

Clean Ocean Advocate



HANDS ACROSS THE SAND

Hands Across the Sand Event Joined Ocean Advocates Together

On Saturday, June 26, thousands of NJ citizens joined the largest global gathering against offshore drilling ever held. Citizens met in Asbury Park, Seaside Heights, Atlantic City and 38 other NJ locations to join hands at the shoreline as part of a much larger Hands Across the Sand day of citizen action.

We had a beautiful day on the Asbury Park Boardwalk, about 1,300 people joined hands at the shoreline to say NO to offshore oil drilling and YES to clean energy! We stretched from the edge of Ocean Grove, all the way to Convention Hall, with another small group lined up on the north end.

Starting in Auckland, New Zealand events occurred worldwide as the clock struck noon, creating a wave across the time zones where hundreds of thousands of people united against offshore drilling and in favor of clean energy in the wake of the BP disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. Altogether, there were 901 total events in 38 countries. To see photos from around the world including NJ go to: handsacrossthesand.org.

The Hands Across the Sand events were aimed at steering America's energy policy away from its dependence on fossil fuels and towards clean energy. The goal is to convince leaders like President Obama to abandon offshore oil drilling and adopt policies that encourage clean energy instead.

"The BP oil spill is a tragic reminder of why we must oppose offshore drilling. This horrific disaster cost human lives and is decimating the Gulf. We absolutely cannot allow something like this to happen off our coast in New Jersey," remarked Senator Sean Kean. "We must be resolved to stop offshore drilling and vigorously support clean energy initiatives" he added.

"It is terrifying to think of the tragedy in the Gulf could one day happen along our coast. The ocean is not only our lifeline, but it is a precious resource that needs to be protected. As a lifelong resident of the Shore, and a local business owner, I feel we must do everything necessary to protect it from offshore drilling and industry," said Marilyn Schlossbach, owner of Langosta Lounge, Pop's Garage, Trinity and the Pope, and several other shore restaurants.

"This event has to be more than a one day event, joining hands on a beach to protect the environment. It has to be about each and every one of us going home to our lives and making a proactive change in our energy usage and how we affect the environment. We are all at fault for the great destruction of the Gulf and we must all be a part of the solution," declared Ed Johnson, Mayor of Asbury Park.

Thank you to our many friends, groups, and business leaders for their support, including our elected officials, Congressman Pallone, State Senator Sean Kean, and Asbury Park Mayor Johnson, for their remarks! A special thanks to our friends at Edison Wetlands Association, Surfrider Foundation, and Sierra Club for helping to make the events possible, as well as Marilyn Schlossbach and all at Langosta Lounge for spreading the word.

Hands Across The Sand was started by a restaurateur Floridian Dave Rauschkolb in October of 2009 with the first event taking place in February 2010 before the BP disaster.



Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips (C.O.A.S.T.) Campaign



July 1st marks COA's COAST campaign kick-off. The newly expanded, grassroots-level summer 2010 campaign to end ocean industrialization will include businesses, citizens and communities fighting against offshore drilling and liquefied natural gas terminals proposed in NJ/NY waters and working towards the Clean Ocean Zone (COZ).

In the wake of the tragic BP oil spill disaster in the Gulf, it is now more important than ever to lock out exploitation of NJ waters by fossil fuel companies and keep key coastal industries from being threatened by the current LNG and offshore oil drilling proposals.

Look for citizen action tables at shore beach clubs and window signs at your local businesses that say, "This business is a Clean Ocean Action Station." The following is a growing list of businesses from Hazlet to Point Pleasant that agree on the importance of the COZ: Brave New World, Blue Moon Yoga, Guaranteed Plants, DJ's Cycles, Organic Style, Betty & Nick's Bait & Tackle, The Running Store, Brahma Yoga, Island Style, LaPlaca Pottery Works, Lusty Lobster, Rumson Pharmacy, Soapmarket, Studio Z Hair Design and The Tackle Box.

If your business would like to be included in the campaign supporting a clean, green energy future for NJ/NY waters, contact Anna Tweten at 732-872-0111 or intern@cleanoceanaction.org.

- BP Oil Spill is still gushing over 60,000 barrels of oil a day into the Gulf of Mexico!
 - Thousands of NJ citizens unite against offshore drilling
 - Clean Ocean Action Kicks-off the 2010 C.O.A.S.T. Campaign

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July 2010 Highlights

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

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Please print clearly. Thank you.

Name _____

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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.

2010 SAVE THE DATE

A Snapshot: COA Events & Programs

Contact Meg Gardner to volunteer for any of the July-October events at citizens@cleanoceanaction.org. Contact Emily Hackett for ideas on events and fundraisers at programs@cleanoceanaction.org or call the COA office 732-872-0111.

- July 1:** C.O.A.S.T. Campaign Kick-off Press Conference, Belford, NJ
- July 7:** Chipotle Grand Opening Fundraiser, 5pm-9pm, Brook 35 Plaza, Sea Girt, NJ
- July 8:** Barnegat Bay Day, 11am-3pm, Loveladies, NJ
- July 22:** Pop's Garage Surf Art & Music Night, 6pm-10pm, Normandy Beach, NJ
- August 5:** The Clam Hut Beer Night, 6pm-10pm, Highlands, NJ
- October 1:** Sunset at Sandy Hook, Sea Gulls Nest, Sandy Hook, NJ
- October 7:** Fall Student Summit, Island Beach State Park, NJ
- October 23:** 25th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps, Statewide, NJ

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

Tavia Danch, Education@CleanOceanAction.org
Meg Gardner, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Insanity Island Project May Give Up and Pull Plug on Project

Coalition Forces Will Support and Encourage This Decision

Atlantic Sea Island Group (ASIG) may withdraw their permit application to construct "Safe Harbor" an 80 acre man-made island in the Atlantic Ocean to import foreign liquefied natural gas (LNG). The ASIG President and project leader has retired which could lead to the application before the US Coast Guard and Maritime Administration being withdrawn.

Due to its massive size and concept, the proposal was dubbed "Insanity Island" by environmental, fishing, energy independence, and national security groups. On Earth Day, Governor Christie announced he would oppose all LNG projects and under the Deep Water Port Act he has veto authority to stop any project offshore in federal waters. If ASIG officially withdraws their application, two other LNG projects off the NY and NJ coast still remain pending application, Excalibur's Liberty Natural Gas off Asbury Park, and ExxonMobil's Blue Ocean Energy, off Sea Girt.

"ASIG would be making the right decision," said COA Executive Director, Cindy Zipf. "It will be a great victory for the ocean, our energy independence, and the power of the people. LNG is an expensive, foreign, dirty fossil fuel that is not in the public interest and thanks to Governor Christie's leadership, the writing was on the wall. ASIG would be smart to get out now to save their investors from losing even more money," she added.

"This would be a victory for common sense," said Bob Bennekamper a citizen activist that has worked for 3 years gathering thousands of signatures and informing the public about these proposals.

"This is an ill conceived project that only highlights how corporate interests will at times, seek to reap profit at the price of irreplaceable natural resources," stated Dan Mundy Jr., Vice President-Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers.

Stay tuned to the COA website for news as it breaks.



A group of L'Oreal employees that participated in this summer's Corporate Beach Sweeps Program

Corporate Beach Sweeps Program

COA's Corporate Beach Sweep program, gives NJ & NY corporations the opportunity to invest in a cleaner ocean by sending their employees to Sandy Hook to become part of the solution to ocean pollution.

The Corporate Beach Sweep program runs from June through September and provides the volunteers with awareness, knowledge, and hands-on experience. Like the bi-annual, statewide Beach Sweeps program, employee teams collect harmful and unsightly litter from beaches and record information about the debris using data cards. The program provides "take-home" lessons, including how people can be good environmental stewards. Participants learn ways to reduce the amount of trash they produce, and proper ways to dispose of waste, including recycling. Further, they are reminded that litter and other pollutants in streets and parking lots miles away from the beach make their way to the ocean with every rainfall. For more information, contact Tavia Danch at Education@cleanoceanaction.org or call the office at 732-872-0111.

COA STAFF NEWS

Sean T. Dixon, Esq., Policy@CleanOceanAction.org

COA Hires Shark to Protect Ocean

COA is pleased to announce Sean T. Dixon, Esq. as our new Coastal Policy Attorney. Sean will be the principle legal investigator and advocate of legislative and regulatory policies on ocean and coastal pollution, ecosystem protection, and energy development issues.

"With the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster, stalling changes to our national ocean policy, there has never been more work to do," says Dixon. "With the current state of the coastal ecosphere, I am excited to begin working to create a cleaner ocean and coastal ecosystem for the future," he added.

In May of 2010, Sean graduated from Pace Law School's Master of Laws (LLM) program in Climate Change Law, the first such program in the nation. Prior to his LLM, Sean earned his Juris Doctor (JD) with a certificate in environmental law and a Masters of Environmental Management (MEM) in a joint degree program between Pace Law School and the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Sean's LLM and MEM thesis topics focused on how fisheries and ocean ecosystems are adapting to climate change and how we can better manage our marine resources into the future. Sean received his undergraduate degree from Boston University in the school's Woods Hole Marine Program where he double majored in marine biology and earth sciences.

"Sean brings excellent real-world and academic experience to the fight," said Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action. "His timing is perfect to meet the national and regional challenges facing the ocean today, especially in light of the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, climate change policies, and the threats of industrialization to the Atlantic Ocean," she added.

While an LLM student, Sean was the first Graduate Research Fellow at Pace Law School's Center for Environmental Legal Studies, working on New York State water policy issues and as the project manager for the International Judicial Institute for Environmental Courts and Tribunals. Before law school, Sean spent a year working on commercial fishing vessels in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska as a fisheries observer.

Originally from Buffalo, NY, Sean has always had an interest in the oceans. Sean has had the opportunity to be a media observer at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Anchorage, Alaska, and a Delegate at the 2008 4th Quadrennial International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain, where he worked in several resolution contact groups on Arctic and whaling issues and where he developed a resolution (in conjunction with two fellow delegates) on the need for stable conservation finance in an era of unstable economic markets. While not trying to save the oceans, Sean enjoys competitive rowing, soccer, rock climbing, cycling, and looking for chicken wings anywhere in the world that are as good as the wings in Buffalo (so far: some close calls, but no definitively "good" wings).



SEA SCENES

Kohl's A-Team Joins COA for Beach Sweeps 25

Thank you to Kohl's employee Jessica L. Gonzalez and her colleagues for their generous donations of time and hard work on behalf of Kohl's Cares for Kids® during COA'S Spring Beach Sweeps on April 24. The children of today and tomorrow will benefit from your thoughtful gift of a clean ocean and beaches.

Through Kohl's A-Team Program, Associates from area stores form teams of five or more to support a youth-serving nonprofit organization. Kohl's rewards and supports the team's participation with a \$500 corporate grant given directly to the organization. Kohl's volunteers raised \$15,000 for COA's ocean protection efforts through their A-Team's hard work during the Beach Sweeps.



COA SCIENCE NEWS

Heather Saffert, Science@CleanOceanAction.org
Jenni Samson

Update on Monmouth Park Racetrack Pollution

The neighborhood group in Oceanport, Rivergate Keepers, issued a press release about pollution from horses at the Monmouth Park Racetrack, asking whether planned improvements are on schedule and when "do not contact the water" signs can be removed at Branchport Creek. The next day a legal settlement was announced between NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and NJ Sports Exposition and Authority (NJSEA) which owns and operates the track. NJDEP had filed a lawsuit against the track for violations of the state's Water Pollution Control Act. NJSEA has agreed to make improvements to reduce pollution which will be completed in 2012 and pay its outstanding fine of \$131,250 to NJDEP. COA commented on the settlement which is called the Administrative Consent Order (ACO) which is still to be finalized. COA called for requiring more sampling by an independent party in the ACO, as the current requirements are not sufficient to assess whether the track is meeting water quality standards and NJSEA has not earned the public trust to self-report on discharges and their pollution. COA also expressed concern that the ACO does not hold NJSEA responsible for discharges that are likely to occur in the event of a greater than 25-year storm event. (See COA website for more details.)

Offshore Ecological Baseline Study is Complete!



The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) presented the final results of a \$19 million dollar Offshore Ecological Baseline Study (OEBS). The objectives of the study were to determine the current distribution and usage by ecological resources of 1,360 square nautical miles (nm) of ocean from Seaside Park to Stone Harbor out 20 nm. These efforts included collecting data on the distribution, abundance and migratory patterns of avian, marine mammal, sea turtle and other species in the study area over a 24-month period. Oceanographic information such as temperature, salinity, depth and

bottom characteristics was also documented. The final OEBS report includes an "Environmental Sensitivity Map" which overlays multiple aquatic resources and uses to identify areas that contain a high number of important ecological resources. Clean Ocean Action commends the NJDEP for initiating this far-reaching ecological assessment, which is the first of its kind along the Atlantic coast.

Similar baseline assessments are still needed for the northern coastal area of New Jersey, and our adjacent states, to develop an adequate

understanding of distribution and migratory patterns for many of these highly mobile organisms. Offshore renewable energy developers can utilize these baseline data to identify appropriate siting locations and classify taxonomic groups that are present in their proposed project area in order to design appropriate preconstruction studies that will further characterize the site, identify potential impacts, and inform construction and operation monitoring efforts. Ecological Baseline Studies will also help lay the groundwork for



informed marine spatial planning in the Mid-Atlantic region. You can visit the following website <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dsr/ocean-wind/index.htm> to view presentations on the final results and review the final report available in mid to late July.