



- The COZ Bill is introduced by Shore Congressmen
- NJ's US Senators Vow to Fight Ocean Drilling
- ATTENTION Computer Shoppers!

August 2006 Highlights

Eco-Tip of the Month
Smart Bag-It: Bring your own cloth shopping bags or totes to the store. We toss out 100 billion plastic shopping bags every year, filling our landfills and creating plastic waste that lasts for generations.
From "Our Environment,"
Vol 12, No. 3, by Ingrid Justick

Clean Ocean Action
PO Box 505
Sandy Hook, NJ 07732-0505
732-872-0111
www.CleanOceanAction.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Please clip and send to COA.

STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION!

MAILING LIST RENEWAL OR SIGN-UP FORM

- ➡ If you received a message on your address label, it's time to renew.
 - ➡ Your contribution will ensure that you receive this monthly newsletter, action alerts, and notices of events for one year.
 - ➡ To renew, please detach this form and enclose with your check.
- Thank you.

Enclosed is my check for (please check one):

___ \$25 Individual/Family ___ \$15 Student/Senior
___ \$50 Participating Organizations

Name _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Please include organization name & contact, if applicable:

Please make check payable to
Clean Ocean Action, PO Box 505, Highlands, NJ 07732
To pay with MasterCard or Visa, please call 732-872-0111.

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

August 2006

August 5-6, Saturday-Sunday

- **COAST** at Ridsen Beach Club, Avon-by-the-Sea, Bradley Beach, Point Pleasant

August 12-13, Saturday-Sunday

- **COAST** at Seaside Park, Lavallette, Island Beach State Park

August 19 & 20, Saturday-Sunday

- **COAST** at Long Branch, Deal, Loch Arbour, Asbury Park

- **Clearwater Festival**, 11:30am-7pm, Sunset Park, Asbury Park, NJ. Rain or shine. Organized by Monmouth County Friends of Clearwater. To volunteer to help MCFC with the festival, call 732-872-9644 or send an email to info@clearwatermc.org. To volunteer for COA at our booth, call Jessie at 732-872-0111.

Save the Date

September 15, Friday

- **Sunset at Sandy Hook to benefit COA**, Seagulls' Nest, 6-11pm. See inside for details.

September 25, Monday

- **Ocean Golf Classic to benefit COA**, Deal Golf & Country Club.

For details and sponsorship on both events, call Jennifer at 732-872-0111.

COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Featuring...

Surfers' Environmental Alliance

On the leading edge of coastal activism is **Surfers' Environmental Alliance** (SEA). This grassroots, project-based organization is "committed to the cultural and environmental integrity of the sport of surfing." Members are as much devoted to protecting the natural wonders of the coastal environment as they are to fostering and protecting beach access.

SEA was founded by surfers who wanted to do something to protect the ocean, beaches, and coastlines. The organization is based in Northern California and New Jersey, with a new chapter set to open in Hawaii. SEA has no paid staff and no rented office space, and has an all-volunteer board, volunteer legal team, and volunteer activists.

SEA has worked with COA to take action against ocean pollution. Currently, SEA is active in the campaign for the Clean Ocean Zone (COZ). Richard Lee, a SEA national board member, helped draft the bill as a member of the COZ legislative committee and traveled to Washington, DC, to rally support for the COZ bill from Congressional leaders.

"Ocean pollution from a multitude of sources has greatly been reduced because of the diligent work of the COA team and its supporters," said **Andrew Mencinsky, Executive Director of SEA**. "Surfers, many of whom surf year round, get sick as a result of polluted ocean waters. SEA continues to partner with COA on our long-standing commitment to water quality related issues."

SEA is focusing on many long-standing projects, such as working with the US Army Corps of Engineers to modify poorly designed beach fill projects, and working with NJDEP on several public beach access issues. SEA's newest exciting initiative is the submerged surf reef project off Long Branch, NJ.

SEA offers many opportunities and events for surfers and non-surfers to get involved. For information about SEA or upcoming events, visit www.seasurfer.org.

Portions adapted from SEA's website

THE "NJINY CLEAN OCEAN ZONE" BILL INTRODUCED BY SHORE CONGRESSMEN

Legislative Campaign for H.R. 5872 Launched



Congressmen Saxton and Pallone celebrate the announcement of the "COZ" with COA's Cindy Zipf

At long-last, the bill to permanently protect the ocean waters off New Jersey and New York from polluting activities was introduced into the US House of Representatives on July 24. **H.R. 5872** was introduced by original lead co-sponsors Reps. Jim Saxton (NJ-R-3) and Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-D-6) and original co-sponsors Reps. Robert Andrews (NJ-D-1), Frank LoBiondo (NJ-R-2), Chris Smith (NJ-R-4) Steven Rothman (NJ-D-9), Donald Payne (NJ-D-10), Rush Holt (NJ-D-12), and Tim Bishop (NY-D-1) and Major Owens (NY-D-11).

Prior to the introduction of the bill, Reps. Saxton and Pallone were joined by over 75 citizens and representatives of organizations and businesses on Saturday, July 22, at the Sawmill Cafe on the Seaside Park boardwalk to celebrate the announcement of the introduction.

see "NJ/NY Clean Ocean Zone" inside

NJ'S US SENATORS VOW TO FIGHT OCEAN DRILLING



(L-R) Dena Mottola (NJPIRG), NJDEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson, Cindy Zipf (COA), US Senator Robert Menendez, Andrew Mencinsky (Surfers' Environmental Alliance), and US Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.

US Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), US Representative Frank Pallone, Jr., and NJ Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Lisa Jackson were joined at a Long Branch press conference on July 14 by Clean Ocean Action, Surfrider Foundation, Surfers' Environmental Alliance, and NJ Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG) to oppose a deal struck by several US Senators that would set the stage to wipe-out 25 years of ocean protection.

see "Senate Bill a Trojan Horse" inside

CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

Jennifer Samson, PhD, 732-872-0111, Science@cleanoceanaction.org

HARS Slated to Receive Dredged Material from US Gypsum

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved 90,000 cubic yards (CY) of dredged material from maintenance operations at US Gypsum's Hudson River facility in Stony Point, NY, for disposal at the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS). COA is reviewing results of the required toxicity tests, which indicate PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) concentrations in worms are 105 parts per billion -- just below the maximum concentration of 113 ppb allowed in material used for capping HARS. COA will submit comments to the US Army Corps of Engineers, which are due by **August 17**.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY

Keith Rella, 732-872-0111, Policy@cleanoceanaction.org

Comments Sought on Environmental Impacts of Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

Public meetings to discuss the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) were hosted by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in Dover Township, NJ, on July 12. The public was given opportunities to comment on the draft EIS, which was released by federal regulators as part of a larger package for the renewal of OCNGS' operating license for an additional 20 years. The report concluded OCNGS would have a "small" impact on the environment if given permission to keep running past the expiration of the existing 40-year license in 2009.

COA testified, as did Rutgers University Professor, Dr. Michael Kennish, who is considered an expert on the ecology of Barnegat Bay. Dr. Kennish questioned the conclusions and the use of outdated research and information dating as far back as the 1970s.

The NRC is accepting comments on the draft EIS until **September 8**. The entire document can be viewed online at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>, and search using ML061520231.

Proposed Offshore Wind Turbine Facility - Comments Due

The US Minerals Management Service (MMS) will be developing an Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for a proposed offshore wind facility 3.6 miles off Jones Beach on Long Island. The MMS is accepting comments on the scoping of the EIS and are due **August 18**. According to MMS, scoping comments could include, but not be limited to, information on what should be included in the EIS, such as identification of alternative sites, size and configuration of the facility, resources to be analyzed for impacts (e.g., birds, marine mammals, fish, tourism, and recreational fishing) and monitoring or mitigation of potential impacts.

For information on both projects and how to submit comments, visit <http://www.mms.gov/offshore/renewableenergy/projects.htm>.

STAFF NEWS



Welcome back, Kate!

New to the COA Crew

COA welcomes **Kate Shanley** to our crew as Program Assistant. In 2003, Kate spearheaded the summer COAST campaign as an intern for COA. Kate returns to ocean advocacy after graduating in May from Towson University with a Bachelor's degree in both Political Science and Mass Communications. Kate will use her creative public relations and communications skills, as well as her commitment to the community and marine environment, to assist with education, outreach, and development programs and events.

C.O.A.S.T. 2006

Jessie Barrett, 732-872-0111, Coast@cleanoceanaction.org



This year's COAST Campaign was kicked-off on July 6th with a press conference at the Taylor Pavilion in Belmar. Participating in the event were: US Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-6), Carolyn Fefferman, a staff person with US Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Belmar Mayor Ken Pringle, John Durrea of Jersey Paddler, and Kathleen Gasienica, a COAST volunteer. At the press conference, the 2006 COAST limited edition T-shirt was unveiled (see left) and the annual summer education campaign was launched.

Heading into its fourth weekend, COAST has reached shore visitors at 11 sites. With the help of wonderful volunteers, COAST has already raised

almost \$3,000 and obtained over 300 petition signatures for the COZ (see insert).

Volunteers are still needed for the COAST tables for the last three weekends and the Clearwater Festival on August 19 & 20 in Asbury Park. To sign up, contact Jessie.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

ATTENTION Computer Shoppers

The Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT®) is a new tool to help purchasers in the public and private sectors (e.g., government agencies, private sector companies, and colleges/universities) evaluate, compare, and select desktop computers, notebooks, and monitors based on environmental attributes. Individual consumers are also able to review environmental considerations before making their purchases.

EPEAT evaluates electronic products according to three tiers of environmental performance – Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Compared to traditional computer equipment, all EPEAT-registered computers have reduced levels of cadmium, lead, and mercury, are more energy efficient, and are easier to upgrade and recycle. The EPA estimates that over the next five years, purchases of EPEAT registered computers will result in the reductions of:

- More than **13 million pounds** of Hazardous Waste
- More than **3 million pounds** of Non-hazardous Waste
- More than **600,000 MWh of Energy** – enough to power 6 million homes.

Over 60 desktop computers, laptops, and monitors from CTL, Dell, HP, and other manufacturers are recognized as part of the EPA-funded effort to identify high performance, environmentally friendly computer equipment. For more information, visit www.epeat.net.

COASTAL CREATURE FEATURE



Japanese Shore Crab
Hemigrapsus sanguineus

The June creature was the **Japanese Shore Crab**. If you have spent time on rock jetties at Jersey Shore beaches, you have probably seen this species crawling around in the intertidal zone (between the high and low tide line) eating algae, marsh grass, and small invertebrates. This crab is non-native (not from the area) and is aggressively expanding its range and displacing native (local) green and mud crabs. New Jersey was the first to report the presence of this crab in 1988; its range now extends from Maine to North Carolina. The Pacific crab probably arrived in the US in the bilge/ballast water of a large ship. There were no correct entries for June's creature.

August Creature: Eat your greens at the Jersey Shore! That's right! Both humans and livestock in many parts of Asia and Britain consume this common marine alga. In the US, the bright green alga grows in thin, wispy fronds along sandy and rocky shorelines and estuarine waters. Maybe if more American's ate this species, we could keep its rapid growth in check and prevent it from choking out other algae and sea grasses. To enter for a chance to win a COA T-shirt, send your guess for the **August Creature** by mail, fax, or e-mail (PO Box 505, Sandy Hook, NJ 07732; FAX 732-872-8041; Education@CleanOceanAction.org).

(Coastal Creature Feature appears every other month in the *Clean Ocean Advocate*.)



August Creature

Senate Bill a Trojan Horse to More Devastating Offshore Oil & Gas Drilling

At press time, the US Senate was preparing to vote on S. 3711. The bill would open 3 million more acres off the coast of Florida in the Gulf of Mexico to oil and gas drilling. While this threatens our global ocean, what is additionally dangerous is that the real purpose of the bill is a "bait-and-switch." Passage of the Senate Bill will enable a Conference Committee to combine this seemingly focused expansion of drilling in the Gulf with the appallingly bad Pombo bill—an all out national ocean assault on all three US coasts.



US Senator Frank Lautenberg denounces offshore oil & gas drilling; (L-R) Senator Lautenberg, Andrew Mencinsky (SEA), and John Weber (Surfrider)

*** TAKE ACTION ***

Call Your US Senators

Robert Menendez (D-NJ):
202-224-4744

Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ):
202-224-3224

Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY):
202-224-4451

Charles Schumer (D-NY):
202-224-6542

New Jersey's two US Senators have promised to block, through whatever means necessary, any drilling legislation. At a July 14 news conference, US Senator Menendez (D-NJ) vowed a filibuster to block any oil drilling bill and said, "I'm ready to talk all day and all night if I have to."

Senator Menendez (D-NJ) and Senator Lautenberg (D-NJ) sent a letter to Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) stating their opposition to drilling. US Senator Clinton (D-NY) has voiced opposition to the bill; unfortunately, Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) says he will support this Trojan Horse bill.

To see how the votes were cast in our region, go to COA's website or call COA at 732-872-0111.

EVENTS

Jennifer Smiga, 732-872-0111, Events@cleanoceanaction.org

A "Sunsational" Affair for the Ocean

Join us on **September 15** from 6-11pm at the Sea Gulls' Nest on Sandy Hook for the Eighth Annual "Sunset at Sandy Hook" event to benefit COA. Enjoy beautiful views of Sandy Hook Bay and the ocean, fare presented by the Jersey shore's top restaurants and caterers, live music by The Jazz Lobsters, and boardwalk-style fundraisers and games. Exciting prizes include gift certificates donated by over 100 area restaurants and businesses.

Special thanks to Sunset at Sandy Hook generous hosts Ed, Tina, and Scott Segall of the Sea Gulls' Nest, the staff of Gateway National Recreation Area—Sandy Hook, and Liz Lehmann, Pat Galloo Vilee, and student volunteers from the Brookdale Culinary Institute of Brookdale Community College.

Invitations will be mailed shortly. Please call Jennifer for information on sponsorship and to inquire about ways you can help to make our affair a "sunsational" success.

2006 "Sunset" Event Committee

Chair Janine Karoly
Joanne DeCuollo
Susan Drastal
Christine Farrugia
Liz Lehmann
Elisabeth O'Connell
Debbie Schluter
Mimi Wise