



- Barnegat Bay Announced as the Second Worst Coastal Lagoon in the World
- Offshore Drilling on the East Coast: Updates and Action Alert
- Summer Event Highlights and C.O.A.S.T. Campaign Wrap-up

September 2009 Highlights

Speak Out! The Obama Administration is considering opening the Atlantic Ocean to oil and gas drilling. Tell President Obama and Secretary Ken Salazar to protect the sensitive marine habitats of New Jersey.

Submit your comments by September 21. See Article "East Coast Offshore Drilling Update" for further details and how to submit comments.

THE TIME IS NOW...
~Action Alert~

Clean Ocean Action
18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2
Highlands, NJ 07732
732-872-0111
www.CleanOceanAction.org



Please clip and send to COA.

STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION! ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP FORM

If you are already a member, and would like to continue receiving the Clean Ocean Advocate electronically please detach this form and enclose with your email.

Please print clearly. Thank you.



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Please include organization name & contact, if applicable: _____

Please take a minute to answer the following questions:

I agree with and support Clean Ocean Action's decision of an electronic newsletter. If not, here is why _____

On a scale of 1-10 (one being minimum and 10 being maximum) please rate the effectiveness of the Clean Ocean Advocate on keeping you up to date with the latest ocean issues and events.

Additional Comments: _____

Mail to: Clean Ocean Action, 18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732

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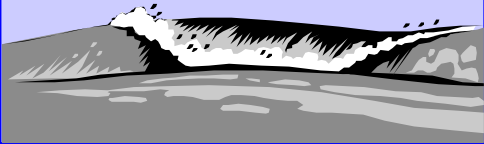
September 2009

September 25th, 6-10 pm
- **Sunset at Sandy Hook**, Admission \$100 in advance and \$125 at door. Seagulls Nest Deck Restaurant, Sandy Hook, NJ.

Save the Date

October 4, 2009
- **11th Annual COA Fall Student Summit**, 9 am-12:30 pm, Island Beach State Park. South Jersey schools (grades 5-8). Application on COA website.?

October 24, 2009
- **24th Annual COA Fall Beach Sweeps**, 9 am-12:30 pm, For sites, visit cleanoceanaction.org.



Our COAlition

Featuring...

New Jersey Friends of Clearwater

New Jersey Friends of Clearwater (NJFC), formerly Monmouth County Friends of Clearwater is a grass roots non-profit, volunteer-run and staffed organization. Since 1974, this organization has been actively trying to educate children and adults on the importance of clean clear water and to urge citizens to be responsible stewards of their environment. NJFC focuses their efforts to the estuaries of Hudson, the Raritan, Delaware, and other NJ Rivers, the Jersey Shore coastline, its inland waterways, and the land of New Jersey.

NJFC is one of the founding members of the COAlition and has been an active participating organization throughout COA's 25 years. In fact, NJFC chose to focus their 34th Annual Clearwater Festival on the Clean Ocean Zone and anti-LNG campaign. The annual festival features the finest music, dance, and art with environmental activism to celebrate New Jersey's waterways. COA would like to extend our gratitude for including COA and our issues in their successful event.

Clearwater volunteers conduct environmental education, celebration and advocacy activities to protect New Jersey waterways and coast environment. Besides festivals and other music events, programs include clean-ups, environmental watches, political action, and education programs. "Ultimately, Clearwater's mission is to bring as many people under the environmental tent as possible," says NJFC and COA Board of Trustee, Ben Forest.



We are Losing the Battle to Save Barnegat Bay...

"Barnegat Bay is the 2nd worst coastal lagoon in the world." That was the shattering news as reported by Stan Hales, Executive Director of the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program. (A **coastal lagoon** is a shallow water body that is separated from the ocean by a barrier and connected to the ocean by one or more restricted inlets, which may be completely closed at times.)

On July 30, Hales presented this fact at the annual joint meeting of the New Jersey Senate Environment Committee and the New Jersey Assembly Solid Waste and Environment Committee. The primary focus of this meeting was the current condition of Barnegat Bay.



Sobering as the news on the status of Barnegat Bay was, it was even worse. The 3rd worst lagoons in the world are the other back bays in New Jersey. These conclusions are in a recently released book called *Shifting Sands*, published by the Univ. of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, and are based on analysis and criteria established by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, which has primary oversight to protect the nation's marine ecosystems. The above rankings are for coastal lagoons that have been studied for eutrophic conditions, such as high algae and macroalgae levels, loss of sea grass, low dissolved oxygen levels, and presence of harmful algae.

The hearing was attended by over 100 citizens including scientists and representatives of many organizations. Most focused on solutions to improve Barnegat Bay and other back bay regions, which are basically threefold:

- ➡ Reduce development in undeveloped areas of the watershed
- ➡ Reduce polluted runoff from existing pollution, especially with a fertilizer control law such as the one drafted by Save Barnegat Bay.
- ➡ Require Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (by state regulation or law) to stop using 1.7 billion gallons a day of Barnegat Bay to cool the plant and install a closed cooling system which will reduce water use by about 70-96% depending on state regulations.

Cindy Zipf testified on behalf of COA, and in addition to the above solutions, urged enforcement of existing state and local laws, such as litter laws, to generate substantial funds to implement pollution prevention efforts (testimony online). Also, COA focused on the essential role citizens can play and encouraged everyone to become Barnegat Bay Buddies. In response, Senator Bob Smith, who also has a home in Lavallette on the Bay, completed the form and joined the effort.

As a result of the hearing, members of the committees discussed interest in laws requiring Oyster Creek to install the closed cooling system and a statewide bill to limit fertilizer. These will be discussed this fall. If you have not already done so, please submit your completed Barnegat Bay Buddy application to the COA office (applications can be downloaded from cleanoceanaction.org).

COASTAL WATER QUALITY

Heather Saffert, PhD, Science@cleanoceanaction.org
 Jennifer Samson, Ph.D., Science@cleanoceanaction.org
 Project comments submitted by COA are posted on our website

NRDC Releases Annual Beach Water Quality Report

The "Testing the Waters: A Guide to Beach Water Quality at Vacation Beaches" report by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), shows serious public health risks and polluted waters in New Jersey and across the nation for 2008. COA and Environment New Jersey released the report locally the end of July (online at www.nrdc.org/ttw/).

Clean waters are important for the public's health as well as for marine wildlife. In 2008, there were 208 days of total closures/advisories in New Jersey, an increase from the 142 days of closures/advisories in 2007. Many of the closures were preemptive due to medical waste or trash that washed up on the beach (120 days) and heavy rainfall 56 closures at five beaches with known storm water problems (56 days). Fecal pollution caused 31 closures, most of which occurred at NJ's bay and estuary beaches.

To protect their health, citizens should be careful by avoiding swimming near storm drains or pipes emptying on or near the beach and after heavy rain at areas where know pollution problems have occurred. Watch for signs of pollution, such as discoloration of the water or floating debris. For beach closures, call the NJ DEP's hotline at 1-800-648-SAND or visit njbeaches.org.

Bill Provides Needed Solutions to Control Pollution

COA congratulates NJ Congressional Leaders and Ocean Champions who have sponsored The Clean Coastal Environment and Public Health Act. COA attended Senator Launtenberg's and Representative Pallone's August press event to promote the bill. The bill passed in the House in July and hopefully will be passed in the Senate this fall. The Act reauthorizes funding for state monitoring as well as requires both rapid testing methods and the identification of pollution sources. The Senate version would result in timely warnings to swimmers and provide funding for communities to cleanup pollution.

Any Ideas to Improve Water Quality Enforcement?

Recognizing on-going pollution problems and unmet clean water goals, the Environmental Protection Agency's Administrator Lisa Jackson has asked for recommendations to make information more accessible to the public and strengthen enforcement to control pollution. Go to <http://blog.epa.gov/cwaactionplan> and submit your ideas for improvement.

CITIZEN ACTION

C.O.A.S.T.ing toward success

Clean Ocean Action would like to extend a gigantic thank you to all of our terrific volunteers that lent their time and efforts to this year's C.O.A.S.T. Campaign. The success of C.O.A.S.T., a public awareness and conservation campaign, would not be possible without the effort and dedication of our motivated volunteers. Through their hard work, thousands of beach-goers were educated about the current threats to our ocean as well as ocean pollution and how to become the solution to this problem. With the cooperation of citizens, organizations, towns, and beach clubs, Clean Ocean Action will be able to continue the C.O.A.S.T. tradition and defend the ocean for many years to come. The C.O.A.S.T. campaign is a perfect example of Clean Ocean Action's successful grassroots' foundation. Once again, thank you to all of our volunteers for their time, dedication, and support.



Kathleen Gasienica leading a C.O.A.S.T. table at Chapel Beach Club, Sea Bright, NJ.

CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

David Byer, Esq., Policy@cleanoceanaction.org

East Coast Offshore Drilling Update

One of the Obama Administration's earliest actions was to slow down the Bush Administration's last minute push to open up nearly the entire East Coast, and other regions, to offshore drilling. The federal government allows for offshore drilling in regions that are listed under a 5 Year Program. Even though a program was already in place to 2012, the Bush Administration decided to start the process for a new 5 Year Program by releasing a Draft Proposed Program (DPP) so that it could try to open up nearly the entire East Coast, plus other regions including off the West Coast. On February 10, 2009, Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar extended the public comment period for the DPP to September 21, 2009 to allow states, stakeholders, and affected communities the opportunity to provide meaningful input. Now is your opportunity to submit comments, calling on President Obama and Secretary Salazar to reject the failed energy policies of President Bush and to protect our sensitive marine habitats and New Jersey's \$38 billion tourism economy. Visit our website to learn how to comment or go to mms.gov and click on the "5-Year Program" tab and then "How to Comment on the DPP."



POLLUTION PREVENTION

Sign up for the Electronic Clean Ocean Advocate



As you know, the Clean Ocean Advocate is going green to save BIG BLUE by converting our monthly newsletter to an electronic mailing. **If you have not done so already, please remember to submit the form on the back panel with your email address** to ensure that you will continue to receive the latest ocean updates, events, and news.

Sea Scenes: Gem of An Idea

Maureen Bay, owner of Gem of an Idea in Fair Haven, has supported COA for over twenty years. Her devotion to the ocean is evident in her generous donations of time and gorgeous jewelry, which raise important funds for pollution prevention programs.

"It all began in 1970 when my husband Bill and I began bringing empty plastic bags to Long Branch beaches to pick-up garbage and dispose of it properly. The increase of "muddy" waters and refuse disturbed us a great deal. Then... COA was founded in 1984!! Someone else that cared about the beach and the ocean enough to do something about it!! That's when we began supporting COA and will continue to do so for as long we are able!! Keep up your efforts and know that MANY appreciate it," **Maureen Bay, Gem of an Idea, Fair Haven.**

"COA is grateful to Maureen for her sustained generosity and friendship. Advocates like her inspire others to take action to make the ocean a treasured jewel for all to enjoy," **Cindy Zipf, Executive Director, Clean Ocean Action.**

Visit The Gem of an Idea Clam Bar Game of Chance at COA's Sunset at Sandy Hook party on September 25 and you could win a beautiful necklace donated by Maureen!

Here's how the game works: Think you can spot the real thing? Put it to the test for only \$25. you can take a chance to win a genuine cultured pearl necklace, valued at \$1,000, and show the Gem of an Idea crew you really know your pearls. Only 100 "clams" will be offered--the odds are great!! Put your expertise to the test!!

Visit www.gemofanidea.com for more information on Maureen's seaworthy business.

Sea Scenes appears every other month in the *Clean Ocean Advocate*.



Cindy Zipf, Emily Hackett, Kevin Collier, and Maureen Bay.

JOIN US FOR A SEASIDE CELEBRATION...

Friday, September 25, 6-10pm



\$100 per person, \$125 at the door

Over 20 Premier Jersey Shore Restaurants & Caterers

Hosted by the Segall Family at Sea Gulls' Nest

Sunset Bar of Beer and Wine

Chance to Win a Japanese Akoyo, Pearl Necklace, donated by Gem of an Idea of Fair Haven

Live Music by Koka and The Thom White Band

Supporters Packages \$250-\$500, includes admission for two and specialty Jersey Shore products

Event is Rain or Shine

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- Lusty Lobster Specialty Seafood
- Michael Angelo's Pizzeria
- Readies Fine Foods
- Sallee Tee's Grille
- Sea Gulls' Nest Deck Restaurant
- Sickles Market
- Tavolo Trattoria Italiano
- Tavolo Pronto
- Villa Somma Italian Specialty Store
- Whole Foods Market
- Yumi

*Check our website for updates, our menu expands daily.

For more information or to pay by credit card call 732-872-0111 or visit www.cleanoceanaction.org.

EVENTS

Jennifer Smiga, Events@cleanoceanaction.org
 Emily Hackett, Programs@cleanoceanaction.org

Summa Highlights

Summa Love Surfing and Yoga Camp on July 5th and August 9th donated proceeds to COA. Bryan Zinski, owner and instructor of Summa Love, is an active member of COA's Next Generation. Special thanks to all volunteer yoga and surf instructors who helped throughout the day.



Many thanks to our friends and supporters at **Pop's Garage** of Normandy Beach; **Normandy Beach Improvement Association**; **Lightly Salted Surf Mercado** of Asbury Park and **Global Pursuit** of Stone Harbor for hosting fundraising events and efforts for COA this summer!

Weston Gallery supports COA with Beach Badge Jewelry. Weston Gallery of Manasquan donates \$1 per sale of their beach badge jewelry (shown in picture) to support our ocean protection efforts. Over 35 beaches are available. Visit westongalleries.com.



* If your business has an interesting idea to support COA, please call Emily Hackett at the COA office.