



July 2008 Highlights

- Petroleum Panic: Don't Be Fossil-Fooled!
- A Summer for the C.O.A.S.T.
- Take the Bay Buddy Challenge!

*****Eco-Tip of the Month*****
Go Organic: The summer's delicious seasonal fruits and vegetables can contain high levels of pesticide residues, even after washing. According to EPA and FDA, for example: 70% of strawberry and peach samples tested positive for several pesticides; 76% of cantaloupe samples tested positive for several pesticides; and 81 of 188 celery samples tested positive for residues, more than any other crop analyzed. Limit the amount of pesticides in your fruits and vegetables by purchasing organic.
Adapted from Our Environment,
Vol. 12, No. 1, by Ingrid Justick

Clean Ocean Action
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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):

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___ \$50 Participating Organizations

Name _____

Street _____ City _____

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Please include organization name & contact, if applicable:

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

July

July 3, Thursday

- C.O.A.S.T. 2008 Campaign Kick-off Press Conference, Sea Bright Public Beach, 11:30am. All are welcome.

July 5, Friday

- Summa Love Surfing Lessons, Ocean Lane, Deal, NJ, 1-5pm. Portions of proceeds go to COA. For cost and details, 908-910-4552 or www.summalove.com.

July Weekends

- C.O.A.S.T. 2008, action tables, beaches and beach clubs in Monmouth & Ocean Counties. Stop by or sign-up to volunteer. For dates and sites, see inside.

SAVE THE DATE

August 2, Saturday

- Summa Love Surfing Lessons, Ocean Lane, Deal, NJ, 12-4pm. Portions of proceeds go to COA. For cost and details, 908-910-4552 or www.summalove.com.

Our COAlition

Featuring...

Monmouth Conservation Foundation

Did you know that 50 acres of land is bulldozed every day in New Jersey? The **Monmouth Conservation Foundation** (MCF), based in Middletown, NJ, is "dedicated to acquiring, holding, and preserving open space in Monmouth County." The MCF is the only county-wide group dedicated exclusively to open space and farmland preservation.

Using a variety of land preservation methods, from landowner education and outreach to conservation easements and land acquisition, MCF protects land that is threatened by improper development or use. Established in 1977 by a group of citizens, MCF has conveyed to the county and its communities over 6,000 acres of land dedicated to open space preservation. These tracts range in size from one acre to 416 acres.

Over 200 years ago, Monmouth County was a farm community whose entire population could be seated in the present day PNC Arts Center in Holmdel. Rapid changes in land use are changing the county and threatens natural resources. The MCF is in the midst of an aggressive campaign to help save another 5,000 acres by 2010.

"In 2007, MCF celebrated its 30th anniversary. In 2008, we look forward to the completion of our four million dollar Capital Campaign effort, which has helped us to preserve several properties in our Navesink Highland Greenway Project area," said **Adele Keller, Executive Director**.

The MCF works with other groups in the region and state on related initiatives, such as renewing the Garden State Preservation Trust Fund, and supporting the Clean Ocean Zone.

For a map and descriptions of open space saved by MCF, land preservation options, and newsletters and events, go to www.monmouthconservation.org.

Adapted from MCF website

CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

Kari Martin, 732-872-0111, Outreach@cleanoceanaction.org

Petroleum Panic: Don't Be Fossil-Fooled!

In June, a national push to open our coastlines to destructive oil and gas drilling puts the ocean at risk. However, facts from federal agencies' reveal that more drilling is not the answer to lowering prices at the pump:

- The Atlantic Coast contains a **total potential** of several months of oil and about 1½ years of gas at current US consumption rates. It will take up to 22 years to tap and get it to the pumps, and will only reduce the price a whopping 5 cents at most.
- The US uses 25% of the world's oil, but only has 3% of the reserves.
- Vast amounts of offshore oil and gas sources are already owned by the oil industry, but they have **only used 18%** of these areas.
- The oil industry **exported** a record-breaking half-billion barrels of US-produced crude and petroleum products last year.
- Oil drilling is a dirty process, discharging millions of gallons of **toxic drilling waste-fluids** into the ocean and sending piercing noises that impact endangered whales and dolphins.

The real solution is to have local, state, and federal leaders focus on helping to implement real energy conservation and alternate energy sources. This will create jobs and make the US more energy efficient and independent.

For many years, New Jersey's Congressional delegation members have been national leaders, protecting the coast from offshore drilling. This July, the US House of Representative's Committee on Appropriations is expected to vote on whether or not to open the Atlantic coast to drilling. New Jersey and New York will play key roles in the vote with these Representatives on the Committee: **US Reps. Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ-R-11), Steven Rothman (NJ-D-9), and US Rep. Maurice Hinchey (NY-D-22)**. The Congressmen have long opposed drilling, and are expected to maintain their opposition and support the moratorium in a Committee vote. A report on the vote will be in next month's newsletter.

¹ Energy Information Administration

Liquid Natural Greed Puts Ocean at Risk

On June 7, by invitation, COA presented information about the proposed offshore liquefied natural gas (LNG) ports to the Two River Council of Mayors in Monmouth County, NJ. The mayors asked serious questions on the true impacts of these projects.

Get informed! Take action! For more information about the three proposed LNG ports off the NY/NJ coast, see inside (page 4). To sign a petition opposing the industrial ports, and for more facts and action opportunities, go to www.cleanoceanaction.org.



Asbury Park Press, June 22, 2008

COASTAL WATER QUALITY

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Comments submitted by COA are posted on our website

Monitoring Coastal Waters

On June 4, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released "The New York Bight Floatables Action Plan, Partnership in the Abatement of Floatable Debris." The 10-year plan outlines the responsibilities of multiple government agencies for identifying and cleaning-up debris in NY/NJ Harbor. If debris escapes the harbor area, it is likely to wash-up on area beaches, which can close beaches to the public. The new plan follows the large garbage wash-up that closed beaches in Ocean County on Labor Day weekend 2007.

This season, helicopter flight surveys have already identified several debris slicks in Newark Bay, Arthur Kill, Upper Harbor, Gravesend Bay, and off Coney Island. The EPA reported the debris slicks, consisting of wood, tires, and plastics, to the US Army Corps of Engineers for clean-up "as necessary."

At press time, COA was scheduled to meet with EPA to review the action plan and suggest modifications to ensure its effectiveness. The meeting will also serve to discuss EPA's on-going water quality monitoring program in cooperation with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC).

Recipe for Algal Bloom: Fertilizers, Heavy Rain, & High Temps



On June 9, COA staff spotted an algal bloom in Sandy Hook Bay (pictured left). The slimy, brown patches in the bay extended from the Sandy Hook Visitor Center to the Coast Guard station. Calls to the Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) revealed the same observation the previous evening in the Shrewsbury River in Highlands. The algae was six inches thick.

The Monmouth County Health Department identified the bloom to be a green algae mixed with decaying diatoms. By June 11, the blooms dissipated and/or sunk to the bay and river bottom. As the blooms sink and decay, dissolved oxygen (DO) is used in the decomposition process. Low amounts of DO can be harmful to marine life, and fish swim away from these regions to survive. Low DO levels can cause fish kills.

Citizens who observe blooms or fish kills are urged to report them to 1-800-WARN-DEP and/or their county or local health department.

A Developer's Delight: State Permit Extension Act

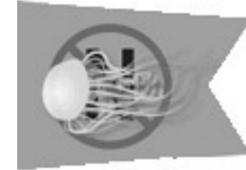
In late June, the NJ legislature rapidly pushed through and passed a giveaway bill to the developers, known as the Permit Extension Act of 2008. The Act would suspend expiration of certain environmental permits and bring back to life numerous expired permits. For example, if a developer received a particular five-year permit to build in January 2003 but let the permit expire, the developer would no longer have to get a new permit, even if the facts or the law changed. The developer would not have to comply with new environmental laws that are written to protect public health and safety, as well as the economy, which this bill professes to help.

Originally, the Act would have applied to practically all environmental permits and would suspend expirations for seven to nine years. After strong outcry from the environmental community, numerous amendments were made. Regardless, COA opposes the Act as it undermines environmental protection and the rule of law. Governor Corzine is expected to sign the Act.

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Anna Will, 732-872-0111, Education@cleanoceanaction.org

Take the Barnegat Bay Buddy Challenge!



Do you: Pick-up and properly dispose of pet waste? Direct gutters away from pavement onto gardens? Leave grass clippings on the lawn as a natural fertilizer? Use compact fluorescent light bulbs? If so, you are on your way to being a Bay Buddy!

On July 2nd, COA will launch the **Barnegat Bay Buddy Challenge** as part of the Nitrogen Pollution Action Project, an initiative of several groups that aims to reduce nitrogen pollution in Barnegat Bay, which flows into the ocean. Nitrogen is an important nutrient that helps plants grow; however, too much nitrogen in the bay overfeeds the ecosystem, resulting in unhealthy plant growth that can suffocate or kill other plants and animals, including crabs, clams, oysters, and horseshoe crabs. The Challenge allows individuals within the Barnegat Bay watershed to identify and take steps to reduce excess nitrogen and other pollution. The Bay Buddy Challenge will engage residents, businesses, municipalities, and groups.

To become a Bay Buddy, a checklist of actions must be completed and the applicant must earn at least 20 points from these actions. A small, tasteful plaque will be given to Bay Buddies to proudly display on their properties, and to help increase community awareness and involvement in pollution prevention. An application is posted on our website.

Student Ocean Advocate Receives National Award

Congratulations to COA Student Ocean Advocate **Alexa Kretsch** of Eatontown, a graduating senior from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology, for being one of 16 students from Central New Jersey to receive the Congressional Award presented by **US Congressman Rush Holt (D-12)**. The award is a public-private partnership program that rewards students for achievement, initiative, and service in America's youth.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Legislation to Protect Public Health from Sewage

Did you know that 900 billion gallons of untreated sewage enters US waterways each year, sickening 3.5 million people? (Source: EPA) **US Rep. Frank LoBiondo's (NJ-R-2)** legislation to strengthen regulations on sewage plant overflows was approved by the US House of Representatives. The bipartisan bill, introduced by LoBiondo and **NY's Rep. Tim Bishop (D-1)**, requires operators to monitor sewage treatment facilities for overflows and to notify public health officials and downstream drinking water suppliers of potential dangers to people. Companion legislation in the US Senate was introduced by **US Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)**.

SEA SCENES: Goldtinker Rumson

Goldtinker Rumson is doing its share to support a clean ocean with an exclusive sterling silver sea star pendant and earrings set (pictured right) that truly draws its elegance from the sea.

With its debut at COA's recent *Beach Ball for the Ocean*, Goldtinker continues the sale of this beautiful sea-inspired set throughout the summer, giving \$100 per set sold to COA.

"Living so close to the Atlantic Ocean, we at Goldtinker Rumson believe strongly in what Clean Ocean Action does for our community," said **Tony Goltsch, Manager of Goldtinker**. "This gives us a chance to help such a wonderful organization."

Goldtinker recently donated over \$2,000 to The Sandy Hook Foundation with a similar promotion.

Please visit Goldtinker Rumson at 15 West River Road, Rumson, NJ 07760, or call 732-530-9696 for more information and to purchase this exquisite treasure.

(Sea Scenes appears every other month in the *Clean Ocean Advocate*.)



2008 C.O.A.S.T. Campaign

Casey Shanley, 732-872-0111, Coast@cleanoceanaction.org

A Summer for the C.O.A.S.T.

Join COA for summer fun at the beach and the **2008 Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips (C.O.A.S.T.) Campaign!** Starting in early July, COA volunteers will engage fellow citizens and beach-goers at beaches and beach clubs in Monmouth and Ocean Counties in efforts to stop ocean pollution. Stop by the action tables to visit our amazing volunteers, learn how to help protect the ocean, and pick-up our one-of-a-kind t-shirt (\$15 adult, \$10 child).

It's not too late to sign-up to volunteer! C.O.A.S.T. tables are a fun and easy way to get involved in your community, educate citizens and beach-goers about being the solution to ocean pollution, and even complete community service hours! Volunteers work four hours on a weekend in July or August from 10am to 2pm and receive a complimentary t-shirt.

To volunteer and for details, contact Casey.

C.O.A.S.T. Sites - July

- July 5, 6** - Ship Ahoy, Surf rider, and Chapel Beach Clubs, all in Sea Bright
- July 12, 13** - Water's Edge and Driftwood Beach Clubs, both in Sea Bright
- July 19, 20** - The Promenade, Long Branch; Sea Bright Public Beach; Monmouth Beach Bath and Tennis Club; and Monmouth Beach Bathing Pavilion
- July 26, 27** - Long Branch Public Beach, Allenhurst, Breakwater Beach Club, and Loch Arbour

August dates announced next month

EVENTS

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

5% Day at Blue Tulip A Success

Blue Tulip of Middletown hosted a 5% day for COA on June 5th. The event raised over \$110 for our efforts to stop ocean pollution. COA extends our appreciation to the staff of Blue Tulip, and to their customers for their support.

SAVE THE DATE!

COA's 10th Annual Sunset at Sandy Hook
Friday September 19th, 6-11pm,
Sea Gulls' Nest Deck Restaurant, Sandy Hook



Spend time by the sea with friends
Dance the night away to the **Thom White Band**
Taste fabulous fare from the area's leading restaurants and caterers
Enjoy a sunset bar of beer and wine

Tickets available 732-872-0111 or at www.CleanOceanAction.org