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**November 2004 Highlights**  
- 2,000+ Beach Sweepers Make a Difference  
- Students Enjoy a Day of Science at the Beach  
- Holiday SEASON Gift Giving for a Clean Ocean

## 2,000+ BEACH SWEEPERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### Volunteers Clean Beaches of Harmful Litter

It was a partly sunny, brisk, autumn day along New Jersey's shore, and an estimated 2,000 ocean enthusiasts from hit the beaches for a morning of beach cleaning. Clean Ocean Action's (COA) 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Beach Sweeps was held on October 23 at over 50 locations from South Amboy to Sandy Hook, to Cape May.

Coinciding with national "Make a Difference Day," tons of trash was removed from beaches and along waterways. Volunteers picked up trash and collected valuable data about the debris, including type and amount. The information about the debris is recorded by volunteers on data cards and is compiled and analyzed by COA's Tony Totah. Results are forwarded to The Ocean Conservancy for their international database about marine debris. Collecting data is critical to identifying pollution problems and trends, educating citizens and businesses about the harmful effects of litter in the marine environment, and engaging citizens in the fight against this form of ocean pollution. Stay tuned for the dirty details from 2004 Sweeps, expected early 2005. Mark your calendars to participate in the Spring Sweeps on April 23, 2005, to help kick off our 20th year of Beach Sweeps.

The Fall Sweeps was made possible by sponsors **Party With Purpose** and **Panasonic**, and supporter, **The J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation**. Special thanks to the dozens of Beach Sweeps Captains who organized and coordinated the sites, and the towns and parks who hosted cleanups. In addition, COA is grateful to all the businesses and individuals, too many to name here, who provided in-kind donations, such as food and beverages, to participants.

### Fall 2004 Beach Sweeps Highlights:

#### Middlesex & Monmouth Counties

- Tires, shoes, and loads of plastic items were found at Raritan Bay Waterfront Park in **South Amboy**, a new Beach Sweeps site.
- 350 people cleaned two ocean beaches and one bay beach at **Sandy Hook** and found 2,684 plastic caps/lids among the debris, as well as a Yankee vs. Detroit ticket for July 5, 2004. Volunteers also planted 7,000 plugs of dune grass.
- **Belmar** had what is believed to be its biggest turnout with nearly 90 volunteers.
- 20 volunteers in **Ocean Grove** picked up 600 fireworks on the beach.

#### Ocean County

- Nearly 100 volunteers in **Seaside Heights** picked up plastics, plastics, and more plastics, and hundreds of cigarette filters.
- At **Island Beach State Park** in Seaside Park, volunteers, including a group of students from Pennsbury High School in Yardley, PA, collected 64 rubber and mylar balloons, with and without string/ribbon.

#### Atlantic County

- Richard Stockton College of NJ students were joined in **Atlantic City** by the NJ State Police's Atlantic City Marine Station.
- Students from Villanova University and Holy Cross High School participated in the cleanup in **Longport**.

#### Cape May County

- More than 85 residents, scouts, and the South Jersey Parrot Head Club joined in the cleanup in **Sea Isle City**. Volunteers also planted dune grass.
- 15 girl scouts from Egg Harbor Township swept the beach in **Strathmere** and found a



Volunteers at Sea Bright Public Beach show the results of their hard work.



TV on the beach? Strathmere tuned in for the Sweeps.

For more Sweeps pictures and data, see inside or visit [www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org).

## COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

### Featuring... Jersey Shore Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation

Surfers often refer to themselves as the indicator "species" for ocean water quality. They surf year-round, exposing themselves to the elements as well as any pollution.

The Surfrider Foundation, 37,000 members nationally and growing, is an international non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of our world's ocean, waves, and beaches. Surfrider Foundation, like COA, celebrates 20 years in 2004. The **Jersey Shore Chapter** is one of Surfrider's 65 chapters in the US.

As a COA Participating Organization, the Surfrider Foundation - Jersey Shore Chapter is an active ocean defender, working at the national, state, and local levels to raise awareness, improve ocean water quality, and increase beach access. Chapter volunteers test local waters regularly in the "Blue Water Task Force" program, educate students with the "Respect the Beach" program, which includes the "Sea to Summit" watershed video featuring professional surfers, skateboarders, and snowboarders. Surfrider Foundation volunteers are often seen and heard at public hearings regarding beach replenishment, ocean dumping, and public beach access.

The Jersey Shore Chapter, as well as the newest chapter in south Jersey, has signed the Statement of Support for the Clean Ocean Zone, a project led by COA.

"Our chapter is all volunteer and we value COA's research on issues like dredging and ocean dumping. We do not have the capacity to do all that science, so we look to COA for leadership," said **John Weber**, Chairperson of the Jersey Shore Chapter. "At the same time, we represent a different set of recreational users and round out COA's coalition."

In addition, chapter members strive to open and preserve surfing beaches, host and participate in surf clinics and contests, and participate in public events. Surfrider members also volunteer their time and effort organizing and participating in COA's Beach Sweeps twice each year. The chapter hosted and organized three locations at the most recent Fall Beach Sweeps and helped call volunteers to all Sweeps sites. Thank you!

For more information about programs, membership, or events of the Jersey Shore Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, visit [www.surfrider.org/jerseyshore](http://www.surfrider.org/jerseyshore).

Adapted from Surfrider Foundation - Jersey Shore Chapter's website, with contributions by John Weber.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Institute of Coastal Education  
Wildwood, NJ 609-729-9262

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



*In this season of Thanksgiving, Clean Ocean Action thanks the waves of volunteers, committee members, beach captains, educators, sponsors and contributors, and ocean supporters for your tireless efforts to protect our ocean. Your dedication and commitment is important and truly appreciated.*

**COA thanks the students from the Sea Isle City School District for decorating the windows of COA's Institute of Coastal Education in Wildwood for Halloween.**



## STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION!

### MAILING LIST RENEWAL 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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

Contributions are tax deductible.

Celebrating 20 Years of Ocean Advocacy  
Please clip and send to COA.

## CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

Jennifer Samson, Ph.D., 732-872-0111, [Science@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Science@cleanoceanaction.org)  
For more information or to review comments,  
visit Action Alerts at [www.CleanOceanAction.org](http://www.CleanOceanAction.org)

### Dredged Material Decon: Bayshore Recycling Corp.

COA and NY/NJ Baykeeper responded to a public notice by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to allow Bayshore Recycling Corp. of Woodbridge, NJ, to host a pilot project testing the effectiveness of several different dredged material decontamination technologies. The permit involves the placement of a 730 foot long ore carrier and several barges along the waterfront on Bayshore Recycling Corp. property in the Raritan River. The ore carrier would be used for storage and some pre-treatment of dredged material before the material is offloaded and transported upland for further processing. The pilot project involves state and federal funding to develop innovative ways to treat contaminated dredge materials. Four treatment technologies will be tested. COA supports the responsible management of dredged material by the utilization of dredged material treatment processes, but there are still several important questions that need to be addressed regarding this particular project. For this reason, we have arranged a meeting with Bayshore Recycling, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and NJ Department of Transportation/Maritime Resources (NJ DOT/MR) officials and local and regional environmental and community organizations. The meeting will provide the agencies with an opportunity to reach out to the community and include them in the process.

### Power Play: Neptune Regional Transmission Project

A project that would divert power from New Jersey to Long Island, NY has taken a step forward. Neptune Regional Transmission Systems submitted a new permit application to NJDEP which modifies the previous application to bury a 51-mile long submarine electric cable from a substation in Sayreville, NJ to Jones Beach, NY. The project's latest modifications increase the volume of dredged material by 73,095 cubic yards and impacts the Ambrose Channel side slopes that provide valuable winter flounder, blue crab, lobster, and shellfish habitat. COA submitted comments to NJDEP expressing concerns and opposition to the project.

### Beach Bummed: Atlantic Highlands Marina Dredging Project

Sediment sample analysis is complete for the proposed dredging of the Atlantic Highlands Marina. COA urged NJDEP to conduct methodical sampling of sediments to identify possible beneficial uses of the material such as beach replenishment. Unfortunately, the sediment did not meet the 90% sand requirement for beach placement and the city will be placing all 51,000 cubic yards into their confined disposal facility (CDF). Although this particular project is unsuitable for beach use, characterization of sediments needs to be continued on future projects to allow for beneficial reuse whenever possible.

## WASTING OUR WATERS AWAY

### Middlesex County Utilities Authority Bay Discharge

The NY/NJ Baykeeper, Raritan Riverkeeper, American Littoral Society and COA supported comments prepared by the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic on the draft New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDDES) Permit No. NJ0020141 for the Middlesex County Utility Authority (MCUA). This permit comes up for renewal every five years and many permit conditions had not been updated for several permitting cycles. There were some significant improvements in monitoring and limitation requirements but there were still problems with Enterococcus and Fecal Coliform limits, compliance and maintenance schedules, and the use of 14-year-old data to calculate some effluent limitation. COA also continues to push MCUA to consider effluent reuse, treatment alternatives, and improved facility operations to reduce its impacts to the receiving water.



**Invest in the future of your ocean.**

A long-term investment in Clean Ocean Action's Salt Water Fish ocean stock continues to yield high dividends for the ocean and our shareholders.

Look for your opportunity to invest, arriving in the mail soon.

## ARTIFICIAL REEFS

### NJ Plan Update Open for Public Review

On October 7, 2004, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) released an updated copy of "Artificial Reef Management Plan for New Jersey" for public comment. Public comments are being accepted on the draft through December 6. For a copy of the Plan, visit [www.njfishandwildlife.com/reefplan04.htm](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/reefplan04.htm). COA will review the draft document. For more information or to discuss this draft, contact Jennifer Samson, COA's Principal Scientist.



Institute of Coastal Education  
Pacific Avenue, Wildwood  
Tony Totah, 609-729-9262,  
[Wildwood@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Wildwood@cleanoceanaction.org)

mainly on clams. Whelks are harvested and sold as conch or by their Italian name, scungilli. A large whelk shell may have taken the snail over 30 years to make. In 1995, the Knobbed Whelk became the State Shell of NJ.

Stop by the Institute of Coastal Education to learn more about Whelks.

*(What's Cool at Ice and Coastal Creature Feature will appear every other month. Please see last month's newsletter to guess the October Coastal Creature.)*

### What's Cool at ICE?

Commonly referred to as conch, the large snails that are found in New Jersey are actually whelks; conches are found in more tropical waters. New Jersey has two whelks that are common in its waters. The Knobbed and Channeled whelk are favorite shells for beachcombers. Besides shells, their spiral egg cases can be found on the beach after storms. The egg case, which holds hundreds of eggs, looks like a spiral string with many pouches attached. After hatching, the young snails eat through a small plug located along the center edge of each pouch to escape. Adult whelks feed



(Above) Volunteers in Strathmere collect debris and data at the Fall Beach Sweeps.

## FLOTSAM & JETSAM

### Oil Spill Settlement

France Ship Management S.A. agreed to pay a \$1.5 million settlement for spilling 40,000 gallons of light crude oil into the Delaware Bay on May 10, 1996. The spill occurred when valves were misaligned during lightening, causing the oil to leak below the surface. About 12,000 gallons of oil were recovered near the vessel. The remainder floated onto the New Jersey coast in Cape May County. The money will help restore beaches and breeding grounds of migratory shore birds and compensate residents affected by the spill.



(Left) Volunteers in Strathmere found a dead bird entangled in fishing line during their Beach Sweep.



(Right) Over 500 students, parents, and teachers from Ocean City Intermediate School got a jump start, cleaning four miles of beach two weeks before the Fall Beach Sweeps.

## EDUCATION

Julie Hajdusek, 732-872-0111, [Education@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Education@cleanoceanaction.org)  
Tony Totah, 609-729-9262, [Wildwood@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Wildwood@cleanoceanaction.org)

### Students Enjoy a Day of Science at the Beach

Over 300 middle school students and educators from 13 south Jersey schools attended COA's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Student Summit at Island Beach State Park on Thursday, October 7. The participants enjoyed field trips within the park as well as a series of hands-on learning stations about topics such as non-point source pollution, marine invertebrates, and solar energy. Field trips were led by volunteer educators from Island Beach State Park, Jenkinson's Aquarium, Alliance for a Living Ocean, NJ Audubon Society, NJ Watershed Ambassadors Program, and NJ Community Water Watch. High school students from the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science, a program within Ocean County Vocational Technical School, staffed the learning stations.

Eye to eye with a horseshoe crab.

Snacks for the students were donated by C. Rooney Produce Company of Sea Bright. COA thanks all the volunteers and supporters of the Student Summit for helping to make this event a meaningful and educational experience for all who attended.

Mark your calendars for the 2005 Student Summit dates: May 11 & 12 at Gateway National Recreation Area – Sandy Hook (for north Jersey schools), and October 7 at Island Beach State Park (for south Jersey schools). Call COA for application instructions.



Making observations of marine life.