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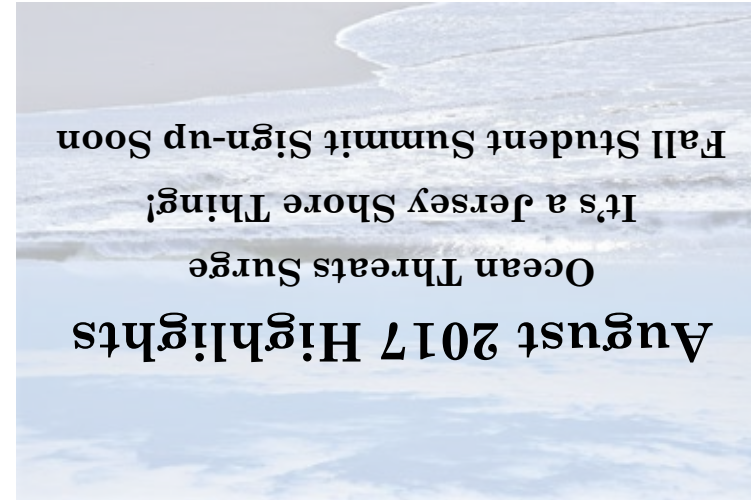
LABEL

# CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE August 2017

## August 2017 Highlights

Ocean Threats Surge  
It's a Jersey Shore Thing!  
Fall Student Summit Sign-up Soon

Photo courtesy of Todd Thompson



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## Global Water Dances

WATERSPIRIT, a faith-based group dedicated to the sacredness and interdependence of all creation with a focus on the role of water as critical in sustaining all life. On June 24th they hosted Global Water Dances on a beautiful early summer evening on the grounds of the serene Stella Maris retreat in Long Branch. Over 95 countries participated in a display of gorgeous motion and movement to call for clean water everywhere. COA was honored to have been chosen to speak at and support this outpouring of creativity. Congratulations to all the dancers and choreographers for drawing attention to water quality issues facing everyone on the planet. For more information about the event go to [www.globalwaterdances.org](http://www.globalwaterdances.org).



## TRIBUTES



Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

### In Memory of:

Samuel Karinja  
William Lavin  
Justin Pomphrey  
Carol Anne Ross

### In Honor of:

Janine Karoly



Photo courtesy of Ryan Struck Photography

## Trump Administration's Ocean Threats Surge



In addition to reinstating permits for seismic blasting in the Atlantic Ocean, President Trump's Executive Orders (EO) also direct federal agencies to re-open the region to offshore oil and gas leasing and weaken regulations.

First, you may recall that President Obama originally proposed to open the Atlantic Ocean twice, but finally ruled against the plan in January 2017, given vast public opposition. Six months later, leasing the Atlantic Ocean to

big oil may be BACK on the table at the directive of EO #13783 and EO #13795. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is requesting information on "a wide array of information, including, but not limited to, information associated with the economic, social,

and environmental values of all OCS resources, as well as the potential impact of oil and gas exploration and development on other OCS resources, and on the marine, coastal and human environments." This is just the opening salvo for this process. Help COA nip this in the bud by telling BOEM that the clean ocean economy of the Atlantic is not compatible with big oil. **The comment period closes on August 17, 2017.** To let your voice be heard, send comments! Instructions and links are on COA's homepage.

**The hits keep coming.** In July the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced they will be reviewing the agency's processes and regulations to comply with several of President Trump's EOs. In addition to the above, they include EOs #13766, #13771, and #13777. NOAA, the agency primarily in charge of protecting the ocean and her resources, has combined the directives and are asking public input on "Streamlining Regulatory Process and Reducing Regulatory Burden."

This review puts regulations from some of the most fundamental environmental protection statutes at grave risk, including the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, and Coastal Zone Management Act. The scope of this federal review is damning as the agency is only seeking public comment on how these regulations are overly burdensome, or otherwise limiting for industrial use. **These comments are due by August 21, 2017.** To let your voice be heard, send comments! Instructions and links are on COA's homepage.

## Seismic Blasting: Don't Forget About the Fish



A ship operates an air-gun array while looking for oil deposits off the coast of Greenland. Photo: <https://www.nature.com/news/air-guns-used-in-offshore-oil-exploration-can-kill-tiny-marine-life-1.22167> courtesy of Christian Aslund / Greenpeace

The extended comment period ended on July 21st at midnight. Waves of thanks to over 150 ocean advocates who submitted comments and over 500 citizens who signed petitions. Strong opposition continues to grow, including eight coastal states (NY, CT, MA, PA, NC, MD, DE, RI, VA, and the District of Columbia). Ironically, efforts to garner opposition from NJ on the seismic testing were not successful.

Much of the opposition focuses on concerns to all marine life, not just marine mammals. The IHA (Incidental Harassment Authorizations) do not take into account the impact that seismic blasting will have on fish stocks, and both commercial and recreational fishing communities are deeply concerned. The New England, Mid-Atlantic, and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils have voiced concern about the damage seismic testing will cause to coastal fisheries and hunting grounds.

This concern is well founded because a few weeks following this statement a study published in Nature Ecology and Evolution highlighted the fatal impact seismic blasting has on essential larval stages of many commercial fisheries species (zooplankton). The study found that the mortality rate for zooplankton is two to three times higher during seismic testing. In fact, within one hour of seismic activity, researchers found that 64% of the zooplankton population was killed. The proposed seismic blasting poses an imminent threat to the East Coast's fishing economies, as well as the businesses that rely on their success.

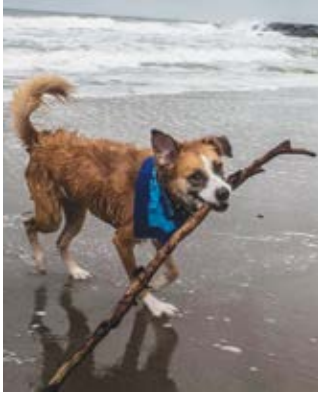
Clean Ocean Action comments were powerful and compelling, and prepared by Policy Intern Mel Daly with support of COA Counsel Andrew Provence. To read them visit COA's website.



# PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Tory Woods, Development Director, [Development@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Development@CleanOceanAction.org)  
Abigail Eastwood, Program Assistant, [Programs@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Programs@CleanOceanAction.org)

## Does your dog have “Sandy Paws”?



Participate from any location at any age, and leave no trace - pick up debris!

Few things bring a dog more joy than a romp in the ocean and a run on the shoreline. But do you know that your pet's waste can have a devastating effect on the health of our waterways? In fact, one gram of dog waste contains over 23 million bacteria!

As you enjoy the dog days of summer, discover how your dog can help make a difference! COA's 3rd Annual Sandy Paws, Walk Fur Clean Water, is right around the corner and your pup is itching to play on the beach for a good cause. This October, Sandy Paws walks will be held throughout NJ and the rest of the nation. Register your dog for Sandy Paws, join a team, organize a walk near you, or donate!

Your pup could win prizes and be crowned 2017's “Top Dog” by raising important funds to support COA's year-round programs to improve water quality. Join the pack today! Visit [COASandyPaws.org](http://COASandyPaws.org) to learn

how your dog can make a splash. And of course, be sure to pick up after your pet every time and also pick up any litter while walking your dog. This helps ensure our waterways are safe for pets and people.

## It's a Jersey Shore Thing

Support COA while you treat yourself and the environment with a Jersey Shore Thing to enjoy special deals from these generous businesses!

**July 27 at Russell and Bette's in Rumson** - Five course meal and wine pairing. 10% of the evening proceeds will be donated to COA!

**August 3 at AB Fitness in Sea Bright** - Workout, pop up shopping & more! A portion of proceeds will benefit COA!

**August 16 at Aqua Vida in Avon by the Sea** - Paddle out and rally with food and live music at Rigg's Seafood!

**August 17 at Half Moon Point Tavern & Grill in Point Pleasant** - Music and dinner specials with 15% of the night's sales benefitting COA!

**August 24 at Sunsets Riverfront Restaurant in Neptune** - Come to the 7th annual Surf Costa Party for drinks, prizes and live music!

**Ongoing at Canyon Pass Provisions in Fair Haven** - \$1 from every water-related item sold will benefit COA!

**Ongoing at 2nd Jetty Seafood in Sea Bright** - \$1 from every “Happy Lobster” dinner ordered will benefit COA!



## Welcome, Abigail Eastwood!



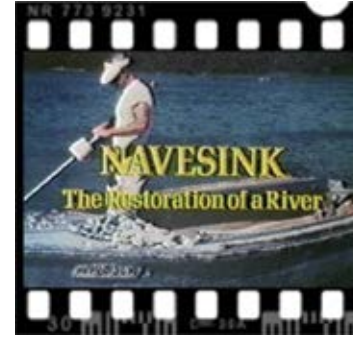
Abigail Eastwood joins our crew as our Program Assistant. She grew-up in Monmouth County and has a passion for protecting the environment. Abby is a graduate of Rutgers University with a major in Journalism and Media Studies. She has experience as a free-lance writer, editorial assistant, manager of a surf shop, and as a COA volunteer for many years.

Abigail's enthusiasm and many talents will ensure successful programs, events, and smooth sailing. Welcome to the crew, Abby! Full steam ahead!

# SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, Staff Scientist; [Science@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Science@CleanOceanAction.org)

## Rally for the Navesink – 1 Year Anniversary Meeting



At the June Rally for the Navesink meeting, alliance members and citizens celebrated One Year of success and set a course for continued progress.

Results from the volunteer Navesink Citizen

Water Quality Monitoring Program were presented and proved that the dedicated and enthusiastic citizen scientists are on track to help the NJDEP track-down sources of pollution. State officials said they were impressed with the progress.

COA also shared a brief update from NJDEP Fish Pathologist Dr. Jan Lovy on the recent menhaden fish die-off and evidence of spinning disease, a viral disease, observed in the Navesink. According to Dr. Lovy, the exact cause of this die-off is not yet clearly determined, and investigations are

continuing. However, the fish are facing numerous stressors in the Navesink, including low DO, changing salinities, predators, and more. While die-off from a viral occurrence (spinning disease) is possible, it has not been categorically identified as the reason behind this one.

The highlight and cautionary tale of the evening, was the showing of a 30-minute PBS documentary from the 1980's, which showcased one of the earliest efforts to restore the Navesink River. It was hailed as a national innovative model program. The film depicted the very same pollution issues the river is facing today, 30 years later. It is evidence that the Rally for the Navesink's efforts are essential to break the cycle of pollution.

COA thanks all alliance partners in the Rally for the Navesink, concerned citizens, community members, state and town officials, and the media for continued support and participation. The momentum is building. Together, Watershed Mindfulness will be instilled and the Navesink River will be restored for future generations to enjoy.

## Navesink River Citizen Scientist Spotlight: Susan Matulewicz and Stephanie Silk

The ambient water quality sampling in the Navesink Watershed is going full steam ahead, and it's time to meet the all-star samplers who have made this entire project possible. This month, meet Susan Matulewicz and Stephanie Silk.

Susan is a Master Gardener of Monmouth County and also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity Restore in Freehold. Susan makes her own jewelry and has started a small business, Snowdrop Design LLC. She hand makes and sells beaded/woven wrap bracelets and cuffs at craft shows.

Stephanie enjoys hiking and spends a lot of time in Huber or Hartshorne Woods with her dog Jingle, and they both adore the beach off season. This year marks her 25th year as a freelance copywriter. Stephanie has a theater and art background, and has appeared on both stage and in film, including the indie feature, 'Let Me Down Hard' which was shot in Monmouth County and won awards in 2016 at both The Garden State Film Festival and the Asbury Park Music in Film Festival.

The two women share a love for the earth, gardening and the Navesink River. Thank you for all you do, Susan and Stephanie!



A constant member of the Dirty Dozen, straws litter beaches along the NY/NJ coast and around the world. In the past ten years COA's Beach Sweeps have removed 226,880 straws from beaches. Like all pointless pollution, there is an easy solution to reduce straws in the environment.

COA is working with schools, parks, restaurants and boardwalks this summer to educate about straw pollution, the harm straws pose to marine life and what actions to take. One easy step is to skip the straw while at restaurants. When ordering, simply say, “No Straw Please.” In fact, Anastasia School's (Long Branch) 3rd grade Jose sent a letter to Congressman Pallone after COA presented to his school asking him, “Would you like to help the sea animals from being in danger? Sea animals are eating trash. It is bad for them. Trash is on the beach and it is in the ocean. I think Straws By Request is a great idea because there are too many straws in the ocean.” If everyone in NJ skipped one straw a day, there would be 8,944,000 fewer straws used each day. In a year that add up to almost 2.3 billion straws!

For more information about going straw free at your home or restaurant, contact Mae Henry at [outreach@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:outreach@CleanOceanAction.org).

# OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Mae Henry, Marine Program Associate; [Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org)  
Amanda Wheeler, Volunteer & Education Coordinator; [Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org)

## COA Goes to Summer Camp

This summer, Clean Ocean Action is sharing its message of ocean advocacy to summer camps at the Jersey Shore and beyond! From “Be the Sea Change” to “Soak It Up” and lessons using the renowned Enviroscape (pictured on right) campers are learning about Watershed Mindfulness and how to be clean ocean stewards to keep the marine environment healthy and safe for their future! Thanks go out to all the camp directors and instructors who invited COA to their programming. We look forward to expanding this summer fun next year! Contact Education and Volunteer Coordinator, Amanda Wheeler at [AWheeler@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:AWheeler@CleanOceanAction.org).



## Calling South Jersey Schools for Fall Student Summit



This October 5th, students in 5th through 8th grades from schools located in South Jersey (Ocean and Burlington Counties south) are invited to participate in Clean Ocean Action's 29th Annual

Fall Student Summit in Island Beach State Park. Students become marine scientists for the day and enjoy an up close and personal look at the flora and fauna of the Park. The event is free. This year, applications will be accepted until September 8th. Visit our website [www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org) for the application under the “Education Programs” tab on the top of the homepage. For more information, contact [AWheeler@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:AWheeler@cleanoceanaction.org).

## C.O.A.S.T. is in Good Hands!

The 2017 Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips (C.O.A.S.T.) Campaign is in full swing and on track for a great summer of education and outreach for the ocean! The C.O.A.S.T. program's purpose is to inform coastal residents and visitors about ocean pollution issues, traditionally by setting up tables at shorefronts, and as a recent addition, at farmers' markets. This new strategy brings a whole new audience into ocean advocacy while at the same time keeping current advocates up-to-date.

Volunteers manning the tables have noted the significant interest that visitors have in fighting ocean blasting and supporting watershed mindfulness. Demand for ocean advocates remains high and if you are interested in volunteering in August or September, contact [coast@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:coast@cleanoceanaction.org) or visit [cleanoceanaction.blogspot.com](http://cleanoceanaction.blogspot.com) for more information.

