of the proceeds will be donated to Clean Ocean Action. Check out the newsletter insert for more details and how to get involved.



Clean Ocean Action Celebrates 25 years of Beach Sweepers!

Since 1985, over 70,000 volunteers have participated and removed over 3.5 million pieces of debris from New Jersey's beaches and waterways. At over 60 sites throughout NJ twice a year, the dedication and hard work of the Beach Captains make the Beach Sweeps a continued success.

Clean Ocean Action invites you to **Beach Sweeps 25!** a symposium that will highlight a generation of COA Beach Sweepers. The symposium will present information about pollution trends based on volunteer-collected data as well as steps needed for "naturally" clean beaches and waterways for future generations. Presentations and facilitated discussion will focus on marine debris in terms of sources, impacts, and solutions.

Stay posted about Beach Sweeps 25! through COA's website or contact Tavia Danch at Education@CleanOceanAction.org or (732) 872-0111.

Senate Environment Committee Public Hearing on Oyster Creek Bill to Help Barnegat Bay

On December 14, the NJ Senate's Environment Committee held a hearing on bill S. 3041 which would require the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) to install a closed-loop cooling system. Many concerned citizens attended the public hearing to help save Barnegat Bay.

Currently, the nuclear power plant pulls up to 1.7 billion gallons of water every day from Forked River through the plant and then discharges it into Oyster Creek. This results in substantial devastation to Barnegat Bay as the water use equates to ten times the volume of the Bay being pulled through the plant every year. Smaller aquatic life like fish eggs get pulled through the system and killed while larger life like sea turtles get caught against the intake screens and can die. Warmer water with lethal levels of chlorine are then discharged into Oyster Creek, causing more damage. **OCNGS kills billions of fish and aquatic organisms every year.** The bill would merely require the plant to use the same technology that all modern power plants must use.

The bill was introduced by **Senator Bob Smith** and COA applauds his leadership in working to restore Barnegat Bay. As a result of the hearing, the bill will be taken up by the Senate again in 2010. In addition, Assembly members **Reed Gusciora** and **Valerie Huttie** have introduced a similar bill, which may be voted on at the Assembly's Environment and Solid Waste Committee hearing on January 4. Governor-elect Chris Christie has also promised to address the cooling issue in his first 100 days. Please contact your elected officials to urge them to support closed loop cooling for Oyster Creek. Stay posted for information on more hearings at CleanOceanAction.org.



Aerial view of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station in Lacey Township

WASTING OUR WATERS AWAY

David Byer, Esq., Policy@CleanOceanAction.org

Senator Menendez Seeks Info from Massive Australian Offshore Drilling Spill



The fire that erupted on November 1, 2009

On August 21, one of the worst oil spills in Australian history occurred with new "state of the art" offshore drilling technology. Despite all the Big Oil claims that offshore drilling is now clean and safe, this example proves otherwise. The spill took 74 days to stop that ended with a three day out of control fire. The oil slick spread across more than 9,000 square miles, larger than the size of New Jersey. It was estimated that nine million gallons of oil poured into the ocean (Exxon Valdez was 11 million gallons). The spill took place in the Timor Sea

and there are now reports of fishermen going out of business and villagers in neighboring islands becoming sick from contaminated seafood.

Proudly, **NJ's US Senator Robert Menendez** is one of the nation's leading advocates for protecting the ocean and coasts from expanded offshore drilling and has called for an investigation into the safety of Seadrill Limited. Seadrill was the drilling contractor for the Australian spill and is also operating in the Gulf of Mexico. The Senate needs more leaders who will seek the truth when the oil industry continues to make false promises about its own abilities and track record.

COA STAFF NEWS

Noreen Benjaminsen joined the COA crew in December as Outreach Coordinator. Noreen recently migrated to the Jersey Shore from California where she worked as a Public Education Program Coordinator the City of Glendale. Noreen was responsible for collaborating with local committee and task forces and other municipalities on outreach for local ordinances affecting the quality of life for Glendale residents. She was also responsible for coordinating and implementing Glendale's Cigarette Litter Prevention Program which keeps over 300,000 cigarette butts per year from entering storm drains.



Noreen grew up on the east coast however, and the Atlantic seashore is close to her heart. Noreen is looking forward to working with the COA crew and its great collection of supporters to protect our local marine environment from current threats to its health and wellness as a natural resource. Welcome aboard Noreen!



Volunteer Opportunities to Ring in the New Year

This winter, COA seeks volunteers to staff information and action tables at the following events. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Meg at Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org or (732) 872-0111.

January 1, 10am-3pm Sons of Ireland Polar Bear Plunge, Asbury Park

January 23, 9:30am-12pm Father Time Fishing and Environmental Expo, Keansburg, NJ

February 14, 9am-2pm Scuba Flea Market, Toms River, NJ

If staffing informational booths is not your cup of tea but you would like to volunteer, call or email Meg for other opportunities. We need volunteers for beach sweeps, general office work, special events, activism, education, and design/technology, in addition to festivals and outreach. There is something for every ocean lover!

CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

Jenni Samson, PhD, Science@CleanOceanAction.org
Heather Saffert, PhD, Science@CleanOceanAction.org

COA Comments on NJDEP's Proposed Rules for Renewable Energy in the Coastal Zone

COA recently commented on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) proposed rules for wind and solar energy in the coastal zone. These rule proposals and technical documents represent an important step forward by providing policies and procedures on how and where to develop wind energy within the state's environmentally-sensitive coastal zone.

Our comments are focused on wind energy in state waters and related land-side impacts. We support the NJDEP's requirement that any proposed site for a wind facility undergo a habitat assessment and risk evaluation prior to submitting permits. We have also urged the NJDEP to form a Scientific Advisory Panel composed of outside scientists with relevant experience in marine organisms, habitat, and migrations to assist and support the state's efforts to develop risk analysis, standard monitoring requirements, and any other technical efforts that will be needed to develop offshore wind energy in an environmentally responsible manner. We have also asked the NJDEP to assess potential impacts and coordinate the land-side activities required for development such as: waterfront staging areas for equipment and construction; operation and management of turbines (by boat or helicopter); construction of transmission capacity of energy from the ocean to where it is needed; and logistical support systems. Once the appropriate data are available, the NJDEP should develop a similar Large Scale Wind Turbine Siting Map Report for New Jersey's tidal waters and federal waters that allows for protection of aquatic resources while maximizing energy generation potential.



COA commends the NJDEP for this important initial effort to develop rules and regulations for wind energy in state waters. We look forward to continuing to work with the NJDEP to ensure any offshore renewable energy development is done with thoughtful consideration of the marine organisms and habitats that depend on a clean and healthy ocean.



Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) Moves Forward

COA spoke out on many ocean threats facing our region, identified solutions, and participated in setting priorities for MARCO's Building Partnerships to Take Action meeting in December. MARCO is a collaborative effort among the Mid-Atlantic States (New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia) to develop a regional approach to "maintain and improve the health of our ocean and coastal resources, and ensure that they continue to contribute to the high quality of life and economic vitality of our region's communities well into the future."

COA advocated for our Clean Ocean Zone federal legislation that locks in progress that has been made to protect the ocean from harmful activities and pollution. COA also supported region-wide data collection and mapping efforts and emphasized the importance of public participation in the process for ocean renewable energy development and ocean planning. For more information, please visit MidAtlanticOcean.org/partnership.htm.

EVENTS

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

This is Your SEASON Pass to Family Fun! A Gift Idea for Ocean Lovers...



Ship Ahoy Beach Club

Warm Weather is Right Around the Corner!



~Pre-Earth Day Discount Promotion~
Family Pass \$135
(Two adults and up to four children)
Adult \$45, Children under 12 \$20

Join us or Treat a Friend to COA's Summer Event Kick-off Discount and Family Pass Promotion for our Beach Ball for the Ocean on **May 23, 2010, 3-7pm** at Ship Ahoy Beach Club, Sea Bright, NJ.

Gift recipients will be mailed a beachy package that includes information on COA, tip cards for a clean ocean, and a colorful card announcing that you have made a donation to support our crew's ocean protection work. The gift recipient will receive a pass to party beachside for two adults and up to four children. A reminder will be sent closer to the event.

This casual family event features live reggae music, children's games and activities, auction, catered fare, and bar of beer and wine. Visit CleanOceanAction.org for your pass to beachside fun for the ocean.

PATAGONIA Voice Your Choice Campaign Grants COA \$2,500!

Special thanks to **Kathleen Gasienica** and the **baby horseshoe crabs** as well as **Mary and Anthony Nota** who represented COA during Patagonia's Voice Your Choice Campaign! Cool fact about Patagonia: "...the company has used only organically grown cotton in its clothing line since 1996. With its most recent launch of synthetic fiber-to-fiber recycling, Patagonia is taking back worn-out polyester and nylon clothing and reincarnating it as new products, forever capturing the raw materials used in making virgin fiber." For more information about Patagonia's SEA-worthy efforts visit Patagonia.com.



Emily Hackett, COA's Programs Coordinator is presented with a check in New York City

Sea Scenes: COA Honored During Panasonic's "Lid Flipping" 50th Anniversary Celebration



Panasonic's Bottle Cap Team

To honor **Panasonic's 50th Anniversary**, the employees of Panasonic hosted a "Lid Flipping" Plastic Bottle Cap Recycling Contest. Their goal was to collect 5,000 caps to honor the company's 50th anniversary. Instead, they collected over 16,000 caps to be sent to Aveda for recycling from three facilities in Elgin, IL, one facility in Chesapeake, VA, and their Panasonic's headquarters in Secaucus, NJ. The employee who won the bottle cap recycling contest collected 1,600 caps.

"This is a start for us. The employees loved the contest and were very surprised about the information we were able to provide them regarding recycling of bottle caps. Many employees are still collecting caps in order to help the environment." Terri Seene, Planner, Corp. Outreach Programs, Panasonic.

To support COA's work in the NY/NJ region, Panasonic presented us with a check for \$1,200 to commemorate the winner's number of caps collected. COA congratulates Panasonic's employees' success and is grateful for their support of our Beach Sweeps program and this new recycling effort.