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LABEL

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE September 2017

Photo courtesy of Todd Thompson

September 2017 Highlights

Offshore Drilling in the Atlantic Rally for the Navesink Fall Meeting Save the Dates



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Events

- Saturday, September 23rd, A Plastic Ocean**
Ship Bottom Firehouse, Long Beach Island
COA and Lighthouse International Film Festival present a "A Plastic Ocean".
- Wednesday, September 27th, Rally for the Navesink**
Knights of Columbus Hall, Fair Haven
Rally for the Navesink "falls" back into monthly meetings!
- Thursday, September 28th, Happy Lobster Party**
2nd Jetty, Sea Bright
An evening of live music, seafood, drinks and prizes to benefit COA!
- Thursday, October 5th, Fall Student Summit**
Island Beach State Park, Ocean County
Free Fall Student Summit for 5th – 8th graders! See article inside for details.
- Sunday, October 15th, Sandy Paws Walk Fur Clean Water**
Asbury Park & locations throughout the nation
3rd Annual Sandy Paws, Dog Walk Fur Clean Water!
Visit COASandyPaws.org!
- Saturday, October 21st, Beach Sweeps**
Over 65 NJ beaches
Gather along the bay and ocean to clean our beaches and waterways!
- Saturday, December 2nd, Annual Celebration**
Windows on the Water, Sea Bright
A fun night to celebrate year-round ocean advocacy!

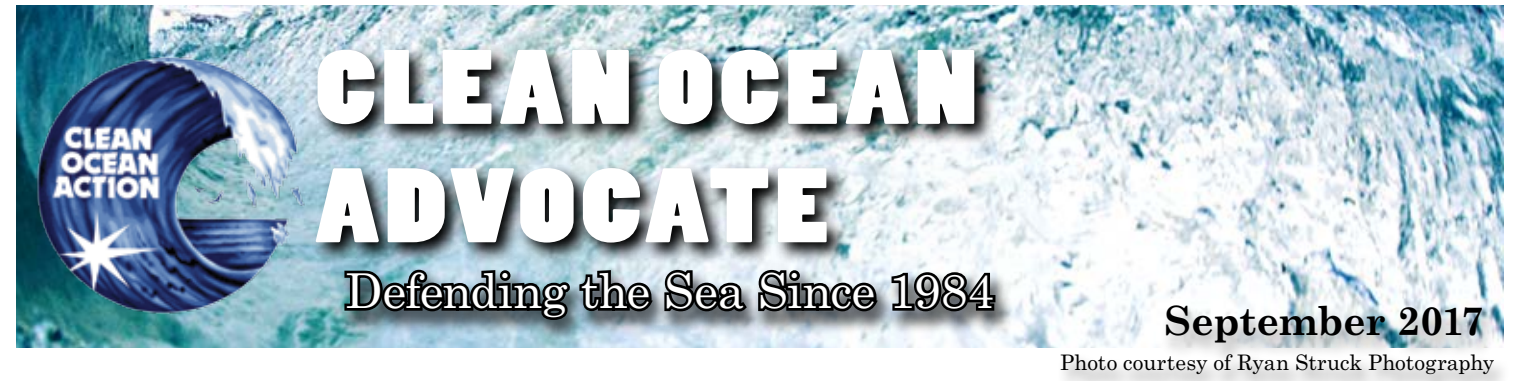
TRIBUTES



Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

In Memory of:
Samuel Karinja
William Lavin
Evelyn Murphy
Carol Anne Ross
David Shaughnessy

In Honor of:
Amis Amants Clothing LLC
The Montecalvo Family



CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Defending the Sea Since 1984

September 2017

Photo courtesy of Ryan Struck Photography

BOEM Swamped by Comments Opposing New Offshore Drilling

The August 17th deadline for comments to oppose new plans for offshore drilling in the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific has come and gone. Comments from around the country swamped the federal docket to oppose the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) proposal. BOEM officials believe it may take more than a week for all comments to be uploaded to the on-line docket. The Atlantic and Clean Ocean Zone was well represented with thousands of letters, including opposition from Governor Chris Christie, and a most impressive roster of federal and state officials.

NJ Governor Chris Christie stood firm and in a letter on his behalf by the NJDEP the position was clear, "...the State of New Jersey opposes any portion of the North Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic Ocean being included in the development of a National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas leasing program."

At the direction of President Trump's Executive Orders the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) opened a comment period to collect information and comments from the public on a NEW five-year National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program).

Nationally, New Jersey ocean champs Congressmen Frank Pallone (D-6) and Frank LoBiondo (R-2) led a coast-wide bi-partisan impressive roster of 66 members of the House of Representatives opposing drilling in the Atlantic and Eastern Gulf of Mexico. The letter concluded, "Therefore we urge you not to include the

Atlantic Ocean or the Easter Gulf of Mexico in the National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019-2024."

The list includes 9 of NJ's 13 members, including Reps: Norcross, Pascrell, Sires, Payne, Gottheimer, Watson-Colman, and Lance. One Rep. from NY Nydia Velazquez signed the letter. NJ Rep Smith wrote his own letter of opposition.

Endless waves of thanks to all of you and the many elected leaders who stood up for the ocean! BOEM expects the decision before the end of the year, but it could come sooner. Seismic blasting permits from Delaware to Florida are still pending and can happen any time. To review copies of elected leaders' letters, visit the COA website, cleanoceanaction.org.



Bi-Partisan Local Support for EPA and NOAA Funding

The League of Conservation Voters initiated a state-wide rally to encourage members of the House of Representatives to reject President Trump's proposed massive budget cuts to EPA and NOAA, and restore full funding when they reconvene in NJ. The rally was organized by Britta Wenzel, Executive Director of Save Barnegat Bay. On very short notice, many local mayors joined with over 12 environmental organizations to call on Congress not to cut funding to key programs that protect water quality and coastal ecosystems. Congressman Pallone joined the rally, along with Zach McCue from Senator Booker's office. Mayors from Brick, Point Pleasant Beach, and Bay Head as well as Council President of Lavallette spoke passionately to the large gathering and the press about the need to protect these essential programs.

Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action attended the event and said, "Rather than cutting the EPA, the federal government should eliminate subsidies to oil companies and the program for offshore oil drilling. Although federal lawmakers have proposed less severe cuts to programs that affect clean water, no reduction in funding is acceptable. These programs

were already underfunded. We need more money for these programs, not less, especially with the impact of climate change and what we saw from Superstorm Sandy."



PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Tory Woods, Development Director, Development@CleanOceanAction.org
Abigail Eastwood, Program Assistant, 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 on the beach. 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. On **October 15th**, Sandy Paws walks will be held throughout NJ and the rest of the nation with the main walk held in Asbury Park, NJ. Register your dog for this year's event, 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 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. Did 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!

Deal Lake Commission “Ship and Sniff” Canine Pollution Search Program

Those incredible **poo-lution** sniffing dogs are back in action in New Jersey! Environmental Canine Services, based in Maine, has been called in to help track down human sources of sewage in the five fingers lakes that comprise Deal Lake in Monmouth County.

In collaboration with the Deal Lake Commission (see photo) and ECS, Clean Ocean Action will coordinate a “Ship and Sniff” study to search for and locate potential sources of human pathogen pollution within the Deal Lake watershed. Up to 100 samples will be collected and shipped to Maine where the dogs will determine if the water contains human waste. The program will launch with samples from 24 sites around the lake, including key spillways and pipes that lead to the lake.

These samples will be taken prior to storms and after storms at the same location. The results of the first two rounds of testing will generate a more detailed review of pipes and/or streams leading into the lake. Dry (low flow) samples will be selected on or about Aug 23rd.

“We are thrilled to be working with the Deal Lake Commission and the many amazing community leaders throughout the five fingers of the vast Deal Lake Watershed. If there is human pollution in the lake, the dogs will find it. Together we can implement the “no-blame game, find-it/fix-it strategy” and bring about community-wide “watershed mindfulness,” said Cindy Zipf, Executive Director, COA.

It's exciting to be working again with ECS and the Deal Lake Commission to implement this project. Ultimately, a cleaner Deal Lake is a cleaner ocean!

Joyfully Welcoming New Communications Coordinator



Allison Meyerhoff has joined the staff as Communications and Marketing Coordinator. Allison brings 10 years of marketing and visual communications experience coupled with a passion for

ocean protection to the COA crew.

Prior to COA, Allison was a Digital Content Specialist and Graphic Designer for HBC Home & Hardware Company and The Louis Berger Group. She is a graduate of Richard Stockton College with a BA in Visual Art and Visual Communication. Allison also

has continued her education in numerous courses with New York University and School of Visual Arts. Allison is an avid hiker, kayaker, paddle boarder and beach yoga enthusiast; she considers spending time in nature as an integral part of her physical and mental wellbeing.

In Allison's own words, “It is important to me that the work I do in the world positively contributes to society and the world at large. It has always been my intention to eventually use the design and marketing skills I am developing to help promote environmental sustainability.”

Allison's vision, ideas and talents will help improve and promote COA's programs and visibility to protect the ocean.



SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, Staff Scientist; Science@CleanOceanAction.org

Rally for the Navesink “Falls” back into Monthly Meetings!

During July and August Rally for the Navesink took a summer break from our monthly meetings, but the work to track down pollution and educate about ‘watershed mindfulness’ did not ebb. Citizen scientists and the NJDEP ramped up the Water Quality Monitoring program, sources of pollution were eliminated, and Alliance members launched many exciting programs! Join us on Wednesday, September 27th at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fair Haven, NJ for the Rally for the Navesink meeting. The results from the 15 weeks of Water Quality Monitoring Program will be revealed, and NJDEP will also be presenting on the current state of the Navesink water quality. There will also be updates from the Alliance member's initiatives. If you are curious about water quality, or interested in getting involved in the Navesink this is the meeting you want to attend!

Navesink River Citizen Science Spotlight: Chuck Hunnewell

The impressive commitments of the Navesink River volunteer citizen scientists are essential to the Water Quality Monitoring Program's success. Meet Chuck Hunnewell from Red Bank, NJ, who is this month's Spotlight. He has spent 45 years doing geologic and environmental consulting work which included conducting hydrologic assessments, geotechnical foundation engineering, environmental assessments and corrective actions.

Between 1981 and 1984, he worked for NJDEP's Division of Water Resources, Bureau of Water Supply & Watershed Management where he was a Senior Geologist. Now Chuck spends his time at Monmouth Boat Club where he is an avid sailor of the Navesink River.

Though it has been quite a while since he was last in the field performing actual hands-on field sampling, Chuck has picked up his passion yet again through the



Navesink Water Quality Sampling program. Thank you Chuck for your dedication to the Navesink! Learn how you can become a citizen scientist at COA's upcoming trainings at Monmouth Beach Club on Tuesday, Sept. 19th & Oct. 3rd at 5:30pm. Contact outreach@cleanoceanaction.org for more information.



From left to right, Swarna Muthukrishnan of COA, Tinton Falls Group: Skip Bugbee, Charles Gross & Chuck Hunnewell

Barnegat Bay Restoration Initiative



Plastic Pollution in the Barnegat Bay

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) held a meeting to discuss the status of the Barnegat Bay based on six years of intensive research and a new draft strategy for the bay's Restoration, Enhancement, and Protection for the Barnegat Bay.

Cindy Zipf (COA's Executive Director) and Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan (COA's Staff Scientist) attended the meeting at Ocean County College on Aug 9th. NJDEP presented on the findings of the various research projects conducted since 2011. These research studies have shown that nutrient pollution, especially nitrogen, is a major factor for water quality impairment in Barnegat Bay. This is not surprising as studies over the last 40 years have been showing these same concerns. However these studies added more weight to the need to reduce nitrogen loading to the bay, as well as the need to address climate change.

Most importantly, the second half of the meeting focused on the NJDEP's draft strategy and actions for restoring the Bay. The draft strategy includes short- (0-2 yrs), mid-(2-3 yrs), and long-(3-5 yrs) term measures and actions in four areas: Restoration, Enhancement, Protection and Monitoring. The attendees, long standing advocates for and researchers of Barnegat Bay, including COA, actively participated in offering feedback and comments to improve and prioritize the various action items. During the meeting, COA emphasized the need to define and differentiate between the goals and objectives, and also advocated the urgent need to better integrate climate change risks in these restoration efforts.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Mae Henry, Marine Program Associate; Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org
Amanda Wheeler, Volunteer & Education Coordinator; Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org



29th Annual Free Student Summit on Oct. 5th!

Students and their teachers in 5th – 8th grades in South Jersey schools (from Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean and Salem Counties) are invited to attend COA's free Fall Student Summit on October 5th at Island Beach State Park. Students as “marine scientists for the day” will converge on the park for an action packed Seaside Symposium including a lecture by Project Terrapin, hands-on mini-lessons on various marine science topics led by MATES students, and field trips with professional naturalists. The deadline for applications is September 8th. The application and terms of participation can be found on our website. Visit the Education Programs tab of our website and scroll to the Student Summit link for the application and terms. Contact education@cleanoceanaction.org with any questions.



Keeping Swimmers Safe from Sewage



The NJ DEP in cooperation with local county health departments manages the Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program. From mid-May to mid-September, recreational beach water quality at 217 beaches, including 180 ocean and other bay monitoring stations, is monitored each week. Water samples are collected every Monday, and tested for the presence and abundance of Enterococcus. DEP posts the results of these tests to the CCMP website every Tuesday and in turn COA posts the results to Facebook.

Since the July update, COA has been compiling the CCMP water quality data to track down the frequencies of closures and advisories and is evaluating the difference between mild and severe rainfall events and its effects on the bacteria levels in the water.

Highlights as of mid-August:

- 67 beach advisories and 33 closures in total
- the week of July 24 had the maximum number of advisories and closings thus far—a total of 31 advisories and 15 closures. The cause? A major rain event just prior to the sampling pounded the coast with 1.6 inches of rain in 48 hours.

COA will continue to evaluate the data for the remainder of the monitoring season and inform the public through weekly social media posts. More information can be found at njbeaches.org.