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- Feds Uphold NJ's Right to Vote: "Insanity Island" Leaders Sue
- Barnegat Bay Needs Your Help
- Help COA "Connect the Drops": Aveda Earth Month Campaign

FEDS UPHOLD NJ'S RIGHT TO VOTE "Insanity Island" Leaders Sue

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The US Maritime Administration (MARAD) again upheld New Jersey's right as an "adjacent coastal state" to officially review the proposal to build a massive island off Sea Bright, NJ. However, in response the applicant Atlantic Sea Island Group (ASIG) filed a lawsuit to strip NJ of this essential voice.

Despite ASIG's resistance, MARAD has not once, but twice, granted New Jersey "adjacent coastal state" status, which, among other rights, gives NJ Governor Corzine veto power over the project. In November 2007, ASIG appealed MARAD's initial decision and federal agencies agreed, as a courtesy, to review the decision.

On February 8, 2008, MARAD Administrator Sean Connaughton upheld his previous decision. Connaughton, in discussing the location of the island (19 miles off NJ and 13.5 miles off NY), stated that since "the currents there run toward NJ, the risk from such a fire or explosion is at least as great to NJ's coastal environment as to NY's." He also found that an "LNG-fueled explosion or fire...may have significant impact[s] on the marine environment."

"Despite desperate ASIG's efforts, 'Insanity Island' must face the people of New Jersey," said **Cindy Zipf**, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action (COA). "We look forward to exposing this proposal for its lunacy, threat to the environment, acceleration of climate change, and risks to port commerce."

Now, ASIG filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking "an Order permanently enjoining the Administrator of [MARAD] and the Secretary of Transportation from designating or treating NJ as an additional 'adjacent coastal state.'"

"If ASIG thinks this is such a great proposal, why are they so fearful of NJ's evaluation and scrutiny? Their incessant efforts to silence the state suggests they have something to hide," said **David Byer**, COA Water Policy Attorney.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN!

Attention Organizations & Municipalities: Join the campaign opposing LNG facilities in the ocean. Sign & send COA a "Statement of Opposition" (see www.cleoceanaction.org, follow links for "Action Alerts," and "Oppose Offshore LNG Projects"), or pass a municipal resolution.

GARBAGE WASH-UPS REVISITED

On February 6th, Lisa Jackson, Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), convened a meeting of the partners of the NY/NJ Harbor Floatables Action Plan at COA's request to discuss the success and needs of the program. Over 45 representatives from federal, state, and local government agencies attended the meeting at Liberty State Park. The meeting was prompted by the extensive garbage wash-ups, including medical-type waste, in Normandy Beach, NJ, on Labor Day weekend 2007. Topics discussed at the meeting included interception of debris (e.g., floatables control and removal programs), surveillance (e.g., aircraft monitoring), notification of garbage slicks and incidents, and response (e.g., investigation and enforcement).



Garbage closed Normandy Beach on Labor Day Weekend 2007

(see "Garbage Wash-ups, page 2)

Our COAlition

Featuring...

Sisters of Charity, Maris Stella

As ocean advocates, we know the ocean is extraordinary. Our newest Participating Organization, the **Sisters of Charity, Maris Stella**, provides opportunity to explore the power of the ocean, naturally and spiritually. "Maris Stella" means "star of the sea."

The Maris Stella Retreat & Conference Center is one of the ministries of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. The center is located on ten acres of land, sandwiched between Barnegat Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, in Harvey Cedars, Long Beach Island, NJ. It provides a ministry of hospitality, offering space and encouragement to individuals and groups seeking physical, psychological, and spiritual enrichment.

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, NJ, purchased the property in 1959 to provide a place for retreats and vacations for the community members. Maris Stella offers an atmosphere of prayer and quiet, and opportunities to enjoy the beauty and serenity of a seaside location.

The sisters and visitors of Maris Stella focus on spiritual reflection and renewal through retreats and prayer. They are committed to promoting reverence for the earth, and are planning programs addressing global warming and pollution. As a new coalition member, Maris Stella supports the proposed Clean Ocean Zone (COZ) and is part of the campaign opposing offshore LNG proposals (see article).

"We look forward to our collaboration with COA, which will provide a wealth of resources for educational programs, as well as opportunities to join advocacy efforts on environmental issues," said **Sister Thomas Mary Salerno, Maris Stella Administrator**.

For information, call 609-361-8863, email stmsalerno@aol.com, or go to <http://www.scnj.org/maristella.html>.

Portions adapted from Maris Stella website

Eco-Tip of the Month
Green Spring Cleaning: Chlorine-based chemicals account for 80% of the Earth's ozone depletion. Help the environment while cleaning by not using household bleach, scouring powder, pest controls, and house and garden insecticides, all of which can contain chlorine-based chemicals.
Green alternative: use hydrogen peroxide, which breaks down into water and oxygen.
Adapted from "Our Environment,"
by Ingrid Justick, Vols. 13, No. 5 & 11, No. 8.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MARCH

March 28, Friday

- **PaddleSport 2008 Reel Paddling Film Fest**, Garden State Exhibit & Convention Center, Somerset, 7-9pm, \$5 donation per screening benefits COA.
To volunteer, call COA.

SAVE THE DATE

April 5, Saturday

- **14th Annual COA Flounder Tournament**, Free! See inside for details.

April 12, Saturday

- **Earth Share Celebrates NJ Wine Tasting & Art Exhibit**, Dancer Inn, New Egypt, 5-8pm. Call 609-989-1160 for tickets (\$40, \$45 at door).

April 26, Saturday

- **COA Spring Beach Sweeps**, statewide, 9am-12:30pm, rain or shine. For sites, visit COA's website.

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, 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.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY

Barnegat Bay Needs Your Help



For his entire term in office, NJ Governor Jon Corzine has allowed the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) in Forked River, NJ, to operate with an expired Clean Water Act permit. Each day that OCNGS operates without the required cooling towers, **1.4 billion gallons** of Barnegat Bay water gets sucked into and passes through its antiquated cooling system.

This is **2.3%** of the total volume of Barnegat Bay per day and over **800% per year**. The nuclear plant is literally straining the life from the Bay.

The negative effects of this obsolete (1969) technology are documented:

- Massive destruction of shellfish larvae, fish eggs, and plankton
- Thermal pollution
- Killing of endangered sea turtles
- Large fish kills
- Biocides released in the Bay.

The nuclear plant is straining the life from Barnegat Bay.

A "closed loop" system of cooling towers, which is available technology, would reduce the amount of cooling water required by 95%.

Take action! Contact Governor Corzine and urge him to enforce the Clean Water Act by requiring cooling towers at Oyster Creek. Write, call, or email: Governor Corzine, PO Box 001, Trenton, NJ 08625, 609-292-6000, <http://www.nj.gov/governor/govmail.html> (select "Natural Recourses, then "Clean Water"). For more information, go to www.savebarnegatbay.org.

Ocean Dischargers to Begin Monitoring for PCBs

COA submitted comments for two wastewater treatments plants that discharge into the ocean - South Monmouth Regional Sewage Treatment Plant and Ocean Township Sewerage Authority. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) included two new conditions in the proposed permit that require both facilities to monitor for PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) in their effluent.

These new monitoring requirements are for all wastewater treatment plants which discharge into waterways that are listed as impaired for PCBs and DO, including the Atlantic Ocean from Sandy Hook to Manasquan. The addition of a DO requirement is long overdue and critical in determining a treatment plant's role in the extensive area of dangerously low DO that forms off the New Jersey coast every summer and fall.

Although COA supports the addition of effluent monitoring for PCBs, we are disappointed by NJDEP's decision to forgo numerical limits on PCBs in favor of only requiring the treatment plant to develop a PCB Pollution Minimization Plan, which has serious flaws with both implementation and enforcement. For more information, call COA or e-mail Dr. Jennifer Samson at Science@CleanOceanAction.org.

Garbage Wash-ups (continued from page 1)

Staff members of COA, many of whom were on the scene of the multiple garbage wash-ups in 2007, attended to support the FAP program.

It was generally agreed by meeting attendees that while the FAP is an outstanding program and a model for the nation, there are opportunities for improvement by all partners. Follow-up from the meeting will include: a meeting among technical staff of FAP partner agencies, a commitment by NJDEP to review protocol for environmental incidents reported to the state's 24-hour hotline, and the development of a common set definitions for debris.

On a related note and following this FAP meeting, COA wrote a letter of support for the US Army Corps of Engineers' NJ/NY Drift Removal Project, the backbone of the FAP program. COA urged federal officials to strongly support funding of the project in the 2008 federal budget. While a strong program, upgrades and restoration of key activities are needed for the Drift Removal Project.

CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

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

Questionable Material for Ocean

The US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) proposes to perform maintenance dredging on the Ward Point Bend and Seguine Point portion of NY/NJ Harbor, southwest of Staten Island. The material is proposed for placement offshore at the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS). The material has high levels of contaminants, including PAHs, PCBs, and Dioxins. In fact, the material from Seguine Point was only 0.84 parts per billion (ppb) below the 113 ppb limit for PCB bioaccumulation in worms.

This is not the first time such material has been used at HARS. The Clean Ocean Zone, once passed, would improve the quality of cap material at HARS. For a copy of COA's comments, contact the office.

Looking for something fun to do this spring? Want to make a difference? Volunteer for Clean Ocean Action!

March 28-30: Paddlesport, Garden State Exhibition Center, Somerset, NJ, Friday 12-9pm, Saturday 9am-6pm, & Sunday 10am-4:30pm

April 3-6: Garden State Film Festival, Paramount Theater, Asbury Park, call COA for times

April 19: Manasquan Reservoir Earth Day, Howell, 12-5pm
- **Cape May County Earth Day**, County Park & Zoo, 10am-4pm

April 27: Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) 18th Annual Earth Day Festival, Haneman Environmental Park, Egg Harbor Township, 10am-4pm

Volunteers of all ages welcome. To volunteer, call Anna or Emily at 732-872-0111.

SEA SCENES: Belle of the Beach Ball, Louise Hall



The Hall Family

volunteer at Beach Sweeps, and labeled hundreds of storm drains in Rumson with anti-pollution messages. Louise recalls days when she would not let her children play in the ocean because of what was floating in it, and was drawn to volunteer with COA.

"As people are now becoming more aware of environmental issues, it is important for them to know that everyone can participate in some way to make this planet healthier and a better place to live for future generations. Since the ocean covers most of this planet, its state of being should be of prime concern to us all. Everyone can make a difference in some way," said **Louise Hall**.

Louise began volunteering with COA on the Spring Brunch committee and chaired the event for several years. She now chairs COA's Beach Ball, which thanks to her leadership, welcomes over 250 families to the beach each May to kick-off the summer.

"The energy, enthusiasm, and dedication of Louise Hall is an inspiration and her leadership is remarkable. Louise has steered extraordinarily successful committees over the years and today, the Beach Ball has become the premiere environmentally-friendly event at the shore," said COA's Cindy Zipf. "Louise has already made a profound and lasting improvement in our world. We can only imagine and look forward to what she will do next."

Have a blast and celebrate summer at COA's Family Beach Ball for the Ocean, May 18, 3-7pm, Sea Bright. For details and tickets, visit COA's website.

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Anna Will, 732-872-0111, Education@cleanoceanaction.org
Helen Edwards, 732-272-2197, SJPrograms@cleanoceanaction.org

NJ Revisits Stormwater Regulations

On February 15th, NJDEP held a public meeting to gather input on the state's Stormwater Management Rules (N.J.A.C. 7.8). The rules will expire in February 2009, and NJDEP is seeking recommendations for changes to the current rules before re-adoption. Many organizations, including COA, attended the meeting to share many concerns with the current rules. One of the primary concerns raised by the attendees, including developers and engineering firms, environmental organizations, and concerned citizens, was the current rules do not encourage or incentivize redevelopment projects or "green development" projects. In addition, many groups expressed concern that the current rules manage stormwater at the municipal level, leaving little possibility for regional watershed stormwater management. For more information, visit www.NJStormwater.org.

NYC Adopts New Measure to Manage Stormwater Runoff

The New York City (NYC) Council passed legislation to reduce stormwater runoff by implementing "green infrastructure" elements in the city's streets, parks, public spaces, and development projects. Green infrastructure, including green roofs, permeable pavement, wetland restoration, and redesigned street tree plantings, can help absorb and filter rainwater, instead of directing it into the city's sewers and causing combined sewer overflow (CSO) events. Currently, more than 27 billion gallons of raw sewage and polluted stormwater runoff are dumped into waterways from NYC's 460 CSO outfalls each year from precipitation.

The legislation, City Council Intro No. 630, ensures that NYC will follow through with the initiatives outlined in Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC 2030, by requiring the development of a Sustainable Stormwater Management Plan. The Mayor is expected to sign it into law. In November, COA and other national and local organizations, testified before the NYC Council Committee on Environmental Protection in support of the legislation. Implementing green infrastructure initiatives is an active step toward managing this source of pollution to our waterways.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Whole Foods Bans Plastic Bag

In January, Whole Foods Market announced it will end the use of disposable plastic grocery bags at the checkouts in all of its 270 stores with the goal to be plastic bag-free by Earth Day 2008. It is the first US supermarket to commit to completely eliminating disposable plastic grocery bags. Whole Foods and many other markets provide reusable bag options, and may reimburse you for bringing your own bag. Whole Foods sells "A Better Bag" – which 80 percent of its content comes from recycled plastic bottles – for only 99 cents. Also, Whole Foods will continue to offer 100 percent recycled paper grocery bags when needed.

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, Americans use **50 billion to 80 billion** plastic bags a year. Plastic bags remain in landfills for 1,000 years, and are one of the top items found at beach cleanups around the world, including at COA's Beach Sweeps. Often, marine life mistake bags for food and ingest or get entangled in the plastic, with lethal results.

Send Whole Foods Market an email of appreciation for their eco-action at customer.questions@wholefoods.com.

