

Clean Ocean Advocate



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June 2005 Highlights

- USEPA Abandons Bad Sewage Policy
- The Right to Know: A Key to Action
- COAST-Ing Into Summer 2005
- Coastal Creature Feature
- Whole Foods Store Opening Pre-Party

✂ 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, PO Box 505, 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.

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



June 2005

- June 3-5, Friday-Sunday**
 - **Red Bank Jazz & Blues Festival**, Marine Park. Call Karl to volunteer at COA booth on Friday, 4:30-9:30pm.
- June 4-5, Saturday-Sunday**
 - **Delaware Bay Day**, 10AM-5PM, Bivalve. To volunteer, call COA at 609-729-9262.
- June 11 & 12, Saturday-Sunday**
 - **NJ Seafood Festival**, 11AM-7PM, 5th & Ocean Avenues in Belmar. Call COA to volunteer.
 - **Atlantic City Seafood Festival**, Gardener's Basin, 9AM-5PM. To volunteer, call COA at 609-729-9262.
- June 13, Monday**
 - **Whole Foods Market "Almost-Open Party" to Benefit COA**, Rt. 35 North, Middletown, 6-9PM. RSVP by calling 732-747-8553 or emailing rsvp@organicworksmarketing.com.
- June 21, Tuesday**
 - **COA's Volunteer Training Session**, 7-9PM, Jenkinson's Aquarium, Pt. Pleasant Beach. Call Lisa to RSVP at 732-872-0111.
- June 22, Wednesday**
 - **COA's Volunteer Training Session**, 7:30-9PM, Carmen A. Biase Center, Bradley Beach. Call Lisa to RSVP at 732-872-0111.

COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS
 Featuring...
Fishermen's Dock Cooperative

Commercial fishing in New Jersey is a multi-billion dollar industry. This industry depends on a clean ocean, and the Fishermen's Dock Cooperative in Point Pleasant Beach has been an active participant in the fight against ocean pollution since COA's early days.

The Co-op (as it is known locally) is one of two active fishing cooperatives in N.J. Incorporated in the early 1950s, many of the Co-op members are third or fourth generation commercial fishermen.

The fleet's fishing activities are primarily in local waters of the NY Bight. The major species sought are fluke, squid, silver and red hake, and scallops. While most of the Co-op member's harvest is sold to wholesale markets in the Mid-Atlantic states and Southern New England, a significant amount makes its way directly to the seafood market and restaurant adjacent to the dock on Channel Drive.



Recognizing the relationship between clean water and their livelihood as commercial fishermen, the Co-op has taken action against proposals to dump harmful materials in the ocean. From stopping contaminated muck and sewage sludge being dumped off NJ's coast to supporting the Clean Ocean Zone, the Co-op continues to be a champion for the ocean.

"It's plain and simple. There is no fishing industry without a clean ocean," said James Lovgren, a member of the Co-op's Board of Directors.

In addition to taking action to improve ocean water quality, the Co-op, Garden State Seafood Association, and the Lovgren family donated seafood to COA's Family Luau for the Ocean.

For more information, call the Co-op at 732-899-1872, call the market at 732-899-2211, or stop by 57 Channel Drive in Pt. Pleasant Beach.

Adapted from *FishNet USA* and *Garden State Seafood Association* websites

USEPA ABANDONS BAD SEWAGE POLICY

National Grassroots Campaign Cheers Victory

As a result of tremendous actions taken by national, state, and local organizations, elected officials, and citizens, the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) flawed policy proposal that would have allowed poorly treated sewage to be dumped in our nation's waterways was stopped.



In a May 19, 2005, press release, EPA stated, "Based on review of all public comments and congressional hearings, EPA will not finalize the sewage blending policy as proposed in November 2003." For more information, visit <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/cso/blending.cfm>.

EPA is now expected to review policy and regulatory alternatives "to develop the most feasible approaches to treat wastewater and protect communities, upstream and downstream." Clean Ocean Action looks forward to ensuring that our waters are protected as EPA reviews and considers any alternatives.

Congratulations to the officials, organizations, and citizens working together to protect our waters by condemning EPA's policy. This victory is a great example of how citizens and organizations can work together to protect water quality and public health. EPA's policy would have allowed sewage treatment plants to bypass advanced treatment of sewage in times of wet weather, and then "blend" the filtered, but untreated, wastewater with fully treated wastewater before discharging into our nation's lakes, rivers, and oceans. If this policy was approved and implemented, the result would have been more beach closures, closed shellfish beds, and human illness due to contact with sewage-polluted waters.

A Brief Action History

On November 7, 2003, EPA requested public comments on its "proposed policy addressing the practice of blending at publicly owned sewage treatment facilities during periods of high flow caused by rainfall or snowmelt." In February 2004, COA submitted comments on behalf of 25 organizations opposing EPA's draft policy, but the fight continued.

On February 22, 2005, led by US Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and other Representatives, 135 members of Congress sent a letter to EPA condemning the policy. The action continued and on Thursday, May 19, US Reps. Bart Stupak (D-MI), Clay Shaw (R-FL), Frank Pallone (D-NJ), and Jeff Miller (R-FL) proposed an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2006 Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill in order to prevent EPA from spending any funds to finalize its proposed sewage dumping policy, thereby blocking EPA from finalizing the policy. The amendment was likely to pass when EPA made the announcement to withdraw the policy.

The bi-partisan bill, H.R. 1126 or "Save Our Oceans from Sewage Act," to ensure that EPA does not move ahead with this, or a similar policy, is gathering support. Sponsored by Rep. Stupak (D-MI), current co-sponsors include NJ Reps. Holt, Pallone, Saxton, and Smith, as well as 34 Representatives from other states.

Attention COA Participating Organizations!

COA will provide interested Participating Organizations (PO) with a monthly email alert of current ocean pollution-related federal and state permit activities. The first email alert was sent May 20. If you are a PO and would like to receive these email messages (including the May 20th alert), please contact Nicole Simmons at 732-872-0111.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

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

NJDEP to Provide \$15M for Lake Dredging and Stream Cleaning

On May 12, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) announced that it would provide \$15 million in low-interest loans to finance lake dredging and restoration projects and stream cleaning and de-snagging projects. The money will come from the voter-approved "Dam, Lake, Stream, Flood Control, Water Resources and Wastewater Treatment Project Bond Act of 2003." The loans will be available through a competitive application process. Applications will be accepted through June 30, 2005. For details or an application, visit <http://www.nj.gov/dep/ec>.

Dredging Plan & Meetings for Shark River

The Mayors of Neptune Township, Belmar, Avon, Wall, and Neptune City have formed the Shark River Environmental Committee to create an environmental plan for the Shark River estuary, including a sustainable dredging program. As of press time, the Mayors invited interested environmental groups to attend a meeting on May 24, and the public to attend a meeting on May 26 to discuss the dredging plan. COA plans to attend these meetings to gather information on this initiative. Stay tuned for details.

Shark River Awaits Higher Protection - "Category One"

On December 20, 2004, NJDEP proposed to upgrade the Surface Water Quality Standard of the Shark River Brook and its tributaries, which supplies drinking water, to Category One (C1). The C1 designation would set up 300-foot buffers on either side of the Shark River Brook and its tributaries, as well as prohibit any measurable change in water quality. The comment period, which originally ended on February 18, was extended until March 20. On March 22, the Shark River Clean-up Coalition, COA, and NJ Environmental Federation held a press conference asking NJDEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell to approve the C1 designation by Earth Day.

Unfortunately, the designation process has stalled in the Governor's office. NJDEP has processed and reviewed the comments submitted by the public and the designation awaits Acting Governor Richard Codey's approval. There is overwhelming support for the designation, including all the municipalities in the watershed and the Monmouth County Board of Freeholders. Citizens are urged to call Acting Governor Codey at 609-292-6000 and ask him to sign off on C1 for the Shark River today.

Wreck Pond Outfall Pipe Study Now Available

COA recently received a copy of the Stevens Institute of Technology's report entitled, "Impacts of the proposed extension of the Wreck Pond outfall on nearshore water quality and littoral drift of sand." COA will review the report and make recommendations to NJDEP's Office of Land Use, which is assessing the pipeline extension application. For a copy of this report, please contact Jennifer Samson, Principal Scientist for COA, at 732-872-0111 or by e-mail at science@cleanoceanaction.org.

ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Delaware's Artificial Reef Program Seeks Federal Permit

Delaware Department of Natural Resources Environmental Control, Division of Fish & Wildlife, has applied to the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Philadelphia District, for the continued deployment of artificial reef materials at new and existing artificial reef locations. The Public Notice is dated April 25, 2005, and comments are due on May 28. For more information, call Edward Bonner, ACOE project manager, at (215) 656-6733 between the hours of 1:00 and 3:30pm. COA supports NJ's Artificial Reef Program. Since this reef program is outside of COA's area of focus (Montauk, NY, to Cape May, NJ, offshore to the continental shelf), COA will not be commenting on the application.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Whole Foods Market "Almost Open" Party to Benefit COA
Monday, June 13, 2005, 6-9PM
Rt. 35 North, Chapel Hill Shopping Center, Middletown
RSVP to 732-747-8553 or rsvp@organicworksmarking.com
\$20 ticket price; 100% donations go to COA

CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

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

Maintenance Dredging of the Port Newark and Port Elizabeth

Recently, COA submitted comments to NJDEP regarding the maintenance dredging of between 400,000 and 550,000 cubic yards (CY) of material from Port Newark and Port Elizabeth to be placed at an undetermined upland site. COA urged NJDEP to require the applicant, the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), to provide essential information that is currently lacking in the Public Notice. Some of the missing information included: 1) the contaminant concentrations in the project sediments, 2) an accurate estimate of the volume of material to be dredged, and 3) the identification of an upland disposal site. A copy of our comments is posted on our website (follow the links for "Issues/Campaigns" and "Contaminated Sediments"). COA will also be submitting comments directly to ACOE. Those comments are due May 27.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

The Right to Know: A Key to Action

The NJ Work Environment Council (WEC) is hosting a workshop, "Using the Open Public Records Act (OPRA)," on June 22, 2005 from 8:15-11:30am in Trenton, NJ. OPRA is a valuable tool for labor, community, and environmental organizations, as well as citizens, to access information from state and local government agencies about a broad range of issues. This workshop will explain your OPRA rights, how to file an OPRA request and appeal an OPRA denial, and other methods to get information. Advance registration is required. Registration is \$20 for WEC members and \$25 for non-members. To register, contact WEC by calling 609-695-7100.



Coastal Creature Feature

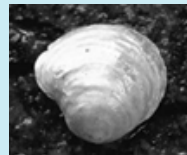


Egg case or "mermaid's purse"

April's Creature Feature was the egg case of skates, rays, and chain dogfish. The cases you find on NJ beaches are most likely from the Clearnose Skate (*Raja eglanteria*). You may even find one with a baby skate growing inside, but most are empty. The dark brown pouch with a leathery texture and "horns" on the sides is also called a "mermaid's purse." Long tendrils, which extend from the horns, are used by the mother to secure the egg case to seaweed. A single female may lay up to 66 eggs in one season and egg incubation lasts at least three months, after which a fully formed miniature skate emerges from the case. A newly hatched skate measures between 3 and 4 inches from wing tip to wing tip and is between 5 and 6 inches long. The Clearnose Skate is found in the western north Atlantic, from Massachusetts to south Florida and the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico. There were no correct entries for this creature.

June's Creature is common along the beaches of NJ. These extremely thin, paper-like shells are translucent yellow, orange, or silvery white in color. They get their name from the sound they make as they rattle around in your pocket, not from the popular Christmas song. To enter for a chance to win a COAT-shirt, send your guess by mail, fax, or e-mail (PO Box 505, Sandy Hook, NJ 07732; fax 732-872-8041; SandyHook@CleanOceanAction.org).

(What's Cool at ICE and Coastal Creature Feature appear every other month.)



June Coastal Creature

C.O.A.S.T.

Lisa Kiwak, 732-872-0111, Coast@cleanoceanaction.org

Welcome, Lisa

COA welcomes Lisa Kiwak to our team for the summer as the 2005 C.O.A.S.T. coordinator. Lisa has a Bachelor of Science in biology from Lock Haven University (LHU) in central Pennsylvania and is finishing a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communications, also from LHU. Lisa is looking forward to learning more about the shore since she's always had a love for the ocean. Welcome aboard!



COAST-ing into Summer 2005

COA is ready to begin the annual C.O.A.S.T. (Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips) campaign. This campaign educates the public about key ocean pollution issues, and simple ways to keep our ocean clean so we can continue to enjoy fun summer activities at the Jersey shore.

C.O.A.S.T. tables are located at beach clubs and public beaches throughout Monmouth and Ocean Counties. The campaign relies on citizens, who love the ocean and beach, to volunteer their time to speak to shore residents and visitors about ocean pollution. Please volunteer your time during July and August to help our ocean -- it won't cost a thing! All that is needed is a few hours of time on a Saturday or Sunday and enthusiasm for a clean ocean. For a volunteer job description, go to <http://www.cleanoceanaction.org/index.php?id=276>.

This year's C.O.A.S.T. campaign will focus on support for the "Clean Ocean Zone (COZ)" (www.cleanoceanzone.org) and informing elected officials of this effort to permanently protect the waters off our shore from harmful and polluting activities.

If you are interested in volunteering, COA urges you to attend one of our two training sessions: Tuesday, June 21 at Jenkinson's Aquarium in Point Pleasant Beach, from 7-9pm, or Wednesday, June 22 (tentative) at the Carmen A. Biase Center in Bradley Beach, from 7:30-9:00pm.

For more information on this year's C.O.A.S.T. campaign or to volunteer, please contact Lisa. Also, visit COA's website and follow the links for "Education Programs" and "C.O.A.S.T. Campaign."

EDUCATION

Students Experience Hands-on Science at Sandy Hook

Over 800 middle school students and teachers from schools in northern and central NJ were scientists for a day in an outside classroom at COA's 17th Annual Spring Student Summit at Sandy Hook. Students experienced hands-on marine environmental education by participating in a roundtable of six environmental activities and twelve interactive field activities. From holding a horseshoe crab to water sampling, kids got an up-close look at the coastal world.

COA thanks the fabulous students from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology and Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School, who served as peer teachers for the roundtable of activities. Waves of thanks to the naturalists and other education professionals who offered their expertise as leaders for twelve field activities.

Special thanks to C. Rooney Produce Company in Sea Bright for donating healthy snacks for summit participants, and to the staff at Gateway National Recreation Area - Sandy Hook for providing a great outdoor classroom.

For information about the Student Summit program, visit www.CleanOceanAction.org or call COA's Sandy Hook Office.



Students get a close look at a crab