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October 2005 Highlights
 - A "Sunsational" Seaside Affair
 - Attention Citizens! Public Hearing on Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant
 - Fall Beach Sweeps: October 22 (See Insert)

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Clean Ocean Action
 PO Box 505
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 732-872-0111
 www.CleanOceanAction.org
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COA is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax deductible.

October 2005

- October 2, Sunday**
 - **Cattus Island Nature Festival**, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River, 7am-4pm. Nature walks and activities.
- October 6, Thursday**
 - **"The Oceans and the Future" Symposium**, Monmouth University, 2:30 - 4:30 PM. Call 732-263-5143.
 - **Dredged Material Management Summit**, Monmouth University, 9am-3:30pm, \$35. Call 732-872-1300, ext 24 to pre-register.
- October 8, Saturday**
 - **Underwater Cleanup**, hosted by Divers Two, L Street boat ramp, Belmar, 9:30am. Divers & non-divers welcome. For information, call 732-776-7755. Rain date: October 9.
- October 22, Saturday**
 - **COA Beach Sweeps**, 9am-12:30pm, over 55 sites. See insert or visit www.cleanoceanaction.org.
- SAVE THE DATE**
November 10, Thursday
 - **Regional Dredged Material Management Forum**, Atlantic Highlands Harbor, inside the Senior Center Building on Sutton Walk, 7:30pm. Sponsored by the Bayshore Regional Watershed Council. See article inside.

COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Featuring... NJ Beach Buggy Association

The **New Jersey Beach Buggy Association** (NJBBA) is a long-time COA Participating Organization. NJBBA's many objectives include: encouraging and promoting good sportsmanship and upholding conservation laws, and engaging in studies and disseminating information relating to marine waters, marine species, and beach travel operations. NJBBA's members also participate in projects to help preserve and conserve the marine and coastal resources along the New Jersey coast, such as the Adopt-a-Beach program and the installation of fencing to secure dunes. NJBBA also joins forces with other organizations that share similar missions.

"NJBBA is concerned with the marine and coastal environment and through our affiliation with COA, we are better equipped to stay on top of current environmental issues," said **Reb Gilliland, President of NJBBA**.

For example, NJBBA engaged its members in the 2000 "Dump No More—March For the Shore" campaign to stop ocean dumping. Also, during COA's Beach Sweeps, NJBBA members collect and remove trash using their vehicles that is difficult for volunteers on foot to handle.

In addition, NJBBA celebrates National Hunting and Fishing Day each year by inviting a group of less fortunate kids to the beach for a day of fun, fishing, and fellowship. Also, NJBBA leads a clinic/tournament that gets kids "hooked on fishing, not on drugs."

NJBBA conducts a beach driving education program that is free and open to both members and nonmembers. The organization also assists with the surf fishing program at Island Beach State Park and instructs newcomers on the how's and why's of surf fishing.

For more information about NJBBA, visit www.njbba.org.

Adapted from NJBBA website



The Douty Family & Lusty Lobster's famous raw bar is always a crowd favorite.



Ed Segall, host of "Sunset" at the Sea Gulls' Nest, receives special recognition for his dedication to a clean ocean.

A "Sunsational" Seaside Affair

On September 16, over 350 ocean advocates feasted and danced the night away at the unforgettable seaside celebration, **Sunset at Sandy Hook**, at the Sea Gulls' Nest. Time spent with friends and family by the sea on this special evening will ensure that the ocean will be enjoyed today and by future generations.

See insert for more on "Sunset"...



Michael Dijon of Shore Point Distributors accepts a sponsor award with a smile.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Urban Coast Institute Symposium
"The Oceans and the Future"
October 6, 2005
2:30 - 4:30 PM
Wilson Hall Auditorium
Monmouth University

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

FREE!

A Panel Discussion led by
Admiral James D. Watkins, US Navy (Retired) and Chair, US Commission on Ocean Policy (USCOP)
Honorable Leon E. Panetta, Chair, Pew Oceans Commission

Moderator:
Tony MacDonald
 Director of the Urban Coast Initiative

Panel Members:
Mrs. Lillian Borrone, Commissioner USCOP and former Director, Port Authority of NY/NJ
Commissioner Brad Campbell, NJDEP
Dr. James Sinclair, P.E.
Dr. William Rosenblatt, PhD

Call 732-263-5143 to pre-register. Parking is available off Larchwood Avenue.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

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

ATTENTION CITIZENS!

Public Hearing on Oyster Creek's Pollution Discharge Draft Permit

Citizens are urged to act to help stop the destruction of marine life and the pollution of Barnegat Bay from Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant (OCNPP) in Lacey Twp., NJ. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) granted an extension to the public comment period and scheduled an additional public hearing regarding the draft pollution discharge permit for OCNPP.

Citizens are urged to act to help stop the destruction of marine life and pollution of Barnegat Bay.

The public hearing will be held on **October 24**, from 6-9pm at the Ocean County Administrative Building, 101 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, Ocean County, NJ. Written comments may also be submitted by **November 7** to: Howard Tompkins,

Chief, Attention: Comments on Public Notice NJ0005550, Bureau of Point Source Permitting, Region 1, P.O. Box 029, Trenton, NJ 08625.

OCNPP seeks to renew its pollution discharge permit that regulates the cooling water system. The best alternative is NJDEP's "preferred alternative": a closed-cycle system.

For a complete COA Action Alert, helpful talking points, and a detailed position paper, visit www.cleoceanaction.org.

UPDATE: Shark River Dredged Material Plan

The Shark River Environmental Planning Committee has rescheduled the date to present their Dredged Material Management Plan to NJDEP and DOT. The final date is to be determined, but is expected to be sometime in mid-October.

Raritan Bay-Sandy Hook Bay Dredge Management Forum

On November 10, the Bayshore Regional Watershed Council is hosting a forum to discuss regional dredged material management in the Raritan Bay-Sandy Hook Bay area at the Atlantic Highlands Harbor Senior Center at 7:30pm. The public is welcome. Marina owners and operators, boaters, environmental commission members, planning board members, and anyone interested in dredging and coastal water quality are invited to attend.

Now, more than ever, there is a need to develop a comprehensive, regional dredged material management plan. Speakers at the forum include: NJDEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell; Genevieve Boehm, NJDOT Office of Maritime Resources; Michael Sinnema of Birdsall Engineering; and COA's Cindy Zipf. Mike Danko, from NJ Sea Grant will discuss the Clean Marina Program.

Wreck Pond Permits Awarded



The Wreck Pond Restoration Project recently received two permits from the NJDEP, paving the way to begin work as early as this month. The Sand Dredging and Beach Placement Project received a Waterfront Development Permit on September 16. The permit conditions addressed many of the concerns raised by COA in our comment letter

dated August 4, including a significant reduction in the amount of mud/silt material that will be dredged and placed on the adjacent beaches, and a requirement for bacterial monitoring of the sand and water following placement. Due to concerns for several endangered species at the site, dredging is restricted to November 31 through February 31.

In addition, the Outfall Pipe Extension project received its Waterfront Development Permit on September 14. This permit was awarded without any consideration of the many concerns raised by COA in our August 17 comment letter. COA is pursuing our concerns. Please visit our website and follow links for "Issues and Campaigns" to review COA's comment letters on Wreck Pond.

BEACH SWEEPS DONATIONS NEEDED

Donations * Advertising Space * Materials (new work gloves)

COA Fall Beach Sweeps, Saturday, October 22

Call Jennifer at (732) 872-0111 for ways your business can participate in or contribute to this successful program.

WASTING OUR WATERS AWAY

UPDATE: Asbury Park Litigation

On March 15, 2005, COA filed a Petition for Certification to the Supreme Court of New Jersey on its case – *In re NJPDES Permit No. NJ0025241*. The case involves the denial by NJDEP of COA's request for a third party hearing on the issuance of a New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) permit for the City of Asbury Park. At press time, the case was to be heard in the NJ Supreme Court on September 27. Susan Kraham, Staff Attorney of the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic, will be arguing the case.

Ocean Dischargers and Beneficial Reuse Draft Permits



The NJDEP issued two draft NJPDES permits to wastewater facilities that discharge to the ocean, which include conditions for reclaimed water for beneficial reuse. The draft permits are for Lower Township Municipal Utility Authority (MUA) and Cape May City Regional Water Treatment Facility (WTF) in Lower Township, Cape May County. Effluent or treated wastewater from both of these facilities is ultimately discharged to the ocean via the Wildwood/Lower Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Lower Township MUA is authorized to reuse treated and disinfected wastewater for spray irrigation at Ponder Lodge Golf Course. Cape May City Regional WTF is interested in reusing its effluent for on-site irrigation purposes. COA will review and comment on both permits as ocean dischargers and potential sites for beneficial reuse.

Unfortunately, these draft permits are proceeding without a NJDEP Water Reuse Program or a formal regulatory framework. Reuse of wastewater can be a great way to conserve potable water supplies and prevent water shortages during droughts. However, health, safety, and environmental degradation can occur without proper precautions. COA researched New Jersey's and other states' water reuse programs and created a *Position Paper on Beneficial Reuse of Wastewater*. COA submitted this paper to NJDEP, along with our recommendations for New Jersey's water reuse plan. Visit our website for more information and the *Position Paper*.

Coastal Creature Feature



Tautog
Tautoga onitis

August's Creature Feature was the **Tautog** (pronounced taw-TOG) and is also called a Tog or Blackfish. This bottom-dwelling fish is very abundant and popular with recreational fishermen. Young tautog are bright green, but they turn black/brown when mature at 3-4 years old. They use large teeth and lips to crush and eat shellfish, barnacles, sand dollars, and crabs. These fish have a peculiar habit of resting on the sand, lying on their sides in groups. At night, they are so docile that divers can touch them. The world record Tautog was caught off Ocean City, NJ, weighing 25 lbs and measuring 34 1/2 inches. Congratulations to **Mike Semmel** of Highlands, who correctly guessed the Tautog and won a COA T-shirt!

October's Creature Feature is listed as an endangered species in NJ, which affords it special protection under the law. These birds live on oceanfront beaches and barrier islands, typically nesting in flat areas on the stretch of beach between the dunes and high-tide line. They blend-in remarkably with sand and broken pieces of shell, and are similar in appearance to several species of more common shorebirds. **To enter for a chance to win a COA T-shirt**, send your guess by mail, fax, or e-mail (PO Box 505, Sandy Hook, NJ 07732; fax 732-872-8041; SandyHook@CleanOceanAction.org).

(What's Cool at ICE and Coastal Creature Feature appear every other month.)



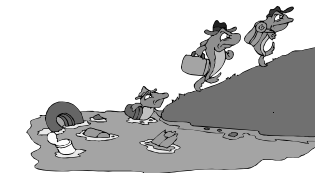
October's Creature

NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION

Marine Debris Bill

A bill to address the problem of debris in the ocean, "The Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act" (S.362, H.R. 3692), was introduced in US Congress earlier this year. The bill establishes a Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to "reduce and prevent the occurrence and adverse impacts of marine debris on the marine environment and navigation safety."

At press time, COA was invited by US Representatives Gilchrest (R-MD-1) and LoBiondo (R-NJ-2), at the request of US Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ-6), to testify before a joint legislative hearing of the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Ocean and the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation on September 29. COA will present information on the successful implementation



of the Floatables Action Plan, which is a marine debris control program currently operating in the NY/NJ region. This regional program relies on multi-agency cooperation to identify and recover debris before it leaves NY/NJ Harbor, and to remove slicks and debris from area beaches.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Environmental Disaster: Hurricanes Result in 44 Oil Spills

As a result of Hurricane Katrina slamming into southeast Louisiana, the US Coast Guard and cleanup crews are working to contain 44 oil spills that have leaked more than seven million gallons of oil into the Mississippi River and nearby fragile wetlands. Oil has spilled from industrial plants, storage depots, and facilities that line coastal port areas. This amount of oil is about two-thirds of the amount that spilled from the Exxon Valdez tanker in 1989 in Alaska. Incidentally, Congress is now considering expanding offshore oil and gas drilling in areas currently protected by moratoria, a consideration that would undermine states' control over their shorelines and coastal areas.



National Number of Fish Advisories Increase in 2004

A US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) database shows an increase in the number of fish advisories, a sign that pollution in our coastal waters remains a serious problem. Fish advisories warn people of consuming certain fish from the nation's lakes, rivers, and coastal waters that contain high levels of pollutants such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), chlordane, DDT, mercury, and dioxin. In 2004, 3,221 fish advisories were issued, compared to 3,089 in 2003. USEPA attributes the rise to more nationwide monitoring. The key to reducing fish advisories is to track down and eliminate sources of pollution. Contact your state health agency for local fish advisories.

COA STAFF NEWS

Welcome, Holly!

COA is thrilled to welcome **Holly Jantz** to the team as Education Coordinator. Holly is a 2004 graduate of Rutgers University with a B.S. in Marine Biology and a B.A. in Journalism/Mass Media Studies. Recently, Holly completed the Americorps NJ Watershed Ambassador Program where she worked with the Union County Parks and Recreation Department and the Rahway River Association to successfully form the first urban "Bio-Blitz" in NJ. Holly has experience conducting presentations and scientific fieldwork, and planning citizen training sessions.

For COA, Holly will develop new educational kits and programs, train and facilitate citizens, and coordinate existing programs, such as the Student Summits, Beach Sweeps, Storm Drain Stenciling, and Sewage Sleuth. Welcome aboard, Holly!



Holly joins the COA crew!