



# Clean Ocean Advocate

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**June 2009 Highlights**

- The Highlights of A Successful Spring
- "Flip Your Lids" Plastic Cap Campaign Winners Announced
- Updates on Recent Public Hearings in Atlantic City & the Rockaways, NY

## Spring in Action, 2009 A Beach Sweep to Remember



After participating in the Beach Sweeps, students from the organization buildOn, an afterschool high school program based in Philadelphia, worked together to make a human display of the important message, "Keep the Ocean Clean." The Beach Sweeps brought seven of these students to the beach for the first time.

Clean Ocean Action would like to thank the thousands of volunteers who participated in the 24th Annual Spring Beach Sweeps and joined our mission to keep the ocean clean. COA thanks Assemblyman David P. Rible (R-11) for attending the Sandy Hook Rally, as well as joining in the sweep of Plum Island beach. COA also thanks Monmouth County Freeholder Robert D. Clifton for attending the Sweeps at Sandy Hook and Senator Jim Whelan (D-2) for attending the Sweeps at Albany Avenue, Atlantic City.

The Beach Sweeps would not be possible without the diligent efforts of our hard-working Beach Sweep coordinators. Thank you Jeff Hoffberger, South Jersey coordinator; Diane Prendimano, Ocean County coordinator; and Barbara Bennet, supply and Sandy Hook coordinator.

## Student Scientists Gather in Sandy Hook



Seining in Horseshoe Cove



Students learn about marine critters

In early May, over 500 middle school students and teachers from 20 schools in northern and central New Jersey were scientists for a day at COA's 21st Annual Spring Student Summit at Sandy Hook. Students participated in a roundtable of six hands-on workshops and twelve interactive field activities. Students explored and studied beaches, trails, and marshes, and learned about horseshoe crabs, sea stars, spider crabs, and a variety of fish and bird species. Students also observed models of nonpoint source pollution, learned about the lethal effects of litter on the marine environment, and served our ocean by sweeping the beaches clean.

COA sincerely appreciates the efforts of the talented educators, students from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST) who served as peer teachers, and the National Park Service who worked to make this a successful experience for the students. Special thanks to Kathleen Gasienica, horseshoe crab expert.

## Our COAlition Featuring...

### Bayshore Saltwater Flyrodders



It was the late fall of 1994 when Robby Barradale was seeking to join a fly fishing club. At the time, the only flyrodder groups were 40-50 miles from his home waters at Sandy Hook. Realizing that there were already a number of people flinging flies locally, he began to think that maybe there would be enough interest to initiate a club based in Highlands.

Barradale rented a table at the Asbury Fishing Club Flea Market early in 1995 for the single purpose of soliciting members. The first few meetings were not well attended and sadly sometimes Robby sat alone; however, fly aficionados soon started showing up and the club quickly grew.

The current Bayshore Saltwater Flyrodders are a fantastic group of people who share information and techniques, enjoy the camaraderie of club organized fishing excursions, as well as supporting the community by running charter trips for family members who lost love ones on 9/11, and Kids Kamp, a fly fishing experience for local Boy Scout chapters. The Bayshore Saltwater Flyrodders present a great workshop teaching kids how to fish at COA's Student Summit.

The club introduces fly fishing to people and shares the knowledge of casting, fly tying, finding fish to catch, and of course having fun while doing it! The Bayshore Saltwater Flyrodders are a long time supporter of COA, "and they share the same goal to keep our ocean clean," states Robby Barradale the club's founder and president.

The Bayshore Saltwater Flyrodders are now accepting new members. For more information please visit [www.bayshoresaltwaterflyrodders.com](http://www.bayshoresaltwaterflyrodders.com).



**\*\*\*Eco-Tips for the Summer\*\*\***  
 Tip: Complete each beach day with a Beach Sweep. Everytime you go to the beach collect a bag of trash. Do not overcool your house. Save 200 lbs. of carbon dioxide annually for every 2 degree reduction. Put your pedal to the metal of your beach cruiser rather than your car this summer.  
 For a list of additional eco-tips and actions please visit COA's website ([www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org)) to download a copy of COA's 25th Anniversary "Call to Action" booklet.

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## June

### SAVE THE DATE

#### July & August

- **Summa Love Surfing and Yoga Camp Fundraisers**, Visit [summalove.org](http://summalove.org) for more information.

#### July & August

- **Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips (C.O.A.S.T.) Campaign**, at locations across the Jersey Shore.

### Volunteer Opportunities

June 6th, 12:00 pm - 4 pm

- **Red Bank Jazz and Blues Festival at Marine Park**, Red Bank, NJ.

June 7th, 1:00 pm - 4 pm

- **World Ocean Day at Jenkinson's Aquarium**, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ.

June 7th, 10:00 am - 4 pm

- **Barnegat Bay Festival**, Wanamaker Complex, Island Heights, NJ.

Please Contact Meg Gardner for more details; 732-872-0111  
[citizens@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:citizens@cleanoceanaction.org)

Please clip and send to COA.

## 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):

\$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, 18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2, 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.

**CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS**

Heather Saffert, Ph.D., 732-872-0111, [Science@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Science@cleanoceanaction.org)  
 Jennifer Samson, Ph.D., 732-872-0111, [Science@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Science@cleanoceanaction.org)

**A New Recycling Option for Dredged Material**

Bayshore Recycling located in Woodbridge, NJ has received a permit from NJ Department of Environmental Protection and can now accept and recycle clean dredged material for a fee. Dredged material can be brought to the site by truck, rail, or barge. The material will be converted into roadbed and construction materials. Dredging is required to maintain safe navigable waterways and channels. This facility provides an additional option for the beneficial reuse of dredged material for the region.

**POLLUTION PREVENTION**

Tavia Danch, 732-872-0111, [Education@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Education@cleanoceanaction.org)

**Student Ocean Advocates Graduation Celebration**

Eighteen Monmouth County high school students from six schools were awarded for excellence in efforts to prevent ocean industrialization. A keynote address was given by John Passacantando, former Greenpeace USA Executive Director, who called the next generation to action and honored the student representatives at Monmouth University.

Passacantando spoke about his eight years as the leader of the world's largest environmental action organization, as well as his global fight to stop climate change. Passacantando inspired the crowd with interesting media stories and colorful accounts of Greenpeace experiences.



SOA Class of 2009 Pictured with John Passacantando, Carl Guastafarro, Tavia Danch, and Cindy Zipf

SOA's graduating seniors include, co-chair Safya O'Rourke representing Henry Hudson High School, co-chair Ashley Harmer, and member Mara Higgins representing Wall High School, Lawrence Wong representing Academy of Allied Health and Science, and Tannu Singh and Danielle Klim representing Monmouth Regional.

**Citizens Speak-out about Monmouth Park Racetrack**

On May 11, the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA) presented the latest plans and their status for remediating fecal pollution originating from the racetrack that travels to Branchport Creek. The Two Rivers Sewerage Authority is now accepting up to 200,000 more gallons of wastewater and stormwater a day from the racetrack. Additional improvements are set to take place over the next four years, if NJSEA gets a \$22 million loan approved. Citizens and local political leaders responded that the timeframe is too long. Citizens reported seeing horse hair and manure in the creek and uncovered dumpsters - all of which indicate that Best Management Practices are not being followed or enforced properly. COA demanded that NJSEA pay for routine monitoring of the creek and make all data publicly available for citizens to monitor the effectiveness of the remediation actions.

**NJ's Lacking Nutrient Criteria Enhancement Plan**

The NJ Department of Environment Protection's (NJDEP) nutrient criteria plan only enhances the phosphorous criteria for fresh waters and still does not include any plans to develop nitrogen criteria as recommended by the USEPA and by COA and American Littoral Society. The NJDEP will evaluate only whether or not nitrogen criteria are needed, despite the well known nitrogen problem for coastal waters. Recent studies indicate that a phosphorous-only control strategy is not effective for some fresh water lakes and contributes to exacerbating eutrophication of downstream estuarine and ocean waters. COA supports immediate actions such as fertilizer ordinances and stormwater best management practices to reduce nutrient loadings. (See online comments.)

**FLOTSAM & JETSAM**

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 Jennifer Samson, Ph.D., 732-872-0111, [Science@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Science@cleanoceanaction.org)  
 Project comments submitted by COA are posted on our website

**Ocean Acidification Bill Signed into Law**

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg's bill to support needed research on ocean acidity passed congress and was signed into law by President Obama this spring. Over the last century, the ocean has become more acidic due to the ocean's absorption of increased carbon dioxide air emissions from human activities.

Marine life, especially organisms that build shells out of calcium carbonate, can be sensitive to pH, a measure of acidity. At lower pH levels, shell growth rates can decrease and can become dissolved exposing the critter. Experts predict that corals are in danger of dying off by 2050 due to effects of acidification and warming waters. Shellfish and squid, as well as tiny plankton, that are critical to the base of the ocean's food web, are also at risk. Research on many of the effects of acidification is still very limited.

The new legislation will create a federally-coordinated effort led by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) to research and monitor acidification, develop a national plan to assess environmental and economic impacts, and recommend solutions. Reducing fossil fuel consumption is a solution we can act on now.

**Offshore Ecological Baseline Study to include Fall 2009 Bird Migration**

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is currently conducting baseline studies in waters off New Jersey's coast to determine the current distribution and usage of this area by birds, marine mammal, sea turtle and other species in the study area. Unfortunately, last fall, a storm damaged the radar ship and the contractors were unable to collect data of offshore bird abundance and distribution. This was the only planned opportunity in the 18-month study to collect this critical information on the fall bird migration, which is a time of maximum bird abundance off our coast. COA recently learned the study will be extended in order to capture some aspects of the fall 2009 bird migration. We are awaiting specific information on the scope of this additional effort.

**COASTAL CREATURE FEATURE**

The April creature feature was the sea nettle (*Chrysaora quinquecirrha*). Since 2000, the numbers of sea nettle have increased in New Jersey coastal bays. The increases in Barnegat Bay and in the Chesapeake Bay have been linked to excessive loadings of nutrients and organic matter from watershed to coastal areas. Human activities, including land disturbance and fertilizer application can increase these loadings to coastal waters. Warming waters are also likely contributing to their increased sea nettle populations. If stung, apply meat tenderizer to break down the proteins of the venom that cause the sting. Judge Mac Kerel thanks all who submitted guesses and congratulates the contest winner **Jennifer Hordych of Avon, NJ!**



Sea Nettle

**June's creature feature** is known for jumping completely out of the water.

Typically, it is an open ocean species but is also found along the coast if chasing prey species, such as menhaden schools into shallow water. Using its tail, it herds and stuns fish for food and eats menhaden, bluefish, mackerel, as well as squid. For a chance to win a COA T-shirt, submit your guess to Judge Marlin White by mail, fax, email (18 Hartshorne Dr., Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732; 732-872-8041; [science@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:science@CleanOceanAction.org)) or by visiting [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org). Only one entry per person please.



June Creature

**The Coastal Creature Feature winner will be announced in the August newsletter.**

**CLEAN OCEAN ZONE**

David Byer, Esq., 732-872-0111, [Policy@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Policy@cleanoceanaction.org)

**Five State Ocean Summit**

On June 4, the Governors (or their representatives) of New Jersey, New York, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware will hold a Five State Ocean Summit to create a forum and set forth an agenda for regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic. The intent is to have the five states start working together on the issues of water quality, energy, climate change, and habitat as they relate to the shared ocean waters off the Mid-Atlantic. The original letter from the governors announcing the formation of this group noted there would be robust public involvement. COA applauds such a statement and will seek to assure such an announcement holds true. The June 4 meeting will be at the Borough of Manhattan Community College and will include primarily state and federal agencies. A larger fall meeting is proposed to engage stakeholders in the planning process and to obtain responses to the outcomes of the June meeting to further develop the states' regional plan.

**Federal Hearing on Offshore Energy - Atlantic City**

On April 6 in Atlantic City, the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) Secretary Ken Salazar hosted one of four national hearings on offshore energy. The DOI presented findings on offshore energy resources and potential environmental impacts from such development and took public comments on what role the ocean should play in the nation's energy policy. Members of COA testified on the reasons against offshore drilling and liquefied natural gas terminals and the need for sound planning for offshore renewables. Governor Corzine, Senator Menendez, and Congressmen Pallone, LoBiondo, and Holt all testified against offshore drilling and about the importance of New Jersey's coastal economy.

**Rockaways "Rocked Away" Against LNG**

On April 19 in the Rockaways, NY, a third public hearing on the Atlantic Sea Island Group's proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) island was held by the federal government. A crowd of about 200 expressed near unanimous opposition to the proposal to build an island out of scratch solely to import foreign natural gas. This third meeting was scheduled at the request of Congressman Anthony Weiner who wanted to make sure New York City was heard in the process.

**DEP Commissioner Meeting**

On May 19, representatives from COA and the American Littoral Society met with the Commissioner and staff of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This was the first sit down meeting COA has had with now-Commissioner Mark Mauriello after he was recently promoted. The discussions included liquefied natural gas (LNG) proposals, Five State Ocean Summit, offshore wind, ocean monitoring, and Clean Ocean Zone federal legislation by Congressman Frank Pallone.

**Smart Stimulus Spending Coalition**

On May 20, a diverse coalition of nonprofit organizations, including COA, from the environmental, housing, planning, and transportation sectors held a press conference at the statehouse to lay out a set of spending principles for economic stimulus funds. The groups expressed concern that New Jersey is spending large amounts of stimulus funds without any publicly stated policy priorities beyond creating jobs and meeting ready-to-proceed deadlines. The coalition is seeking to ensure that funds are directed toward projects that have positive impacts and meet principles, such as reducing greenhouse gases, investing in labor-intensive green projects that increase job creation, and fixing existing infrastructure problems first as opposed to new expansions.

