



March 2006 Highlights

- PCBs, Fish, and Human Health
- An Addiction to Oil...Drilling
- "Guardians of Our Ocean"

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



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):

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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.

March 2006

- March 24-26, Friday-Sunday**
- **Paddlesport 2006**, canoe & kayak show hosted by Jersey Paddler, Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, Noon-9PM, 9AM-6PM, and 9AM-4:30PM, respectively. Call Kari to volunteer at COA's booth.
 - **Wildwood Boat Show**, Convention Center. For times and to volunteer for COA, call Tony at 609-729-9262.

SAVE THE DATE!

- April 1, Saturday**
- **12th Annual John Murphy & Bob Hunter Memorial Flounder Tournament**, 9AM Blessing of the Waters, 3-5PM Weigh-in, Bahrs Landing, Highlands. Go to COA's website to register for door prize.
 - **FREE Environmental Education Forum**, Richard Stockton College, COA will present two workshops. For times & more information, call Amber Hoover at 609-748-6097.
- April 2, Sunday**
- **Book Signing for 50 Ways to Save the Ocean** with author **David Helvarg**, co-hosted by COA and American Littoral Society, 5-7PM, Monmouth Beach Cultural Center.

COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS
 Featuring... *Natural Resources Protective Association*

Polluters beware: the **Natural Resources Protective Association** (NRPA) is on the lookout. The NRPA is a consortium of conservation groups, yacht clubs, sportsmen clubs, environmental groups, and concerned citizens. Established in 1977 by the late legendary bayman Lou Figurelli, NRPA's 350 members are dedicated to the protection of the marine environment of Raritan Bay, Lower New York Harbor, and the NY/NJ Bight.

Over the years, and still today, NRPA has fought numerous attempts by the US Army Corps of Engineers to fill burrow pits in Lower Bay with toxic dredged material, despite NRPA's evidence of thousands of fish in the pits. Also, NRPA works to establish public access to the shores, and takes actions to stop pollution in the region.

As most of us know, coastal waters are awash in land-based pollution. The NRPA fights improper and over-development on Staten Island and the impacts on water quality, such as increased stormwater runoff. Recently, NRPA helped establish "blue belts" in Staten Island, which are wetland corridors that more naturally manage stormwater runoff.

NRPA carries on their tradition of working with groups and continues their affiliation with dozens of organizations in the region, including Clean Ocean Action (COA). NRPA supports the Clean Ocean Zone (COZ) and is working to finalize the legislation.

"Our main focus is to fight pollution, be it through the media, events, telephone calls, and letter-writing," said **Jim Scarcella**, NRPA President. "The NRPA is proud to partner with organizations like COA to protect our marine environment. All of us have a tremendous stake in the protection of one of the Earth's best resources."

NRPA is a non-profit organization operated by volunteers. For more information about NRPA, visit www.nrpa.com or call (718) 987-6037.

PCBs, FISH, AND HUMAN HEALTH

Updates & Proposals Show Need to Track-Down and Stop Sources of PCB Pollution in Marine Environment

Updated NJ Fish Consumption Advisories

At press time, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is scheduled to release their 2006 Fish Consumption Advisories. Recently, Clean Ocean Action (COA) attended a meeting with NJDEP officials who presented the new anticipated advisories. In these advisories, NJDEP prompts the public to weigh the risks versus benefits of eating recreational fish, which is a choice between the proven health benefits of eating fish and the risk of exposure to chemicals in fish, such as PCBs (polychlorinated bi-phenyls) and Mercury. COA asked NJDEP to provide the technical data used to develop the advisories. It is important to note that these advisories are specific to certain regions and types of fish caught recreationally in New Jersey, and does not pertain to fish sold in fish markets and grocery stores.

For a list of last year's NJDEP fish advisories, call 609-984-6071, or visit <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dsr/njmainfish.htm>. The 2006 advisories will also be posted on NJDEP's website following their official release. New York also has fish consumption advisories; for a list, call 1-800-458-1158, or visit <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/fish/fish.htm>.

Proposed Rules for Monitoring PCBs

The NJDEP proposed new rules for the discharge of PCBs to NJ's surface waters from industrial and sewage treatment facilities. The new rule would require "major facilities" to monitor their effluent for PCBs using a more sensitive analytical method. Based on monitoring results, NJDEP will determine whether the facility will be required to develop and implement a PCB Pollutant Minimization Plan (PMP). According to NJDEP, the new rule will focus on prevention instead of end-of-pipe monitoring. COA is pleased with the increased monitoring, but has serious concerns about the ability of the new rules to actually reduce PCBs entering NJ's waterways. In order to adequately eliminate and reduce PCBs, the PMP must be in addition to, not instead of, PCB limits on all effluent discharges. The new rule also lacks enforceable policies, public participation, and clear criteria on when and how the PMP would be implemented. COA submitted formal comments on the proposed rule that are available on our website.

GE Spent Millions to Avoid Cleanup of Hudson River PCBs

General Electric (GE) spent more than \$65 million on lobbying, public relations, and legal advice while negotiating whether to dredge PCBs from the upper Hudson River. Last year, 27 percent of GE's stockholders supported a resolution to force the company to detail its costs to oppose the estimated \$500-700 million cleanup of the Hudson. GE reportedly spent \$313.6 million on issues related to the cleanup from 1990-2005. GE legally dumped PCBs into the Hudson between the 1940s and 1970s, until the federal government banned their use due to adverse health impacts on fish and human health. Fifty percent of the PCBs in Lower New York Harbor are from GE's upriver plants. The company is due to start the first phase of the dredging project in spring 2007. *Adapted from The Journal News, January 11, 2006*

What are PCBs?

PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are mixtures of persistent synthetic organic chemicals that are products of industrial processes. PCBs pose health risks to animals and humans.

Why are PCBs in fish?

Chemicals from industrial pipes and other sources dumped into waterways settle in sediments and attach to fatty tissues in marine life. PCBs travel up the food chain and are found in fish that humans consume.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

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

Update on Oyster Creek Nuclear Station's Final Discharge Permit

At press time, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is still reviewing public comments submitted in November for the draft discharge permit for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station in Lacey Township. According to NJDEP, the staff must brief new NJDEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson on the issues regarding the plant's discharge and the public comments.

Following these tasks, NJDEP will issue the final discharge permit (called a NJ Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit). There is no estimated date of the final permit's issuance, but this permit is already 10 years behind schedule. For COA's comments on the draft discharge permit, outlining serious marine water quality concerns and impacts on marine life in Barnegat Bay, visit our website (follow links for "Issues/Campaigns" and "Oyster Creek").

Citizens Can Help the Monmouth County Bayshore Region

The Bayshore Regional Watershed Council is in the preliminary stages of developing a regional dredged material management plan for the Bayshore in Monmouth County, NJ. As part of this process, COA will work with citizens and businesses to assess the amount of material that needs to be dredged in the region for maintenance purposes, as well as where and how that material could be beneficially reused. COA has developed two surveys to gather the necessary information for the groundwork for a sound regional plan: one for dredging needs and the second for beneficial reuse projects.

Local residents can help gather this information by obtaining copies of the two surveys. Citizens are asked to visit marinas and related businesses in the region that either dredge for maintenance and operations, or that could beneficially reuse dredged material (e.g., beach replenishment, dune stabilization, landfill capping, fill or construction material, among others). To find out more about gathering this information or for copies of surveys, please call COA's Kari Jermansen or Nicole Simmons at 732-872-0111.

Citizen Action Leads to Shut Down of Manasquan River Dredging and ACOE Project in Area Questioned

Thanks to the watchful eye of concerned citizens, NJDEP took enforcement action against a marina owner that continued maintenance dredging operations in a Manasquan River marina well beyond the deadline put in place to protect spawning winter flounder. The marina was granted a one-time extension, allowing them to continue dredging until January 13th. When operations were still not complete, the marina continued to dredge until citizen complaints led NJDEP to shut them down on January 25th.

Meanwhile, just a few thousand feet away from the marina, the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) was conducting a maintenance dredging operation through January 14th in the channel near the Manasquan Inlet. Authorization for this federal navigation project was issued in 1983, prior to New Jersey's adoption of the January 1-May 31 winter flounder dredging restriction. It seems that federal navigation projects do not require state permits, thus exempting them from the timing restrictions to protect winter flounder in this case.

Clean Ocean Action spoke with the project manager for ACOE. He was recently made aware of the conflict, and plans are being made to coordinate future dredging operations with NJDEP and the federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to ensure state and federal restrictions are considered in dredging projects.



**APRIL 29, 2006,
9AM-12:30PM**

Join Clean Ocean Action and hundreds of friends of the ocean at 50 beach cleanup sites at the Jersey Shore.

For sites and meeting locations visit www.cleoceanaction.org or call the nearest COA office.

CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

An Addiction to Oil...Drilling

The US Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) released for public comment a draft "Five-Year OCS Leasing Program" to lease offshore areas for oil and gas drilling activities on the nation's Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The draft proposal for 2007-2012 includes opening the waters off Virginia and other offshore areas currently protected to drilling.

Since 1982, US Presidents and Congress have supported a moratorium on exploration and drilling in sensitive areas. All but one US Representative from New Jersey, Rep. Scott Garrett (R-5), have consistently voted against offshore oil and gas drilling. Recently, Senators Robert Menendez and Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) introduced a bill to block drilling off the mid and North Atlantic coasts. Representatives Frank LoBiondo (R-2), Jim Saxton (R-3), and Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-6) have introduced and supported similar bills in Congress.

COA urges organizations and citizens to submit comments to MMS and object to the opening of offshore areas to oil and gas drilling. If approved, this 5-year plan will unravel the protections that have been in place in these areas for over two decades. In addition, drilling off Virginia less than 100 miles from the Jersey Shore, threatens marine resources and the \$22 billion tourism industry in New Jersey.

The draft MMS document is posted at www.mms.gov. Comments are due by **April 11** and can be submitted online or to: Renee Orr, 5-Years Program Manager, Minerals Management Service (MS-4010), Room 3120, 381 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 20170.

Cheers to Volunteers!



Volunteers join together for a clean ocean

Over one hundred ocean advocates who volunteered significant time and effort for a cleaner ocean in the past year were recognized at a celebration on January 29, at the Lobster Shanty in Pt. Pleasant Beach. At the reception, COA recognized volunteers' contributions to the Beach Sweeps, Student Summits, COAST/Outreach programs, and events and fundraisers.

US Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-6) presented a Congressional "Extension of Remarks," which was read aloud in US Congress (posted on COA's website). The remarks recognize the hard work of COA's volunteers in

improving and protecting the ocean. A special salute to former NJDEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell prompted laughter and appreciation. The salute was given by COA, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, NY/NJ Baykeeper, Lacey-Rail Trail Environmental Committee, and Surfers' Environmental Alliance, as well as Gordon Litwin and Rep. Pallone.

COA thanks **Verizon**, who is also a supporter of our Beach Sweeps program, for generously underwriting the cost of the reception, and **McCann Systems** of Edison for providing audio and visual equipment for the presentation.

Most of all, thanks to all our volunteers! For more photos, visit COA's website and follow the links on the homepage.

A Cause for Celebration!

At the Benefactors Reception at the Ocean Place Resort, Long Branch, patrons were briefed about COA's programs. On this special evening, Doug Douty and his family of The Lusty Lobster, Highlands, were recognized for their stalwart commitment to protecting our waters. To everyone's delight, the Douty Family has also donated delicious sea delicacies to COA's events for nearly twenty years, and Doug donates his time to various events. Waves of thanks to this remarkable family!

(Pictured L to R) Scott Thompson, Doug Douty, Chick Cunningham, and Todd Thompson celebrate together



OUTREACH

Kari Jermansen, 732-872-0111, Outreach@cleoceanaction.org

Paddle or Ride Your Way to Volunteering

Volunteer at COA's booth at these exciting events to speak to people about ocean pollution issues and sell T-shirts:

Jersey Paddler's Paddlesport 2006, March 24-26, Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset, NJ, 12-9pm, 9am-6pm, and 9am-4:30pm, respectively. Call Kari to sign up.

Wildwood Boat Show, March 24-26, Wildwood Convention Center. To volunteer, contact Tony at 609-729-9262.



EVENTS

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

"Guardians of Our Ocean" Monthly Patron Program

Many COA supporters have requested we offer a monthly donation program. Thanks to these recommendations, COA has launched the *Guardians of Our Ocean* Monthly Patron Program. The *Guardians* program now offers COA's seaworthy friends a more convenient way to make automatic monthly donations to sustain our programming and effectively safeguard the ocean throughout the year.

Members of our monthly donor program receive an annual:

- ✓ subscription to our monthly newsletter the *Clean Ocean Advocate*,
- ✓ subscription to *The Wave*, COA's email action alert list that sends updates on serious threats to the ocean as they occur.
- ✓ letter from Cindy Zipf, COA's Executive Director, with updates on important issues affecting the ocean.

If you are interested in participating in the *Guardians* program, please call Jennifer to request a Monthly Donor Enrollment Form.

Brahma Yoga & Spa: "Yoga Day USA 2006" for a Clean Ocean

On January 28, participants in Brahma Yoga & Spa's "Yoga Day USA" celebration in Sea Bright, NJ, raised nearly \$1,500 to support a healthy ocean.

"To mobilize the efforts of the community in the name of such a worthy cause is quite gratifying, we extend our warmest thanks to COA and all who contributed to the day's success. We hope to make it an annual event," said Murray Dow, owner, Brahma Yoga & Spa.

Waves of thanks to Lisa Aquino, Murray Dow, Helen Aquino, and the staff and instructors of Brahma Yoga & Spa, for donating their time and incredible energy to raise awareness of COA's important work. Additional thanks to over 100 people who participated in the day's classes and evening festivities.

Clean Ocean Action thanks all who so generously donated their time and/or goods and services, including: Whole Foods Market of Middletown, Rumson BuyRite, Best of Nature of Red Bank, Sculpt Fitness of Atlantic Highlands, Yumi Sushi of Sea Bright, Windansea of Highlands, Elite Designs of Sea Bright, Chudzikhov Designs of Middletown, and musicians JoAnn and Jeffrey Hoffman of Neptune.

Yoga Day USA shirts, beautifully designed by Chudzikhov Designs (see photo), may be purchased at Brahma Yoga & Spa, 1050 Ocean Avenue, Sea Bright, (732) 224-9004. Proceeds from shirt sales will be donated to COA.



Brahma's Murray Dow and COA's Cindy Zipf celebrate yoga and a clean ocean