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**October 2007 Highlights**

- Man-made Island for Industrial Complex Planned off NY/NJ Coast
- Massive Garbage Slick Swamps Coast
- COA Beach Sweeps: October 20

**\*\*\*Eco-Tip of the Month\*\*\***  
 Produce less garbage. On average, Americans generate almost 4.5 pounds of garbage each day, compared to 3.3 pounds in 1975. Unfortunately, 70% of this garbage went to landfills or incinerators, not the recycling bin. You can recycle almost anything. Contact your municipal public works department for what your community recycles. *Source: Our Environment, Vol. 13, No. 4, by Ingrid Justick*

Clean Ocean Action  
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 732-872-0111  
 www.CleanOceanAction.org  
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### 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  
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Please include organization name & contact, if applicable:

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COA is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax deductible.

### OCTOBER 2007

- October 4, Thursday**  
 - **COA's Ocean Golf Classic**, Rumson Country Club, Rumson, NJ. For details or to register, see inside or go to COA's website.
- October 7, Sunday**  
 - **Cattus Island Natural Festival**, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River, 7am to 4pm. Nature tours, activities, presentations, and exhibits. Visit COA's display table or participate in our workshop. To volunteer for COA at our table, call Anna at 732-872-0111.
- October 14, Sunday**  
 - **COAST Day**, hosted by NJ Marine Sciences Consortium, Lobster House Dock, Cape May, NJ, 11am-4pm. To volunteer for COA's table, call Helen at 732-272-2197.
- October 20, Saturday**  
 - **COA's Fall Beach Sweeps**, over 50 locations from Middlesex County to Cape May County, 9am-12:30pm. Event is rain or shine. Bring & wear gloves. For sites, see flyer inside or COA's website for updates. Groups and individuals of all ages welcome. Groups of 15 or more are asked to pre-register online.

#### Our COalition

##### Featuring...

#### United Boatmen of NJ/NY

The New York/New Jersey Bight is a key destination for fishing. The **United Boatmen of New Jersey and New York** is the largest organization representing party and charter boat and tackle shop businesses in the region. United Boatmen was formed in the 1970s and has over 100 member businesses that make their living on the water.

The United Boatmen (UB) work at both the state and federal levels on legislation that affects their livelihood. The United Boatmen participate in administrative, legislative, and legal processes to promote their industry in this region.

Recognizing the connection between their industry and the environment, the UB began their involvement in clean water issues by testifying at a field hearing during the first drafts of the federal Clean Water Act. The UB help fight pollution sources affecting their businesses. The UB was involved in NY Harbor pollution issues and the closure of Ceiba Geigy plant.

The United Boatmen work on clean water issues as these issues are fundamental to the well-being of marine resources, and the industry could not survive without healthy waters. The United Boatmen "want a clean environment to live and work."

The United Boatmen have been active with Clean Ocean Action (COA) for many years, participating in campaigns to stop sources of ocean pollution, testifying at public hearings, and lending and providing resources, such as vessels for news conferences on issues related to UB's mission.

Currently, the UB support the "NJ/NY Clean Ocean Zone Act of 2007."  
 "There is tremendous effectiveness in grassroots campaigns to protect marine resources and water quality, and Clean Ocean Action has done exactly that," said **Tony Bogan, President of United Boatmen of New Jersey/New York.**

#### Man-Made Island for Industrial Complex Planned off NYINJ Coast

In late August, a 5,000-page application was submitted by the Atlantic Sea Island Group (ASIG) to the US Coast Guard and US Maritime Administration to build a man-made island for an industrial complex nearly six times the size of Giants Stadium, to off-load, store, and process liquefied natural gas (LNG). The facility, ironically called "Safe Harbor Energy," is planned for 19 miles off the coast of New Jersey and 13 miles off the coast of New York. The same area is home to endangered species and is prime fishing grounds.

Shockingly, NJ is not officially part of the review process because according to the Deepwater Port Act, only states within 15 miles are considered "an adjacent coastal state." The application only lists NY as an adjacent coastal state, giving NY the right to review and approve the application, and for public hearings to be scheduled for NY citizens to voice their concerns. Right now, NJ's voice is not recognized.

At COA's urging, NJ Governor Jon Corzine submitted a letter to the two federal agencies on September 7, requesting that New Jersey be designated an "adjacent coastal state" during the review process. Also, US Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-D-6) and US Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) sent letters to the agencies supporting Corzine's request. (see "LNG Island" page 2)

#### Massive Garbage Slick Swamps Coast

The summer of 2007 at the Jersey Shore ended with a huge garbage wash-up that hop-scotched along the coast from Sandy Hook Bay to Stone Harbor. The wash-up was reported on August 23<sup>rd</sup> in Union Beach by a concerned citizen. COA's Kari Martin and COA Beach Sweeps Captain



Debris from a 20+mile garbage slick kept people out of the water on Labor Day weekend in Ocean County, NJ. Photo by Emily Hackett

Joe Martin collected samples of the garbage including syringes, prescription bottles, plastic tampon applicators, condoms, sewage cakes or "greaseballs," and household garbage, and reported the wash-up to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) hotline. Follow-up calls from NJDEP and the Monmouth County Health Department, as well as debris washing-up on other Bayshore beaches leading to a closure in Middletown, ensured officials were aware of a garbage slick in the NY/NJ Harbor. Four days of rain preceded this wash-up of medical waste and household garbage in the Raritan Bay area. The source is believed to be a combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfall from New York City and/or northern New Jersey. The debris floating in the Harbor that spewed from CSOs went undetected by agencies.

One week later, a massive garbage slick washed ashore in Ocean County at Normandy Beach on September 2, during a beautiful Labor Day weekend.

Two COA staff members, Mary-Beth Thompson and Emily Hackett, were onsite and reported: dozens of needles and plastic tampon applicators, many sewage cakes of all sizes, container used for sharp objects in medical offices, golf ball from Bayonne Golf Club, pen from a business in the Jamaica Bay area in NYC, medicine containers, countless pieces of plastic, car bumper, large plastic crates, plastic chair, strapping material, and numerous large pieces of lumber.

(see "Garbage Slick," page 2); For more photos, visit COA's website

## COASTAL WATER QUALITY

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

### Bill Would Create Ocean Council for New Jersey

At a recent NJ Senate Environment Committee meeting, COA and other coastal groups expressed concerns about Senate Bill 2645. This Bill proposes the creation of a "New Jersey Coastal and Ocean Protection Council." The language of the Bill reflects that a focus of the Council is to address the concept of "ecosystem-based management." However, the bill also mandates extremely broad responsibilities such as considering "any matter relating to the protection, maintenance, and restoration of coastal and ocean resources."

COA is concerned that the Council will add a level of bureaucracy that will substitute words for direct action on the issue of ocean pollution, impeding any real progress. The language of the Bill allows for the State and NJDEP to send important ocean pollution issues to the Council for consideration, where the issues could sit until the Council chooses to meet. The NJDEP could skirt responsibility for direct action while it awaits the recommendations of this unaccountable Council. Moreover, the Council has no authority other than to "from time to time" make recommendations to the NJDEP Commissioner, and the Commissioner has no legal requirement to reply. The Council would also write an annual report, and conduct a public hearing every other year. Unfortunately, the Bill's broadness allows for more talk on important problems where direct action plans are now ready for implementation. COA's testimony is posted on our website (follow links for "Issues/Campaigns" and "Coastal Water Quality").

### Postponed: Nov. 28 Wastewater Reuse Workshop

A statewide workshop on water reuse issues scheduled for November 28, 2007, has been postponed. The event was being organized by the NJ Water Resources Research Institute at Rutgers University. Stay tuned for another opportunity to learn about water reuse in NJ.

### "Garbage Slick" (continued from page 1)

The beach and water was so filled with waste as to be a public health risk. Normandy Beach lifeguards closed the beach at approximately 1pm Sunday and posted lifeguards throughout the night. The Ocean County Health Department (OCHD) arrived at 6pm on Sunday and officially confirmed the closure until Monday at 11am, when the beach was reopened. The NJDEP did not inspect the site on Sunday, but rather arrived Monday morning after most of the debris washed out to sea or had been cleaned-up. Citizens commended the Marine State Police Officer, Rich Caputo, who stayed all Sunday afternoon at the beach to assist with the incident.

The garbage slick continued its journey along the coast, and similar trash was reported by citizens from Sandy Hook to Seaside Park throughout the weekend. A fishing boat captain reported a huge slick off Belmar. NJDEP closed the investigation on the Ocean County wash-up on Sept. 7th. On the same day, debris washed up further south in Cape May County. COA's Helen Edwards walked a 30-block stretch of the beach in Avalon and Stone Harbor on Sept. 8th and collected garbage that looked similar to the debris from earlier in the week.

This 20-plus mile garbage slick is the largest seen at the Jersey Shore since the late 1980s. Unfortunately, the program established to prevent such wash-ups, the Floatables Action Plan (FAP), failed. COA called upon NJDEP to take action. On September 17, NJDEP agreed to call a meeting of the agencies involved in the FAP to research what went wrong and to prevent similar disasters. Stay tuned for updates on the FAP failure of 2007.

The scene in Normandy Beach included red flags and the State Police (Photo by Emily Hackett)



### LNG Island Threatens the Ocean off NY/NJ (continued from page 1)

The application seeks to build and operate a 60.5-acre man-made island for the facility, located in 60-70 feet of water. LNG is natural gas in its liquid form. Natural gas is cooled to minus 259 degrees Fahrenheit to become liquefied. The LNG facility would be prohibited in the proposed "NY/NJ Clean Ocean Zone Act."

A large-scale, man-made, offshore island has never been created. ASIG admits that management team members have "no prior direct experience with offshore LNG operations" or offshore construction. The project application is now under federal review. The sole authority to issue a license for the project is the US Maritime Administration. Prior to a license being issued, the Deepwater Ports Act requires that the Secretary of Transportation must consult with "the adjacent coastal state(s) and other federal agencies to ensure such a license is in the national interest."

### Citizens & Groups Can Take Action!

Citizens and organizations are urged to:

1. Send a letter of support for Mr. Corzine's request to the US Maritime Administration and US Coast Guard;
2. Send copies of the letter sent to the agencies to NJ Governor Jon Corzine and to Clean Ocean Action.

See COA's website for a sample letter to personalize, addresses to send letters to, and more details about the proposed industrial complex. Stay tuned for updates.

### THREATS TO THE OCEAN:

- effects on endangered species;
- impacts to prime fishing grounds;
- during nor'easters, winds blow toward New Jersey;
- average ocean currents flow toward New Jersey;
- potential for "gas bomb" incidents;
- millions upon millions of tons of material will be dumped into the ocean to build the island, which will destroy aquatic habitat;
- marine safety concerns due to facility's location at the entrance to NY Harbor, one of the busiest harbors in the world, and directly below the flight paths of three major airports; and
- violent seas could damage the facility.

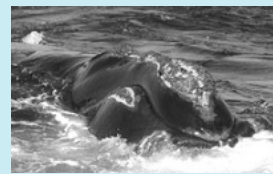
### COASTAL CREATURE FEATURE



Chinese Mitten Crab  
*Eriocheir sinensis*

The August Creature was the **Chinese Mitten Crab**. These crabs get their name because its large claws, covered by soft bristles, resemble mittens (see left photos). This species is very invasive and has spread to North America and Europe from its native habitat in eastern Asia. The Chinese Mitten Crab is a threat to populations of native fish and crustacean species. If you catch a mitten crab, do not throw it back alive! Note the location and date where you found it, and notify the Mitten Crab Hotline at 443-482-2222. Congratulations to **Sue Elliot of Eatontown, NJ**, for being drawn from a pool of correct entries this month.

**October Creature:** This species is similar to humans because it is warm-blooded, air-breathing, and milk-producing. However, unlike humans, this species has baleen instead of teeth. Scientists estimate that only 350 of these species exist today. This species' habitat range includes ocean waters from the Bay of Fundy in Canada to the coast of Florida. This species commonly has callosities (shown in the picture to the right). Callosities are roughened patches of skin that appear in many of the places that humans have hair – on the top of the head, on the chin and jaw, and above the eyes. To enter for a chance to win a COA T-shirt, send your guess by mail, fax, or email (18 Hartshorne Dr., Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732; 732-872-8041; education@cleanoceanaction.org).



October Creature

(Coastal Creature Feature appears every other month in the Clean Ocean Advocate.)

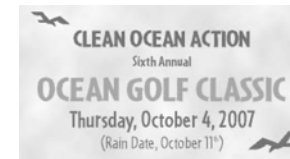
## POLLUTION PREVENTION

Anna Will, 732-872-0111, Education@cleanoceanaction.org

### Vote in November to Preserve NJ to Protect Water Quality

New Jersey loses 40 acres of open space to development each day, bringing more pollution to our waterways. On November 6, 2007, NJ voters will be asked to approve the Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007. By authorizing the state to issue \$200 million in general obligation bonds, the Act would provide much-needed funds to keep NJ's open space, farmland and historic preservation programs afloat for one more year and to begin a new Blue Acres program to purchase flood prone properties. High-quality natural areas, parks, and historic areas are essential to the health of our communities, and provide opportunities for recreation, education and economic development. Further, these areas ensure public health through the protection of air and water resources.

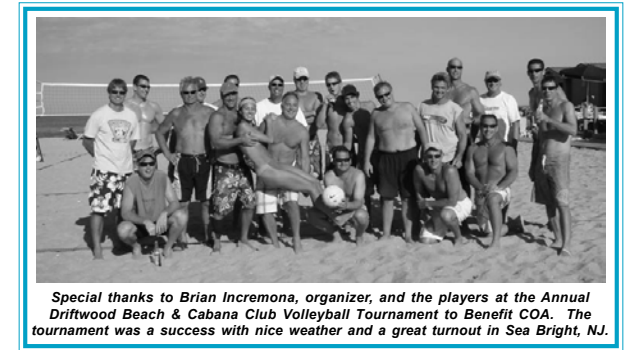
Citizens, organizations, and businesses can help decide the future of our state's preservation efforts by advocating for this ballot question and casting votes: (1) Copy and distribute the flyer in this newsletter. (2) Groups can sign resolutions supporting the Bond Act. To learn more and for resolutions, visit [www.NJKeptGreen.org](http://www.NJKeptGreen.org), or call COA, a member of the Keep It Green coalition.



### TEE-OFF "FORE" A CLEAN OCEAN!

9-hole 8:30am shotgun (\$250)  
18-hole 1:00pm shotgun start (\$400)  
Awards Dinner (Nongolfer \$75)

Visit [www.CleanOceanAction.org](http://www.CleanOceanAction.org) for more information, to register, and to view the schedule for the day.



Special thanks to Brian Incremona, organizer, and the players at the Annual Driftwood Beach & Cabana Club Volleyball Tournament to Benefit COA. The tournament was a success with nice weather and a great turnout in Sea Bright, NJ.