

Clean Ocean Advocate



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February 2011 Highlights
- Governor Signs Coastal Bills into Law!
- Update on Shark River Bay Dredging
- Save the Date: Family Beach Ball

**Say NO to LNG:
Public Hearings in
February!**

NY/NJ Right "Bills"
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
www.CleanOceanAction.org
732-872-0111
Highlands, NJ 07732
18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2
Clean Ocean Action



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 receive the *Clean Ocean Advocate* via email only please detach this form and include your email address.
Please print clearly. Thank you.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

2011 Volunteer Training Sessions:
- Wednesday, February 23 @ 7pm: Red Bank Public Library
- Thursday, February 24 @ 7pm: New Brunswick Library
- Saturday, March 19 @ 1pm: Jakes Branch Nature Center, Beachwood

Other locations and registration information available online

2011 Beach Sweeps
- April 30
- October 22
- Information available online!

2011 Family Beach Ball
- May 22
- Tickets and information available online!

Our COAlition

Featuring... Garden Club of Long Beach Island

The Garden Club of Long Beach Island was organized in 1958 and is part of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. They currently have about 175 members that are active in their community. Most recently members worked on the Fertilizer Bill that was recently signed into law, as well as dedicated time to call elected officials to oppose liquefied natural gas and to install cooling towers for the Oyster Creek nuclear generating station. Members also participated in Hands Across the Sand, an event to oppose offshore oil drilling.



In addition to the advocacy work, the Garden Club works on other environmental issues. They maintain two public gardens on Long Beach Island, as well as a demonstration garden that serves to teach others about the unique conditions of a barrier island and practices that will not contribute to water pollution. The group hosts guest speakers at their monthly meetings and members attend youth groups and schools to teach about gardening.

The Garden Club of LBI meets on the second Thursday of every month at the United Methodist Church in Beach Haven Terrace. If you are interested in learning more, please visit their website:
www.thegardencluboflbi.com.

Coastal Victories: Governor Christie Signs Bills into Law

On January 5, 2011, Governor Christie signed into law three important bills designed to protect NJ's waters, coastlines, and ecosystems. Overlooking the Barnegat Bay Light, the Governor's bill signing in Waretown, NJ, was the final step in a multi-year initiative by COA and partners to control fertilizer pollution, protect soils and groundwater, and start to clean and repair deteriorating stormwater systems throughout the state. This package of bills, initially sponsored, supported, and championed by Senators Bob Smith and Jennifer Beck, and Assemblyman John F. McKeon, passed the legislature with overwhelming bi-partisan support in December. These laws would not have been possible without the help of a broad base of citizens' groups and political leaders who worked with the bill sponsors and the DEP to iron out achievable, enforceable laws.



Coalition members celebrate at bill signing!

These laws are the first wave of bills to bring NJ water quality protection measures into the 21st century. With the Governor's signature, New Jersey leads the nation controlling fertilizer pollution, and sets a model for others to follow. The environmental pressures facing New Jersey call for new tactics and new ideas, and the Legislature, Governor, and stakeholders have come together to turn those ideas into laws. Indeed, Governor Christie called these bills "a good start."

STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



On January 6th, Clean Ocean Action was honored to accept a donation from Mrs. Terrigno's 3rd grade class at Lincroft Elementary School. With help from parents, the third grade class organized a goldfish sale to raise money for a local charity.

The students voted to donate the proceeds to Clean Ocean Action. Tavia Danch formally accepted the check and made a brief presentation about non-point source pollution. Thanks so much to Mrs. Terrigno's 3rd grade class for all their hard work!

ACTION ALERT: SEE LNG HEARINGS!

SCIENCE AND POLICY

Heather Saffert, Ph.D. science@cleanoceanaction.org;
Sean Dixon, Esq., policy@cleanoceanaction.org; Jennifer Samson, Ph.D.

New Jersey Adopts Nutrient Standards for Marine Waters

The first step in recognizing that nutrients can be pollutants in marine waters was taken by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in late January. After an additional year of review, the DEP adopted a rule that extends the narrative nutrient standards to marine waters allowing for action to be taken.

In marine waters, nutrient levels have increased due to fertilizer over-use, wastewater discharge, stormwater systems, and air fallout from burning of fossil fuels. Nutrient-overloaded systems can cause varying degrees of ecological harm – from algal blooms to “dead zones.” Nutrients can cause sea lettuce to grow excessively and smother naturally-occurring seagrass beds and wash onto beaches (resulting in closure) as well as tiny algae to grow in excess rapidly clogging surface waters. These blooms eventually fall to the seafloor where they decay - causing oxygen levels to drop and fish to die. These types of problems occur in NJ’s estuaries and along the coastline.

Now that NJ has adopted these nutrient standards, new methods that are under development can be adopted and used to assess marine waters. If nutrient levels cause harm the state must identify the pollution problem and must work to reduce it. COA is working with the state to develop a comprehensive system for implementing these nutrient standards and to ensure that they use them to improve waterways.

Update on Shark River Bay Dredging Plans

The Shark River back-bay boating channel has become clogged with sediments. State boating channels in the back-bay have not been dredged since 1984 due to difficulty identifying sites to manage dredged materials from channel-clearing projects. An upland site in Wall Township is currently atop the list of sites being considered, and multiple smaller locations are being examined as feasible alternatives.

However, before a site can be chosen, the quality of the material must be known. For years, COA has urged NJDEP to begin testing sediments in the channel to know the physical and chemical make-up of the sediments. Testing is also required before the DEP can assess beneficial reuse options. NJDEP had planned to test sediments in the summer of 2009, but the quality assurance plan and a standard operating procedure for the project took over a year to complete. Based upon updated information the DEP now expects their assessments to be completed soon, allowing the process of dredging the Shark River’s back-bay channels to move forward for the first time in decades.

Post-Blizzard Polar Bear Plunge!

Despite a Post-Christmas blizzard, hundreds trudged through snow and took the plunge into the icy Atlantic at the Asbury Park Convention Hall on New Years Day. The Eighth Annual Sons of Ireland Polar Bear Plunge raised money for Ashley Lauren Foundation, Campership of Monmouth County, Clean Ocean Action, and The Sisters Academy - Mercy Center.



COA Plunge members Meg Gardner, Carrie Slavinski, Tavia Danch and Emily Hackett.

Sons of Ireland began in 2002 with a mission dedicated to the principles of brotherhood, charity and community service and in support of worthy charities and causes within Monmouth County.

“The plunge became an annual tradition, and after the first few years we started to charge twenty-five dollars to anyone who wanted to participate and we donated the money to charity. I’m not sure that any of us, looking back, imagined that this would become so large or such a tradition along the Jersey Shore,” said SOI founding member, Sean Clifford.

Plunge participants and spectators gathered in Convention Hall to enjoy entertainment by the Quincy Mumford Band and The Nerds. The plungers were led to the water by bagpipe and then awaited the singing of the national anthem seconds before the plunge. “We had a great crew this year, COA was well represented in the plunging category and as a team we really put forth a great fundraising effort. We are already looking forward to 2012!” stated Emily Hackett, COA’s Programs Coordinator.

Special thanks to event sponsors Linksys, Mountain Hill Investment Partners, Land Rover Monmouth, and Living In Media.

COASTAL CREATURE FEATURE

The December creature feature was the sea pen (*Pennatula aculeata*). They are named for their feather-like shape which looks like an antique quill pen. They have been found in high concentration in submarine canyons in the New York Bight. These canyons occur along the slope from the continental shelf to the deep seafloor and provide natural refuge areas and hard surfaces along canyon walls that support diverse wildlife. Judge C. Quill thanks all who submitted guesses and congratulates the contest winner, Joe Martucci of Union, NJ!

The February creature is one of the smallest species of the baleen whales, reaching up to 35ft. in length. Instead of teeth, baleen whales have rows of flexible plates that filter food from the water. They feed on krill or small schooling fish, such as capelin, cod, herring, and pollock. The species that lives in our region is the third most abundant whale on the Atlantic Coast. This fast species can leap out of the water and is identified by its pointed beak, or snout, and they do not show their tail when diving.



Photo from: www.itsnature.org

For a chance to win a COAST shirt, submit your guess to Judge L. Piked by mail, email (science@cleanoceanaction.org) or online at www.cleanoceanaction.org.

(Creature Feature and Sea Scenes appears every other month in the *Clean Ocean Advocate*.)

EVENTS & DEVELOPMENT

Tom Harris, development@cleanoceanaction.org
Emily Hackett, events@cleanoceanaction.org



TRIBUTES

Tributes are donations made to Clean Ocean Action in memory of someone who has passed away or in honor of a friend or family member (graduation, birthday, anniversary, etc.). Donations made as tributes go to support COA’s Internship Fund which supports our efforts to keep our ocean clean and to engage the next generation in ocean advocacy.

Tributes:

In Honor of Dr. and Mrs. Roger E. Bove
In Honor of Ray Dodd
In Honor of Laura and Jeff Haaren
In Honor of Linda Lees
In Honor of Nancy Haaren and Bob Schuster
In Honor of the Simon Family
In Honor of Stevie and Todd Thompson
In Memory of Dery Bennett

To recognize your friend or loved one, visit www.CleanOceanAction.org/donations. A notice of your gift will be sent to the recipient and his or her name will appear in the following issue of the Clean Ocean Advocate.



2011 CORPORATE BEACH SWEEPS: MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHILE LEARNING!

During the months of June-September, Clean Ocean Action offers professionally-staffed Beach Sweeps in the beautiful and unique setting of Gateway National Recreation Area at Sandy Hook. Since our program began in 2005, over 2,000 Corporate Beach Sweeps volunteers have united in efforts to rid beaches of debris and litter in an effort to protect the health of the ocean and marine life.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

How it works:

- Companies register and donate to Clean Ocean Action. Rates are based on number of people attending the event and can be found online.
- Clean Ocean Action provides cleanup materials and lunch, including data cards, pencils, work gloves, and trash bags for litter and recycling. Participants are asked to dress for the weather and wear sunscreen and hard-soled shoes.
- Representatives from Clean Ocean Action meet your group at the cleanup site; give background on COA, instructions and training; and distribute supplies. The group then cleans a beach area for several hours (i.e. 9:00am-12:45pm).
- In teams of 2-3, volunteers collect litter and debris from the beach and maintain a tally of items collected on a data card provided by Clean Ocean Action.
- During lunch, Clean Ocean Action tallies the data to show the results of your employees' hard work. Following lunch, COA presents the results, including the top items found.



To get your corporation involved or to find out more information, please contact Tavia Danch at (732) 872-0111.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE: VOLUNTEER!

Interested in volunteering with Clean Ocean Action? Join us for one of our upcoming volunteer training sessions to learn about COA, current ocean threats, volunteer opportunities, and what being a COA volunteer entails. Volunteers are very important in our work to stop ocean pollution by informing hundreds of people throughout the state about current ocean threats and ways they can take action to help.

Please attend a volunteer update and training session near you. There are more dates and locations to come so please check out our website calendar of events for all the sessions.

Wednesday, February 23 @ 7pm: Red Bank Public Library, 84 West Front Street, Red Bank

Thursday, February 24 @ 7pm: New Brunswick Library, 60 Livingston Ave, New Brunswick

Saturday, March 19 @ 1pm: Jakes Branch Nature Center, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beachwood

Other locations to include Point Pleasant Beach and Atlantic City.

To sign up, please email Meg Gardner at citizens@cleanoceanaction.org or call (732) 872-0111.



EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

Tavia Danch, education@cleanoceanaction.org
Meg Gardner, citizens@cleanoceanaction.org

SPEAK OUT AND TAKE ACTION NOW!



Liberty Natural Gas is a Canadian based company that is proposing a foreign Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import facility 16 miles off Asbury Park, NJ, with an on-land pipeline coming through Perth Amboy, Woodbridge, and Carteret to the Linden natural gas mainline hub.

Public Hearing Information:

Tuesday, February 8th

New York Beach Channel High School,
100-00 Beach Channel Drive
Rockaway Park, NY 11694-2818, (718)945-6900

Thursday, February 10th

NJ Convention & Exposition Center,
97 Sunfield Ave
Edison, NJ 08837, (732)417-1400

All meetings will begin at 6:30pm but you should plan to get there by 5:30 in order to get a seat. There is an open house with informational displays from 5 to 6pm. Clean Ocean Action and our coalition partners will be having a press conference and rally before the hearings in Long Branch and Edison. More details to come.

**Let your voice be heard! It is crucial that you attend and testify at these public hearings.
Please pass the word along to your friends and family as well.**

Liquid natural gas (LNG) threatens our environment, our wallets, our safety, our energy security, and our way of life.

Details About Liberty Natural Gas Project:

- * 4 underwater snake-like turrets that will scour and damage up to 76 acres of seafloor habitat
- * LNG Tankers up to 4 football fields long
- * Located at the gateway to the Port of NY/NJ- raising serious threats
- * Sources of LNG include Libya, Tunisia, Trinidad & Tobago
- * Three-foot wide industrial pipeline coming on-land through one of the most densely populated areas in the region.

For more information, including talking points, how to submit written comments, and to RSVP for the hearings, email citizens@cleanoceanaction.org or visit www.cleanoceanaction.org.