

Clean Ocean Advocate



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June 2007 Highlights

- Brown Funk Unwelcome Start to Summer Season
- Are You Swimming in a Sewer?
- It's Time to "C.O.A.S.T." into Summer!
- Shop for the Sea - June 7

*****Eco-Tip of the Month*****
Prevent Pollution from Pets: Rain washes off lawns, gardens, streets, sidewalks, and parking lots -- all places where people leave their pets' wastes. This waste, which contains bacteria that is harmful to humans and wildlife, washes into nearby rivers, bays, and the ocean. The bacteria can cause swimming beaches to close due to high bacteria levels (see *articles inside*). Do your duty for the ocean and scoop the poop.

Clean Ocean Action
 PO Box 505
 Sandy Hook, NJ 07732-0505
 732-872-0111
 www.CleanOceanAction.org
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



✂ 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
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Name _____

Street _____ City _____

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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.

JUNE 2007

June 7, Thursday
- Blue Tulip In-Store Shopping for the Sea Event, Chapel Hill Shopping Center, 459 Route 35, Middletown (next to Whole Foods), 3-7pm. Details inside.

June 29, Friday
- C.O.A.S.T. Kick-off Press Conference, all welcome, 11am, Bradley Beach. For information about the summer campaign and to sign-up, see inside article and/or call Michele at 732-872-0111.

June 30, Saturday
- Trenton Thunder Baseball Game & Earth Share Environmental Awareness Fair, 5:30pm, Trenton Thunder Ballpark, One Thunder Road, Trenton, NJ. Tickets provide access to fair and game; concludes with fireworks. Purchase tickets at www.earthsharenj.org.

Our COalition

Featuring... Asbury Park Fishing Club

What is the oldest saltwater fishing club in the United States? The **Asbury Park Fishing Club**, of course. In 1888, James A. Bradley, founder of the City of Asbury Park, and nine of his friends formed an informal surf fishing club. By 1890, it took the official name of "Monmouth County Protective Association." The name was changed to the Asbury Park Fishing Club in 1902 and a new constitution and purpose, "To protect saltwater game fish, to create good fellowship, and to promote the interest of anglers," were adopted. Today, the Club's 200 members all have a love of the sea and saltwater angling.

To help fulfill its purpose, the Club joined forces with other organizations, including Clean Ocean Action, to tackle many issues, such as pollution. The Club and its members, including COA Board of Trustees Member Bill Feinberg, took action against ocean dumping over the years, but are now working to stop other sources of pollution to our waterways and the ocean.

"The amount of pollution from our communities entering our waterways, and ultimately the ocean, is unbelievable and needs to be stopped," said **Joe Pollatta**, President of the Club.

Recently, the Club took action to stem litter problems at the Deal Lake flume. The spacing in the flume grate was too large, thereby allowing large amounts of litter to flow into the ocean. The Club successfully pressured NJDEP to reduce the size of the spacing.

In addition to working on issues, proceeds from the Club's Annual Fishing Flea Market, held in Convention Hall, are donated to fishery conservation and to the City of Asbury Park to help promote its rebirth. Also, the Club hosts two barbecues a year, an annual cleanup of Deal Lake and neighboring beaches, annual awards dinner, and Spring and Fall fishing tournaments. For an online calendar of meeting and event dates, visit <http://asburyparkfishingclub.com>.

Adapted from the Club's website

COASTAL WATER QUALITY

Brown Funk Unwelcome Start to Summer Season

Though the weather was beautiful, from Raritan Bay to Avon-by-the-Sea, one of the largest brown algae blooms in recent memories stained the near shore waters and disgusted beach-goers on Memorial Day weekend. COA received many calls from citizens reporting the brown funk in the water as northeast winds kept the algae near shore. A west wind on Monday blew the mass offshore. The algae bloom is not harmful to humans, but can be harmful to marine life. Blooms are not unusual, especially in the spring and late summer, but this bloom was unnatural in size and scope.

EPA Pulls Plug on Monitoring the Ocean

As citizens raise serious concerns about a massive algae bloom (see *above*), EPA pulls the plug on important water quality monitoring: dissolved oxygen and bacteria. COA and Rep. Pallone (NJ-D-6) are both investigating.

Are You Swimming in a Sewer?

At a May 25th press conference in Avon-by-the-Sea, NJ, **US Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)** and **US Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-D-6)** (pictured right), announced the introduction of the Beach Protection Act of 2007. The bill ensures reauthorization of the BEACH bill, which requires national monitoring of swimming beaches and key enhancements to the current law. These include more money, track down of sources of pollution, accountability, and requirements for a rapid water testing method (see *related article*).



Rapid Testing for Bacteria at Beaches Coming to NJ

After years of urging by Clean Ocean Action (COA), the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is teaming-up with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate a new rapid method for detecting bacteria in marine waters. The current method for weekly beach and bay water monitoring takes 24 hours to get results, while the rapid test can take as little as three. With the 24-hour method, it can take up to three days to close beaches that is polluted with bacteria, making shore activities such as swimming and surfing risky and unhealthy. If shown to be reliable, the new, rapid method would be much more protective of public health by allowing beaches to be closed and reopened more quickly. For test results from throughout the state, visit www.NJBEACHES.org.

Finding Solutions To Pollution In and Around Wreck Pond

US Representative Chris Smith (NJ-R-4) organized a meeting in Spring Lake, NJ, with **US Representative James Oberstar (MN-D-8)**, Chair of the US House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, to discuss coastal water conditions in and around Wreck Pond. The meeting, which COA attended, was part of an ongoing effort by Rep. Smith to secure federal funding for dredging Wreck Pond to improve water flow and habitat, and to prevent bacterial contamination of the surrounding ocean waters. So far, NJ has paid the bill for dredging sand that accumulated on the oceanside of the pond, and extending the ocean outfall pipe an additional 300 feet offshore. These two measures have met with limited success, as the ocean beaches surrounding the outfall pipe from Wreck Pond remain on mandatory closure after 1/4" of rainfall. This summer, the Beacon Blvd. Beach in Spring Lake will be added to that precautionary closure list after monitoring results in 2006 indicated the extension of the pipe may have pushed the plume from the outfall farther south.

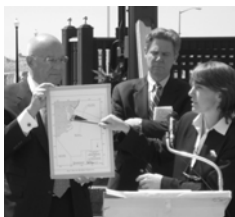
CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

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

Dredging Projects Raise Concerns

COA submitted comments on two proposals regarding dredged material from NY/NJ Harbor. The comments regarding dredging at the Global Terminal and Container Services in Jersey City, and the Newark Bay Confined Disposal Facility are posted on our website (click "Issues & Campaigns"), or can be obtained by contacting Dr. Samson.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY (cont.)



(L-R) Mayor Schueler, Rep. Pallone, and Cindy Zipf

Actions Against Offshore Drilling

At a May 4th press conference in Bradley Beach, US Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-6) was joined by Mayor Stephen Schueler, NJDEP Deputy Commissioner Jay Watson, and representatives of the Surfrider Foundation, New Jersey Environmental Federation, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, American Littoral Society, Sierra Club - NJ Chapter, and Surfers' Environmental Alliance to object to offshore oil and gas drilling in the Mid-Atlantic, specifically off Virginia's coast.

In February, Rep. Pallone introduced the COAST Anti-Drilling Bill (H.R. 777), which would permanently ban offshore oil and gas drilling from Virginia to Maine. US Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) introduced a bill by the same name in the US Senate earlier this year as well.

Draft Released on Environmental Impacts of New Energy

COA reviewed the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) released by the Minerals Management Service (MMS), a federal agency, and found the draft flawed, incomplete, and lacking scientific justification for ecological impacts, assessments, and conclusions. The PEIS makes assumptions and conclusions about the impacts of offshore alternative energy facilities, while acknowledging a lack of scientific information or data. Several potential impacts were identified, including the noise during pile driving, collisions between construction and maintenance vessels and marine mammals and sea turtles, and the disruptive electromagnetic field generated from the transmission cable that runs from facilities to the shores. However, the PEIS assumed the impacts from these and other activities would be negligible to minor, without providing any scientific support. The most glaring omission was the failure of MMS to consider the cumulative impacts of multiple facilities along the entire coastline, citing a lack of information on where the facilities would be located. The main responsibility of the PEIS should be to look at the "big picture" and assess the cumulative impacts of the entire offshore alternative energy program.

COA urged MMS to substantially improve the Draft PEIS by conducting a thorough scientific review of the potential impacts of alternative energy production facilities on aquatic resources, including the cumulative impacts of multiple facilities, which may have far-reaching effects on migrating marine birds, mammals, and sea turtles. For COA's comments, visit our website.

Draft Pollution Permit for Monmouth County Bayshore Facility

The Monmouth County Bayshore Outfall Authority (MCBOA) combines the treated wastewater or "effluent" from the Union Beach and Middletown Sewage Authorities before discharging it into the Atlantic Ocean near Sandy Hook. The Outfall Authority operates under an ocean discharge permit, which is set to expire. Reviewing the draft permit, COA found that although improvements have been made, there are still substantial issues that must be addressed: capacity and proposed removal of groundwater monitoring requirements, which is of great concern because MCBOA violated pollution limits in its current permit.

C.O.A.S.T.

Michele Plantamura, 732-872-0111, Coast@cleanoceanaction.org

Welcome to the COA Crew, Michele!

COA welcomes **Michele Plantamura** of Bradley Beach, NJ, to our crew to lead our annual summer public awareness campaign, "Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips" or "C.O.A.S.T." Michele will graduate in August from Monmouth University with a B.A. in Communications Public Relations/Journalism. Michele is spearheading the C.O.A.S.T. campaign, educating volunteers who will inform and motivate fellow shore residents and visitors to be the solution to ocean pollution.

"Being involved and caring for our beaches and ocean is more of a lifestyle for me, than a task," says Michele.



Welcome aboard, Michele!

Pizza Parties With a Purpose: The "C.O.A.S.T."

New and seasoned volunteers interested in the C.O.A.S.T. campaign are strongly urged to attend these "parties with a purpose."

June 12 - Jenkinson's Aquarium, Point Pleasant Beach, 7pm

June 13 - Public Library, Sea Bright, 7pm

It's Time to "C.O.A.S.T." into Summer

Summer is a few weeks away and has already bestowed us with its glorious sunshine and given us the opportunity to get reacquainted with our beautiful beaches! It is also that time of year again that COA calls upon its valued volunteers, new and seasoned, to launch the annual C.O.A.S.T. Campaign. C.O.A.S.T. is geared toward educating the public on simple ways to keep the ocean clean and to stay aware of current issues affecting our ocean so we can continue to safely participate in fun summer activities.

We are seeking volunteers of all ages to spend a few hours on Saturdays and/or Sundays in July or early August at beach sites in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Volunteers will educate beach-goers, sell T-shirts, and gather support for solutions to ocean pollution. Some training is required (see information above); volunteers 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult. For more information on C.O.A.S.T., to sign up to volunteer, or to RSVP for the parties, contact Michele.

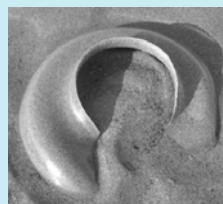
COASTAL CREATURE FEATURE



Mantis Shrimp, *Squilla empusa*

April's Creature Feature was the **Mantis Shrimp**. Although it is neither a shrimp nor a praying mantis, the Mantis Shrimp has taken the best features of both of these creatures to create one "super-predator" that can swim quickly through the water with its shrimp-like segmented body and paddle-shaped legs, while it efficiently slashes at prey using its praying mantis-like folding front legs. Fishermen call them "shrimp snappers" because their strong jack-knife claws can cut right through your hand with one quick slash. Found everywhere from the shallow bay to the deep ocean, these stomatopods hunt for crab, fish, shrimp and even each other! Congratulations to **Joe Nardone** of Monmouth Beach for being chosen among the correct entries for the Mantis Shrimp.

June Creature: Hey look! It's an ancient bowl that washed-up from a shipwreck...or is it? These mud collars are actually a mass of eggs that are pressed together with sand particles and mucus. What very common sea creature forms these structures? Hint: it is fun to look for them by the light of the "moon". **To enter for a chance to win a COA T-shirt**, send your guess for the June Creature by mail, fax, or e-mail (PO Box 505, Sandy Hook, NJ 07732; FAX 732-872-8041; Education@CleanOceanAction.org).



June Creature

(Coastal Creature Feature appears every other month in the Clean Ocean Advocate.)

EVENTS

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

Shop for the Sea at Blue Tulip

Need a gift for Father's Day, graduation, bridal or baby shower, birthday, or other occasions? On June 7th, from 3-7pm, stop-in at the **Blue Tulip** store in Middletown, NJ (459 Route 35, next to Whole Foods) and mention you're shopping to benefit Clean Ocean Action, and 15% of the proceeds from your purchase will be donated to COA. This seaworthy event will feature "Cool Blue" refreshments by The Margarita Man of Monmouth County and COA's upcoming summer C.O.A.S.T. Campaign.

Blue Tulip is a one-of-a-kind, unique store built around the importance of celebrating family, friends, and the occasions that bring us together. Beautiful cards, handmade paper, custom invitations, and unique gifts are just some of the goodies you'll find at the store. For more information, visit www.bluetulip.com.



Cruisin' Toward Summer

Ted Shred's 1st Annual Beach Cruiser Bike Bash/5K Race on May 12 was a great time for everyone and a successful day of outreach and fundraising for the ocean! Proceeds were donated to COA.

The race was an enjoyable ride through Sandy Hook toward Fort Hancock with over 100 people racing. The event concluded with prizes for being fast and for having the "Coolest Cruiser", as well as Surf Taco cuisine and surf rock music by the Jettyrats. Jetty Apparel was on hand with half of the proceeds of all sales going to COA.

Thanks to Ed Hennessey of Ted Shred's Surf Wax Candle Co. Ltd. for his initiative and creativity.



Emily and dad Chick Cunningham cruise for the ocean!

(Right) Ed Hennessey, Ted Shred's Owner, Jamian Laviola, and Cindy Zipf celebrate at the finish line at Sandy Hook



Hang Ten with Photographer Ross Whitaker

During COA's Beach Party in May (see also newsletter insert), nationally acclaimed professional commercial photographer, **Ross Whitaker**, made an exciting announcement. Ross will donate all of the proceeds from the sale of his "Summer Shots" photography series to COA. Eleven museum-quality prints are currently displayed in the lobby of Ship Ahoy Beach Club in Sea Bright, NJ. Proceeds from each print sold will benefit Clean Ocean Action. Members of the public are welcome to view the prints displayed at the club. Also, Ross has donated a beautiful orchid print, which is available for bidding. For more information, call Jennifer Smiga.