



WATER QUALITY INTERNSHIP Summer 2023, Long Branch, NJ

This full-time internship position with Clean Ocean Action (COA) is an exciting opportunity for a student to learn and engage in actions to address pollution in coastal watersheds in New Jersey. COA has been coordinating the *Rally for the Waterways* program since 2016, which is based on the strategy of “Finding and Fixing” sources of pathogen pollution in coastal watersheds. Presently, the Rally Program focuses on three watersheds in Monmouth and Ocean Counties: 1. Rally for the Two Rivers (Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers), 2. Rally for Deal Lake, and 3. Rally for Barnegat Bay (Toms River area).

The water quality intern will primarily work on various aspects of coordination of Rally for the Waterways Program. The intern will be working under the direction of the Water Quality Research Director and will assist the Water Quality Team on the following functions:

- Assist with water quality sampling independently and in coordination with community scientists. This will include weekly sampling effort in the Two Rivers.
- Perform laboratory analyses for common fecal indicator bacteria in recreational waters and routinely monitor field water quality parameters (DO, pH, salinity etc).
- Assist with data collection in the laboratory and during field investigations, and maintain records.
- Adhere to all quality assurance/control protocols and standard operating procedures in the lab and in the field.
- Track the Rally for the Waterways water quality reporting form in Survey 123 for reports on water quality updates from the community.
- Assist the Water Quality Team with monitoring of any other emergent issue, such as menhaden die-off and algal blooms in these waterways. This may include conducting weekly community science monitoring for harmful algal blooms (HAB) in the Two Rivers watershed.

The intern will also work on investigating stormwater best management practices in these watersheds, as needed. Some examples include investigating signage issues in/near stormwater outfalls in the watershed and status of stormwater ordinances in these municipalities. During the bathing season, this intern would be tasked with monitoring NJDEP’s Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program website and summarize the weekly water quality report for recreational beaches in NJ. This report will be shared to COA social media pages.

Specific Tasks

- Assist and coordinate field sampling activities for water quality monitoring in Program Areas
- Assist and conduct laboratory analyses for fecal indicator bacteria
- Assist and conduct water quality field investigation using a YSI instrument
- Transport samples to certified water quality laboratory and NJDEP’s Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring laboratory, as needed
- Assist with mapping using ArcGIS, Google Earth and track Survey 123 water quality community monitoring
- Check NJDEP’s CCMP beach monitoring results every week and help post on social media

At the completion of the internship, this intern will have a greater understanding and firsthand experience in:

- water quality issues in coastal watersheds
- grassroots community engagement for pollution track down
- outreach efforts to raise and improve awareness
- scientific communication

Qualifications

- ✓ Pursuing a degree in Physical/Environmental/Marine Sciences or Engineering
- ✓ Laboratory Experience (Chemistry/Bio)
- ✓ Proficiency with MS word applications, Google applications including Google Earth
- ✓ Familiarity/Experience with ArcGIS a plus
- ✓ Knowledge of water quality issues and threats a plus

Time and Location Requirements

The summer internship is full time and located at COA's office in Long Branch, NJ. **It is essential to the success of the program and the overall internship experience that the applicant lives within close proximity to the Long Branch office to sustain daily commuting.** The location and in-office hours are contingent on local, state, and federal COVID-19 restrictions. Applicants must be fully vaccinated. No housing or transportation is provided. Office hours are 9am to 5pm, Monday – Friday. Willingness and ability to travel throughout Monmouth and Ocean County, work nights (if needed), and to be “on call” on weekends is required. Some weekend hours may be required, with flexibility for excessive hours when necessary. The position requires a reliable car and the ability to pack and deliver supplies. Business casual attire is expected and can vary depending on activities. Monthly stipend and travel expenses (excluding commuting) are paid. College credit (arranged by the student with the university/college) is available. Start date is early in May with end date late in August.

Interested applicants should demonstrate enthusiasm and basic knowledge of environmental issues, organizational and communication skills, creativity, and willingness to work hard. Applicants should live within close proximity to the COA office. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

To apply, send a cover letter including local address, resume, writing sample, and a list of 3 references with affiliations and contact information to: Projects@CleanOceanAction.org with “Water Quality Internship_ YOUR NAME” as the subject line.

About COA

Clean Ocean Action is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to protecting marine water quality in the New York Bight (those waters between Montauk Point, NY, and Cape May, NJ, and extending to the continental shelf). COA spearheads campaigns with broad-based coalitions of boating, business, community, conservation, diving, environmental, fishing, religious, service, student, surfing, and women's groups. COA identifies sources of pollution and takes actions to stop them using research, education, and citizen action. For more information about COA visit www.cleanoceanaction.org.

COA is committed to providing an environment of mutual respect where equal employment opportunities are available to all applicants and staff members without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws. We hire great people from a wide variety of backgrounds, not just to do the right thing, but because it makes the organization stronger.