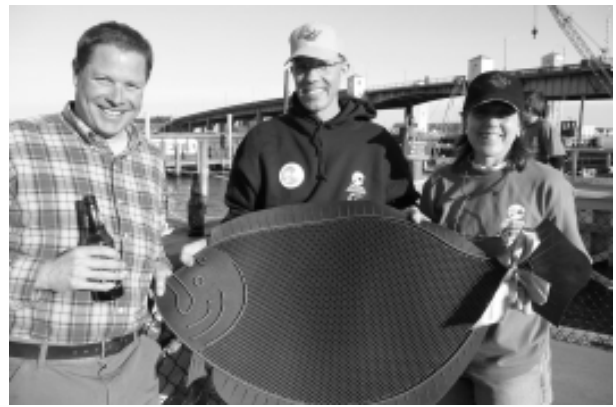


Flat-out Fun! Flounder Tournament Kicks-off 2008 Fishing Season



Volunteers march with banner made by Monmouth Regional High School Environmental Club in the Highlands St. Patrick's Parade to advertise COA's tournament



Sponsors Mike Short from Hunterdon Brewing Co. and Jay Cosgrove from Bahrs Landing stand with Clean Ocean Action's Cindy Zipf

On April 5, over 100 anglers participated in COA's **14th Annual John Murphy & Bob Hunter Memorial Winter Flounder Tournament**, hosted by Bahrs Landing of Highlands and Lead Sponsor Hunterdon Brewing Co. of Phillipsburg. This fun-filled, free annual tournament honors the memories of local ocean advocates John Murphy and Bob Hunter, and kicks-off a new fishing season. It was a beautiful spring day as guests attended the morning breakfast and Blessing of the Waters Ceremony, led by Reverend Martin D. McGrail, Jr. of Highlands, with flowers donated by In the Garden. Overall, the event raised over \$3,000 to support Clean Ocean Action's ocean protection efforts.

Special thanks to Lead Sponsors Hunterdon Brewing Co. and Bahrs Landing, and Co-Sponsors Allied Printing and Graphics, Blue Water Marine, Brookdale Community College, Channel Club Marina, Jersey Printing, Montauk Mike's Lures, Natural Awakenings Magazine-North Central Edition, Sea Tow of Highlands, and Skipper's Boatyard.

Many local businesses donated a large assortment of prizes including: Atlantic Marine, Bahrs Landing, Lockwood Boatworks, Mariners Mart, Montauk Mike's Lures, and Sea Tow.

The event was organized by Committee Members: Dery Bennett of American Littoral Society, Stacy Brody of the Environmental Club of Monmouth Regional High School, Jay Cosgrove of Bahrs Landing, Jean Marie & Ed Horgan of Skipper's Boatyard, Mike Matulonis of Montauk Mike's Lures, Dorothy Obropta, Joan Wicklund, and Ed Wisniewski.

Volunteers included Barbara Bennett, Grace Cosgrove, Cory Herrala, and Dan Kiefer, along with students from the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science and the Environmental Club of Monmouth Regional High School.

COA thanks the committee members, volunteers, sponsors, anglers, and non-anglers for helping to make the event a great success.



Volunteer Weigh-in Extraordinaire Dorothy Obropta assists an angler with his catch



Fishing is fun for all ages!

Tournament Winners

The top three winners received cash prizes. The First Place winner was also awarded a trophy, created and donated by artist Chuck Abel of Fair Haven.

First Place:

Gene Bradford, 2.73 pounds

Second Place:

Tony Jahr, 2.66 pounds

Third Place:

John Aldam, 2.55 pounds



Tournament winners (L-R) Gene Bradford, Tony Jahr, and John Aldam



On April 26, despite dreary weather and brisk conditions in the morning, an estimated

3,000 volunteers participated in COA's 23rd Annual Spring Beach Sweeps at 63 sites throughout New Jersey. Volunteers removed and catalogued thousands of pieces of debris. Some highlights from the Spring Beach Sweeps are:

Atlantic City: Volunteers from Atlantic City Electric, Building with Books, Sovereign Avenue School, and Stockton College WaterWatch, removed abundant debris from they city's beaches.

North Wildwood: 15 hard-working volunteers collected roughly 30 bags of trash and recyclables.

Ocean City: Cleanup volunteers helped with the rescue of a Harbor Porpoise, now rehabilitating at the Marine Mammal Stranding Center, Brigantine.

Point Pleasant Beach: Nearly 100 volunteers, including students from St. Peter's School, NJ Institute of Technology, and Stevens Institute of Technology, were joined by US Rep. Chris Smith (NJ-R-4) at the Jenkinson's Aquarium site.

Seaside Heights: NJ Senator John Adler (D-6) joined the cleanup at the Grant Avenue site with over 50 volunteers, including students from the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) and several Toms River schools. Volunteers found a mattress among other debris.

Union Beach: 35+ volunteers picked-up one of the most unusual items -- an upright vacuum cleaner.



57 volunteers, including residents and employees of Claremont Center, cleaned river beaches in Pt. Pleasant

COA thanks all the Beach Captains and the sponsors: Statewide Sponsors, **Verizon** and **Wakefern Foods Corporation (ShopRite)**; Monmouth County Sponsor, **United Teletech Financial**; and Multi-site Sponsor **Atlantic City Electric**. Additional thanks to site sponsors: **Lower Cape May Regional Education Association, Adventure Aquarium, J. Knipper and Co., Surfrider Foundation – Jersey Shore Chapter in memory of Daniel Clune, Claremont Care Center, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Panasonic, and Keyport Business Alliance**. Special thanks to **LaraBar**, statewide snack sponsor.

(Right) Volunteers in Bradley Beach show the huge number of plastic caps collected (Far right) Cub Scouts in Manasquan removed bags of debris from the beach



SANDY HOOK SUMMARY



US Senator Menendez joins volunteers from MAST and friends for the cleanup at Sandy Hook

At the Sandy Hook Spring Beach Sweeps site, 645 volunteers were joined by US Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), US Representative Frank Pallone (NJ-D-6), and NJ Assemblyman David Rible (R-11).

Sandy Hook Top Offenders:

- 6,617 plastic caps/lids
- 4,085 plastic food, candy wrappers/bags
- 2,343 plastic pieces
- 2,187 plastic straws/stirrers
- 1,947 foam plastic pieces
- 1,565 plastic beverage/soda bottles
- 1,073 cigarette filters

Unusual items: 2 golf balls, 2 corn cobs, plastic bouquet of flowers, throwing dart, pair of underwear

COA thanks the staff of Gateway National Recreation Area - Sandy Hook, Marine Academy of Science & Technology (MAST), and GRock Radio.



Thanks to Gerry Harris and Rotary District #7510 - Interact who brought 250 volunteers to Sandy Hook's cleanup and provided 700 hot dogs, 100 turkey dogs, 50 veggie burgers, and other snacks for all volunteers!

