



Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper with soy ink.

- Big Oil Proposes Seismic Blasts in the Atlantic Ocean!  
- Thousands Flock to Shore and "Spring" into Action  
- Join COA for our Family Beach Ball for the Ocean - May 20

## May 2012 Highlights

**TAKE 3 ACTIONS TO HELP OUR OCEAN:**  
1. Send comments to stop seismic blasting (which leads to oil and gas exploration) in the Atlantic Ocean.  
2. Volunteer for COA at an upcoming event or festival.  
3. Attend COA's Family Beach Ball for the Ocean on May 20.

Clean Ocean Action  
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Highlands, NJ 07732  
732-872-0111  
www.CleanOceanAction.org  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### May 5

- **Asbury Boardwalk Bar Crawl to Benefit COA**, 1-5pm, sign-up starting at 12pm outside Aqua (in Convention Hall Arcade, Asbury Park). Tickets are \$35 per person. After-party at Aqua at 5pm. See "Events" page 5 for details. Volunteers needed.

### May 15, 16

- **COA Student Summit**, Gateway National Recreation Area - Sandy Hook. Schools must apply. For more information and application instructions, see inside advertisement, go to COA's website, or call Tavia at the office.

### May 20

- **Family Beach Ball for the Ocean**, 3-7pm, Ship Ahoy Beach Club, 800 Ocean Avenue, Sea Bright, NJ. Reservations available by phone, mail, and on COA's website. Rain or shine. See page 3 for details.

## COA'S NAME IN LIGHTS ON BROADWAY



Clean Ocean Action staff and friends ventured to the Big Apple to experience our Times Square Public Service Announcement first-hand. Fully equipped with our classic clip boards, video recording equipment, and thick skin, COA filmed a series of interviews with the average New York City passersby.

It's not every day that visitors of the "city that never sleeps" are asked questions about the beach, the ocean, and how to prevent pollution. With COA's first-ever Times Square ad rolling onscreen (until May 1), we reached citizens from the Jersey Shore, the mid-west, and overseas!

COA will be compiling a "Man on the Street" video of clips from the interviews to raise awareness about ocean pollution. Special thanks to Dan Saulnier, a student at Montclair State University studying film-making, for volunteering his time to film and create the video. Stayed tuned and check [www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org) for the video.

## VICTORY AT SEA!

Announced on April 24<sup>th</sup>, effective April 20<sup>th</sup> (just in time for Earth Day), the Liberty Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) port proposed off the New Jersey and New York coast has been officially withdrawn, and the federal government has terminated all work on the proposal.

In late March 2012, the State of New Jersey sent a letter to the federal government detailing each and every instance where NJ Governor Christie said "NO" to LNG – in all forms, in all locations, and by all applicants. Christie officially – and legally – vetoed this port in February of 2011, and Liberty LNG spent the past 14 months trying to find ways to get around this clear opposition.

Armed with the NJ Governor's veto and frustrated by the inaction over the last year (in refusing to deny the LNG port application), Clean Ocean Action (COA) and 30 other groups from Montauk, NY, to Cape May, NJ, sent a letter to the federal government demanding that this unnecessary foreign fossil fuel facility be shown the door – officially. One week after the collective voices of NY and NJ citizens and organizations called for the denial of the LNG port, Liberty LNG (owned by a Canadian investment firm), withdrew the application.

This victory for our clean ocean is the third victory in as many years; proposals for a giant floating port and a man-made island-port were both cancelled in 2010 and 2011, respectively. For the first time in over a decade, there are no pending or proposed LNG ports off the NY/NJ coast!

Clean Ocean Action thanks all the citizens who stood together over the years against this harmful industrialization of our ocean. As we look to the future, these ports can always come back. Clean Ocean Action will remain vigilant as we all work toward the Clean Ocean Zone.



## BIG OIL PROPOSES SEISMIC BLASTS IN ATLANTIC

### Feds Announce Plans for Seismic Blasting from DE to FL

In April, the US Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) held a series of East Coast hearings on their proposal to blast airgun arrays in the Atlantic Ocean from Florida to Delaware Bay searching for offshore oil and gas.

These "seismic surveys" involve towing airgun arrays behind survey ships, regularly and repeatedly blasting sound waves every 16 seconds through the ocean and deep into the ocean floor to find locations of sub-seabed oil and gas deposits. These surveys generate intense marine noise pollution that propagates over vast areas of the ocean, potentially causing significant damage to marine life and marine ecosystems. Blasts are shot up to 255 decibels (human impairment begins at 90 decibels).

At press time, Clean Ocean Action (COA) was rallying citizens to speak at the April 27<sup>th</sup> hearing in Atlantic City. For COA's testimony and photos from the hearing, see COA's website. Citizens can email comments by **May 30, 2012**, to Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief, Regional Assessment Section, Office of Environment (MS 5410), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, at [GGEIS@boem.gov](mailto:GGEIS@boem.gov) (in subject line write "Comments on Draft Atlantic G&G Programmatic EIS.")



Officials respond to a stranded infant dolphin last year. Seismic surveys impact marine mammals, such as dolphins, who rely on sound to survive. Due to this, BOEM has suspended seismic activity during the calving period in the Gulf.

### BP Oil Disaster Serves as Warning to Drilling in the Atlantic

Two years ago, a BP oil rig exploded on April 20, 2010, killing 11 people and resulting in the discharge of 4.9 million barrels of oil and gas into the Gulf of Mexico. Two million gallons of dispersants were sprayed and pumped into Gulf waters to break apart the oil. The devastated ecology and local communities of the Gulf Coast are struggling to survive and recover.

Although Gulf Coast beaches in 2012 generally appear clean, tar balls continue to occasionally wash-up. Tar mats buried by sand or vegetation continue to be found and cleaned-up, and several beaches and refuge areas still need to be remediated. Among the other impacts so far are:

- Heavy oiling of marshes was fatal to marsh vegetation, critters, and birds living in these areas; significant reductions in marsh biomass occurred.
- Oil that matched oil from the blown-out BP well was detected in zooplankton in the northern part of the Gulf that serve as a food source for fish and larger marine life.
- Fish diseases were found to be high in areas impacted by the spill. Chronic contamination from oil and dispersants can compromise animal immune systems and damage cellular genetics which may lead to cancer or reproductive defects.
- Unusually high numbers of dolphin and sea turtle strandings since spill.
- A deep sea coral community that was severely impacted by the spill appears to be dying.
- Tourism and fishing industries have been hard hit; concerns about lost wages and livelihoods, as well as the health of the ocean and marine life.

With this disaster fresh in our minds, the recently-proposed airgun blasting to explore for oil and gas on the seafloor from Delaware to Florida must not be allowed (see above article).



# JOIN US FOR OUR FAMILY BEACH BALL FOR THE OCEAN

Hosted by Ship Ahoy Beach Club  
800 Ocean Avenue, Sea Bright, NJ  
Sunday, May 20, 2012  
3:00-7:00PM

ADULT ADMISSION \$75 (\$100 AFTER MAY 13<sup>th</sup>)  
FREE CHILDREN'S ADMISSION!  
Two Children admitted with each adult



- Reggae** *Random Test*
- Raw Bar** *Lusty Lobster Seafood Market & Catering*
- Scallops** *Fishermen's Dock Cooperative*
- Catering** *Brennan's Specialty Gourmet Delicatessen*  
*Wegmans (Artisan Cheeses)*
- Tiki Bar** *Holly Crest Wine Cellars*  
*Hunterdon Brewing Co.*  
*Island Margaritas*
- Dessert** *The Flaky Tart*  
*Sugarush*
- Ice Cream** *Gracie and the Dudes*



**Admission and 50-50 Raffle Tickets are available now at  
[www.CleanOceanAction.org](http://www.CleanOceanAction.org) or 732-872-0111**

**Entertainment for Children Provided By:**

Mr. Scott the Musician Man & Ray Anderson (aka Mr Ray)

**Hours of Free Fun for the Kids!**

Summa Love Surfing & Yoga, Green Crafts, Face Painting, Volleyball and more!

**Special thanks to our Generous Sponsors**

**Salt Water Taffy**

Medallion Financial  
Torcon

**Skee Ball**

Becker & Poliakoff, LLP  
The Huber Family  
Shore Point Distributors



**Thanks to our Outstanding Committee**

*Lisa Cordova and Louise Hall, Co-Chairs*

- Tracy Brown*
- Rosanna Fazio*
- Ann Gilmartin*
- Louise Hall*
- Marie Jackson*
- Jackie Janosko*
- Ingrid Justick*
- McKenna Kingdon*
- Claudia Lucey*
- Jennifer Pepper*
- Stevie Thompson*
- Kim Vowteras*
- Carolyn Waters*
- Patty Wolfe*



## RECORD NUMBER OF BEACHES CLEARED OF UGLY, HARMFUL TRASH



*Avery of West Orange removes a lawnmower engine from Toney's Brook at Glenfield Park, Glen Ridge*



*Beach Captain Lisa Cordova reported record attendance at the Ideal Beach site in Middletown*



*COA's staff scientist and beach captain Heather Saffert documented the pile of debris collected by volunteers from Kittatinny Regional High School of Newton at Port Monmouth, Middletown*

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, thousands of volunteers hit the beaches to participate in **COA's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Beach Sweeps** at a record 72 sites along the Jersey Shore and its tributaries. Robust crowds were reported up and down the coast.

"Human trash is now found on every shoreline in the world and throughout the global ocean. Human trash not only makes beaches ugly, it maims and kills marine life. We must do more to reduce plastic pollution and Beach Sweeps are one way citizens can help. Their response is inspiring. People love the beach and ocean and are proud of the real Jersey Shore; it is remarkable and our elected officials should take note," said **Cindy Zipf, COA's Executive Director**.

The data collected will be combined with data collected at the Fall Beach Sweeps (*to be held October 20*), and then analyzed and presented in an annual report (*see article on 2011 Report, page 2*). These annual reports identify pollution problems, educate citizens on the types and quantities of debris, aid legislators in passing and enforcing laws to protect the marine environment, and contribute to local and international efforts to combat marine pollution.

The Spring Beach Sweeps were made possible by support from generous sponsors. The Statewide Sponsors for the 2012 Beach Sweeps are **Atlantic City Electric, Aveda, Bank of America, Comcast, Montecalvo Material Recovery Facility, Surfers' Environmental Alliance, Verizon, and Wakefern/ShopRite**.

### Spring 2012 Highlights:

- **US Senator Menendez (D-NJ)** and **US Representative Pallone (NJ-D-6)** attended the rally at Sandy Hook and collected and tallied trash with students from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST).
- **NJ State Senator Joe Kyrillos (R-13)**, joined by his family, spoke at the Atlantic City Rally, and collected and tallied trash.
- At **Sandy Hook**, over 1,200 attending volunteers collected dumpsters of trash, including: 8,705 plastic pieces; 8,384 foam pieces; 7,527 food wrappers; 6,665 plastic caps and lids; 94 Six-pack holders; 141 shotgun shells; 45 shoes; and 564 plastic utensils. Unusual items found were: solar panel, lottery ticket, flip-flop, flash drive, life jacket, magic wand, hair rollers, stuffed horse, dog tags, and plastic strawberries.
- The **Bayshore Family of Companies** presented COA with an Environmental Hero Award. The company is not only a Beach Sweeps sponsor, but also provides containers (*see right*) for Sandy Hook, and recycles up to 70% of the material.



*Volunteers scoured the beach in Atlantic City looking for trash and helped by sponsor Atlantic City Electric*



*Filled dumpster at Sandy Hook  
Photo by Bob Lisiesky*



- **Erin Foreman** (*pictured left*) of Toms River attended the Beach Sweeps last October at Island Beach State Park (IBSP) and was amazed at the large amount of trash, but low volunteer turnout. She worked to get the Girl Scouts more involved, getting the event approved at the regional level. Also, girls who participated received a fun badge that she and her mom created. Over 200 girls and their families attended the Spring Sweeps at IBSP! New Beach Captain **Leah Savia** did an awesome job coordinating the site, along with **Park Ranger Becky Laboy**. Participation from Girl Scouts and the **NJ Beach Buggy Association** resulted in a record turnout for the site.



*MAST students ready to sweep and tally! Photo by Bob Lisiesky*

# SCIENCE & POLICY NEWS

Heather Saffert, Ph.D., Science@cleanoceanaction.org  
Sean Dixon, Esq., Policy@cleanoceanaction.org

## Members of Congress Stand Behind Sandy Hook NOAA Lab

In just a few short weeks, support for the James J. Howard National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Science Lab on Sandy Hook garnered over 6,200 signatures from COA's E-petition drive. Thanks to the loyal supporters of the scientific research conducted at the lab and the attention raised regarding the lab's closure, three members of US Congress visited the facility and rallied in support of the work done there. At an April 12<sup>th</sup> event, **US Senators Lautenberg and Menendez (both D-NJ)**, and **US Representative Pallone (NJ-D-6)** were joined by a vigorous crowd of concerned citizens, scientists, and students who called on the federal government to restore funds for the lab.

"Closing this lab would jeopardize important efforts to protect New Jersey's shore and coastal areas across the country," said **Lautenberg**.

"The Howard Lab is a blessing for our state's economy and a boon for our environment. It has helped New Jersey's fishing industry and our state's prosperous coastal economy thrive."

**Senator Menendez** added, "For more than 50 years, the Howard Lab has been a unique and invaluable resource for our fisherman, scientists, students, the surrounding communities, and the nation."



Rep. Pallone speaks to the crowd outside NOAA Lab in April; other speakers included (sitting, L-R) Sen. Lautenberg, Sen. Menendez, and COA's Cindy Zipf

**Congressman Pallone**, who also circulated a letter to colleagues regarding the closure of the lab, pledged, "I am committed to doing everything possible to keep this important facility open and functioning at full capacity and to make sure that the lab has the necessary funding to continue its important work."

The elected officials were joined by other speakers at the press conference, including: **Maureen Howard**, the daughter of James J. Howard, for whom the NOAA lab was named; **Cindy Zipf**, COA Executive Director, who was representative of the many cooperators at Sandy Hook and of the environmental community; and **Tom Fote** of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association.

**Frank Steimle**, a former employee of the NOAA lab, emceed the event. Since the event, Sen. Lautenberg, who serves on the subcommittee that funds NOAA in the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Sen. Menendez announced that the committee approved language that prevents the lab's closing.

While advances have been made, a recent study shows that the predicted ocean acidification rate for this century is faster than has been observed over the past 300 million years based on geological record. Lowering of the ocean's pH due to carbon dioxide pollution endangers coral reefs and shell-building sea life that are important to people and the ocean ecosystem. The Howard lab is a leader in ocean acidification research. This recent study makes the research that the Lab conducts all the more important.

## Local Municipalities Pass Resolutions to Support NOAA Lab

In addition to support from the federal level, the NOAA Lab garnered support from local government as well. Citing the importance of the scientific research and contributions to the community that the lab generates, Aberdeen, Fair Haven, Little Silver, Lake Como, Rumson, Monmouth Beach, Shrewsbury, Middletown, and Sea Bright passed resolutions urging the federal government to reconsider the closing of the lab. For information on the township resolutions or other efforts to support the lab and keep it open, visit [www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org).

# ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

Tavia Danch, Education@cleanoceanaction.org

## 2011 Beach Sweeps: Plastic Pieces Increased, Smoking Products Declined



**2011 Report Highlights Jersey's Pride for Clean Beaches**  
Clean Ocean Action (COA) is a coalition of 133 organizations working to improve and protect the waters of the New Jersey and New York coastal areas from the 1970s to the present. In 2011, 71 volunteers gathered at Sandy Hook for the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Beach Sweeps. The beach is a beautiful and important part of the Jersey coastline. The Beach Sweeps program is a volunteer-driven effort to clean up the beach and report on the amount of debris collected. Each year the Beach Sweeps program reports to the public on the amount of debris collected. The report is a valuable resource for the public and the state. The report is available on the COA website. The report is a valuable resource for the public and the state. The report is available on the COA website.

In April, COA released the 2011 Beach Sweeps Report. In 2011, **7,575** volunteers tallied and removed over **452,698** pieces of debris from New Jersey's shoreline during the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Beach Sweeps. The numerous volunteers demonstrate the Jersey Pride of citizens and their dedication to protect and improve the environment. Key to the program's success are the Beach Captains that lead each of the Beach Sweeps locations.

Eighty-three percent of the debris removed was disposable plastics—items designed to be used once and thrown away. It is clear: disposable plastic items continue to litter beaches, threaten marine life, and impact water quality. Plastic pieces can be deadly to marine life as it can be accidentally ingested by or entangle wildlife. During last year's Sweeps, 20 animals were found dead due to entanglement with nylon balloon string, fishing line, six-pack rings, rope, or netting. Volunteers were able to free three entangled animals at the event.

The 2011 data marks the first year in Beach Sweeps history that cigarettes have not been one of the three most common items of debris collected during the bi-annual event. Other smoking-related items (e.g., packaging, lighters, cigar tips) also declined.

The Roster of the Ridiculous, which lists the most unusual items found, included: adult-sized Elmo costume, plastic vampire teeth, Easter eggs, car bumpers, typewriters, garden hose, flower pots, a prosthetic Leg, and a bottle from 1869.

Pollution continues to flow into coastal waters from many non-point sources on land and combined sewer outfalls in the New York City and New Jersey metropolitan area. It is important, now more than ever, that we reduce, reuse, and recycle plastics and other items properly and stop pollution at its source.

The 2011 Beach Sweeps Report is posted on COA's website. Special thanks to 2011 Statewide Sponsors: Aveda, Atlantic City Electric, Bank of America, Montecalvo Material Recovery Facility, Comcast, and Verizon. Waves of thanks to the local sponsors, Beach Captains, and volunteers.



Volunteers pose post-cleanup with debris collected from the beach in 2011

For photos and highlights of this year's Spring Beach Sweeps, see page 4.

## COASTAL CREATURE FEATURE

**May's creature** is found worldwide in tropical to cold waters. The Gulf of Mexico is an important nursery area for the North Atlantic stock, which can be found along the eastern seaboard and even off the European coast. This fish has unique adaptations to swim in deep cold waters. This is one of the ocean's fastest predators, capable of reaching speeds up to 50 mph. You might recognize this fish by the long, flattened "bill" it uses to kill and stun prey, and its tall, crescent-shaped dorsal fin.



May creature

For a chance to win a COA t-shirt, submit your guess to Judge Bill Saber by mail, fax, or email (18 Hartshorne Dr., Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732; 732-872-8041; science@CleanOceanAction.org).

## ATTENTION MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS/STUDENTS IN NORTH/CENTRAL JERSEY\*

Apply to attend COA's Spring Student Summit  
May 15 & 16, 2012

Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook, NJ

- ~ Free program for Grades 5-8 ~
- ~ Schools must apply to participate ~
- ~ Terms of Participation ~



Schools from these counties can apply: Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Middlesex, Somerset, Union, Essex, Hudson, Bergen, Passaic and Morris.

(The Fall Student Summit invites schools in southern counties.) For information and an application, go to [www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org), or contact Tavia Danch at 732-872-0111 or [education@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:education@cleanoceanaction.org).

## CITIZEN ACTION

Zach McCue, Citizens@cleanoceanaction.org

### Volunteering is in Full Bloom this May!

Help educate, activate, and motivate people to save the ocean by volunteering for COA at an action table this month. Without volunteers, information would not reach the thousands of people who enjoy our unique coast, and the voices of the ocean and citizens would not be heard by those who make decisions critical to our coast's future. To sign up for the following events, or other volunteer opportunities, contact Zach.

- Eco-Blast** - May 5, 10am-2pm, Kid Street Park, Bridgewater, NJ
- Memorial School Environmental Fair** - May 16, 6:30-8:30pm, Old Bridge
- Seaside Music Festival** - May 19, 12-7pm, Boardwalk, Seaside Heights
- Jackson Going Green Expo** - May 19, Jackson Township
- Ocean Fun Day Science Fair** - May 20, 11am-3pm, NJ Sea Grant Consortium, Gateway National Recreation Area - Sandy Hook

## EVENTS

Emily Hackett, Events@cleanoceanaction.org

### Asbury Boardwalk Bar Crawl to Benefit COA - May 5

Join friends of the ocean on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, from 1-5pm for a seaside bar crawl. Participants can sign-up outside Aqua (in Convention Hall Arcade) starting at 12pm. Tickets are \$35 per person and include a free Corona or House liquor drink at each of the six locations. Contact Emily to volunteer at our action table.

Join COA for the after-party at Aqua starting at 5pm with music by the incredibly talented Predator Dub Assassins! Thanks to participating establishments:

**Aqua, Langosta Lounge, McLoone's Supper Club, Pop's Garage, and Porta.** Call the crew at Aqua at 732-455-8434 for additional details.



## TRIBUTES

In memory of **Kenneth Louis Baril, Sr.**  
In Honor of **Mark McAuliffe**