



Printed on 100% post-consumer, acid-free, and chlorine-free paper with soy ink.

- Federal Plan Pursues Ocean Drilling in Atlantic
- A Sweeping Success: Highlights from COA Spring Beach Sweeps
- Family Beach Party for the Ocean - Reserve Now!

May 2007 Highlights

*****Eco-Tip of the Month*****
Grow Organic: In your garden, do not use toxic chemicals or fertilizers. These chemicals wash away with rains and pollute ground water and local streams, rivers, bays, and the ocean. Plant with heirloom seeds, plant native plants, increase biodiversity, and attract butterflies to your garden.
Adapted from "Our Environment," Vol. 12, No. 3, by Ingrid Justick

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



✂ 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.

MAY 2007

May 6, Sunday

- **Hooked on Hudson**, Palisades Interstate Park, Ross Dock, 8am-2pm. Hosted by Hudson River Fishermen's Association. Fishing contest, shad bake, exhibits. For information, visit www.hrfa.org.

May 12, Saturday

- **Ted Shred's 1st Annual Beach Cruiser Bike Bash/5K Race**, Sandy Hook Lot E, 10am. For more information call COA.

May 20, Sunday

- **Family Beach Party for the Ocean**, Ship Ahoy Beach Club, 800 Ocean Avenue, Sea Bright, NJ, 3-7pm. See inside for details.

For volunteer opportunities, see "Outreach" inside.

SAVE THE DATE

June 7, Thursday

- **Blue Tulip In-Store Sea-Worthy Shopping Event**, Chapel Hill Shopping Center, 459 Route 35, Middletown, 3-7pm. Refreshments by The Margarita Man of Monmouth County.

Our COALition

Featuring...
Rotary District 7510 - InterAct

Rotary International is a worldwide organization that supports service projects. Rotary's motto is: "Service above self, he or she who serves most, serves best." Rotarians work together on various projects and fundraisers. Rotary is currently involved in an International Clean Water project which provides filters to families for clean drinking water in underdeveloped countries.

Also, Rotary Clubs proudly sponsor youth service groups, including InterAct clubs, which are groups of high school students who gather and perform service projects. InterAct is derived from the words "International" and "Action."

Rotary District 7510 has 40 active InterAct Clubs, located in towns throughout central NJ, from Elizabeth to Trenton.

Recently, 300 InterActors were among the 700+ volunteers at COA's Spring Beach Sweeps at Sandy Hook (see story inside). The Elizabeth H.S. InterAct Service Club alone provided 120 students to help clean the beach.

This was the club's 10th year of Beach Sweeps participation. As part of the day's event, InterAct provides lunch to all volunteers, including hot dogs, veggie burgers, chips, and other refreshments.

Joe Tarallo, the Youth Service Director, and **Gerry Harris**, InterAct Chairman, and his wife **Louise Harris** work the grill and "serve-up" a great lunch.

"We enjoy the Beach Sweeps. It's a great program and fabulous tool to make sure our beaches are clean and safe," said **Gerry Harris** (pictured right).

For information about the group, visit www.rotary7510interact.com.



Gerry serves Beach Sweeps volunteers with a smile.

FEDERAL PLAN PURSUES OCEAN DRILLING IN ATLANTIC

On April 30, US Department of Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne announced plans to open Virginia's coast to gas exploration activities. The announcement outlines the federal Minerals Management Service's (MMS) Five Year Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The plan includes this area in violation of law and despite explicit objections from the US Department of Defense (DoD).

"This is an outrage," said **Cindy Zopf**, COA's Executive Director. "The Virginia drilling zone is less than 100 miles from the shores of NJ, Maryland, and Delaware, threatening our coastal economies. We vow to fight this."

The MMS final plan for 2007-2012 includes the Mid Atlantic Planning Area for exploration, including environmental and geological seismic studies.

Plan Violates Long-standing Laws and Other Protections

The waters of the Mid-Atlantic coast have been proactively defended and protected with bi-partisan efforts for over 25 years. Actions include an annual congressional prohibition on new offshore oil and gas leasing in the Mid-Atlantic and by a separate Executive Order, put in place in 1990 by former President George W. Bush, Sr., and subsequently extended by President Clinton to the year 2012.

In the Way of Bombs

In an April 2006 letter to MMS, Donald Schregardus, DoD Executive Agent on Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Matters, explained that the entire Mid-Atlantic Planning Area lies within the US Navy's Virginia Capes Operations Area ("VACAPES") where extensive military exercises are conducted.

The DoD letter concludes, "Because hazards in this area to operating crews and oil company equipment and structures would be so great, the Department opposes oil and gas development activity in this OCS planning location."

"The extent to which this administration will go to find and burn fossil fuels is appalling," said Zopf. "MMS routinely ignores citizens but it boggles the mind that MMS would thumb their nose at the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines, as well as the President and Congress."

What Next?

US Congress will review the plan, but only the President can demand changes. Legal changes are also being reviewed.



The dark shaded area represents the area off Virginia included in MMS plan for oil and gas drilling activities. This same area is also the location of many DoD military exercises. (Adapted from MMS 5-Year OCS Program)

CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

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

Dirty Mud for the Ocean Prompts Revival of Workgroup Meetings

COA submitted comments (see website) to the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) on a permit application for the placement of 365,000 cubic yards (CY) of dredged material in the ocean at the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS) from New York City's Passenger Ship Terminal. COA's main concerns are: 1) this material will not reduce impacts at HARS because the mud from the project area contains PAHs, PCBs, pesticides, and heavy metals. The PCB levels in the mud were as high as those in the toxic stain area; 2) the placement of this material on top of areas already capped with clean sand would re-contaminate the site; and 3) barge overflow would be allowed.

In a conference call with ACOE, COA was told that after more than five years without a meeting, the Remediation Materials Workgroup (RMW) will reconvene in June. The RMW was developed to provide review and input on the quality of material to be placed at HARS. As a participant in both the science and policy components of RMW, COA has repeatedly requested updates and meetings. The ACOE also agreed to provide tracking data to show the project mud was not placed on top of clean material.

As the 10-year anniversary of closing the last ocean dumpsite and the HARS designation approaches, COA will be issuing a Report Card on the progress of the HARS cleanup.

Global Terminal and Container Services

COA received a Public Notice from ACOE regarding 87,000 CY of glacial till material to be placed at HARS from a dredging operation at the Global Terminal and Container Services in Jersey City. COA will review the data provided by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and ACOE and submit comments, due May 25. For more information on this project, please contact Dr. Samson.

Newark Bay Confined Disposal Facility

COA and NY/NJ Baykeeper are reviewing a request by The Port Authority of NY/NJ to extend the permit for the Newark Bay Confined Disposal Facility (NBCDF) for another five years. The NBCDF is a giant pit in the Newark Bay used to store dredged material from NY/NJ Harbor that cannot go to HARS. The use of the facility was limited when NJDEP enacted a requirement that NBCDF only be used when upland placement sites were not available. Consequently, the Port Authority is asking for the extension to utilize the remaining capacity. Comments are due to NJDEP on May 20.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY

NJDEP Commissioner Supports Cooling Towers for Oyster Creek

At a luncheon last month with the League of Women Voters of Ocean County, Lisa Jackson, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), said that a recent court ruling has left the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant with few if any alternatives to erecting large cooling towers to replace its current water discharge system.

"There isn't much opportunity to get around it," said Lisa Jackson.

The destructive cooling water intake system causes severe adverse effects on the Barnegat Bay marine environment due to impingement, entrainment, thermal discharge, and chlorination. A January decision by the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals requires power plants to adopt the best technology possible to prevent killing marine life while operating their cooling systems.

Jackson said a final draft of the permit would be issued soon. Both EPA and the National Marine Fisheries Service recommended building the towers.

In March, COA, American Littoral Society, and eight other groups submitted extensive scientific, legal, and policy-based comments to NJDEP challenging the claim by AmerGen -- owners of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) -- that operations at the plant are in keeping with NJ's environmental laws (for comments, visit COA's website under "Issues/Campaigns").

Portions adapted from *The Asbury Park Press*, 4/29/07

OUTREACH

Kari Martin, 732-872-0111, Outreach@cleanoceanaction.org

Be an Ocean Advocate!

Spring is a great time to volunteer a few hours to engage others in being the solution to ocean pollution. Volunteers are needed to help at COA's display at these upcoming events:

May 19 & 20 - Ocean Fun Days at Island Beach State Park and Sandy Hook (respectively). Times: 11am-3pm

June 3 - Barnegat Bay Festival, Island Heights. Times: 10am-4pm

June 9 & 10 - NJ Seafood Festival, Belmar. Times: 10am-7pm.

EDUCATION

SOA Wraps-up Inaugural Year

Clean Ocean Action's **Student Ocean Advocates** (SOA) group will close the meeting room doors for this school year this month. Each participating school has had great success with their environmental awareness days. From having student sign eco-pledges, purchase green products, and meet and speak to local environmental professionals, SOA members engaged their peers and the public in efforts to improve the environment. Several SOA students also promoted and helped with the Beach Sweeps in Avon, Atlantic Highlands, Highlands, and Sea Bright as they continued their activism for the ocean.

SOA's last meeting for the inaugural year is May 7. COA thanks and congratulates all SOA students and wishes well to those who graduate this year. We hope these young activists continue on their path of ocean advocacy through their college careers.

High school students and teachers in Monmouth County who are interested in joining SOA for the 2007-2008 school year should contact Emily at 732-872-0111 or programs@CleanOceanAction.org.



SOA members and fellow students welcome guests at "Environmental Night" at the Academy of Allied Health & Science



Kathleen Gasiencia teaches students about the horseshoe crab at RFH's "Enviropalooza"

SEA SCENES: Ship Ahoy Beach Club & The Jackson Family

Ship Ahoy Beach Club in Sea Bright, NJ, is a hub of activity for families at the Jersey Shore. Owners and operators, **Marie and Darrell Jackson** of Atlantic Highlands, NJ, are true supporters of family fun and the environment. Fifteen years ago, the club sold reusable coffee mugs, which are still reused by members today. This summer, the club will sell reusable plastic cups to continue to cut down on waste.



(L to R) Cindy Zipf and Darrell, William, Lucy, James, and Marie Jackson

"The Jackson Family are wonderful supporters of COA's efforts. It's extraordinary that each year they graciously open their club doors to us and host our fun family affair for the ocean. Thanks to their hard work and kindness, hundreds of families have been introduced to COA and are now working with us in the fight to end ocean pollution," said COA's Cindy Zipf.

In addition, each year, Ship Ahoy is a "stop" for the C.O.A.S.T. summer educational campaign. Members also participate in COA's Ocean Golf Classic's Beach Club Challenge.

Thank you, Jackson Family, for being ocean advocates at the Jersey Shore!

EVENTS

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

Cruise into Summer!

Ted Shred's 1st Annual Beach Cruiser Bike Bash

Ted Shred's Surf Wax Candle Co. Ltd. is cruising into summer with a **Beach Cruiser Bike Race** on May 12 at Sandy Hook. Proceeds benefit the work of Clean Ocean Action and Sandy Hook Foundation.



Ted Shred's is a locally-based company that designs and markets candle and air freshener products with a distinct surf wax (coconut) scent. Part of Ted Shred's Mission is to someday be a significant contributor to local and international organizations whose vision is ocean conservation and preservation. Being located in a unique area on the central NJ coast allows Ted Shred's to be involved in local conservation efforts and to contribute its creative talents to organize fun events like the Beach Cruiser Bike Bash.

Pre-payment & pre-registration is required. Please send a \$10 entry fee to Ted Shred's Original Surf Wax Candle Co. Ltd., PO Box 8535, Red Bank, NJ 07701, or sign up securely online by credit card at www.tedshredsonfire.com. Be sure to include the name of each participant with your check or credit card payment. Registrants will be placed on a list and given a receipt at the park entrance. Be sure to bring your beach cruiser style bicycle, but if you don't have one, no problem! Any style bicycle will do.

Prizes will be given to the first three cyclists to finish the race on beautiful Sandy Hook. There will also be a "coolest cruiser" contest following the race and the top three coolest cruisers will win great prizes from Ted Shred's, Katin, Barewires Surf & Skate, Jetty, & The Echo Lounge.

Special thanks to event organizer **Ed Hennessey** of Ted Shred's Surf Wax Candle Co., Universe Graphics, Katin, The Echo Lounge, Barewires Surf & Skate, Jetty Apparel, Brave New World, and G-Rock Radio.

Celebrate Summer's Arrival with Gidget and Moondoggie!

Over 300 families from across the region will gather to celebrate COA's efforts and enjoy some beachside fun at the **Family Beach Party for the Ocean**, Saturday, May 20th, 2007, 3-7pm, at Ship Ahoy Beach Club in Sea Bright, NJ.

"The Beach Party is waves of fun and kicks-off the summer season on the Jersey Shore. It is also a special time for families to reflect on the work that COA has done to ensure that our ocean is safe for swimming, surfing, and fishing throughout the year," said **Louise Hall**, **Beach Party Event Chair**.

Guests will dance to the classic surf rock music of the Jettyrats and enjoy fresh fare by Gourmet Picnic of Fair Haven, Lusty Lobster of Highlands, Fisherman's Dock Cooperative of Point Pleasant, and Panera Bread Bakery Cafes. Party-goers will also enjoy smoothies by Surf Taco Coastal Cuisine of Manasquan, desserts by The Flakey Tart of Atlantic Highlands, and a tiki bar by Hunterdon Brewing Co. of Philipsburg and the Margarita Man of Monmouth County. Beachside fun is sponsored by the Community YMCA Children's Cultural Center of Red Bank and Matt Deibert Sand Creations of Brigantine. Other fun includes a Gidget and Moondoggie Look-a-Like Contest for all ages, 50/50 raffle, and silent auctions. Unique prizes include a day for six at a private beach club, Webkinz and American Girl Doll packages, golf outing at Trump National Golf Club, and catering packages by Gourmet Picnic, Lusty Lobster, and Panera Bread Bakery Cafes.

Event proceeds benefit COA. Event is rain or shine. Admission is \$50 per adult and \$25 per child under 12. Tickets may be purchased online using MasterCard/Visa at www.cleanoceanaction.org. Sponsorship opportunities are also available; call Jennifer for details.

