



# Clean Ocean Advocate

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**November 2008 Highlights**

- Volunteers Clean NJ Beaches: Fall Beach Sweeps Highlights
- NJ Governor Corzine Attacks Ocean
- Latest American Idol! Whale Songs Recorded in the Clean Ocean Zone

**\*\*\*Eco-Tip of the Month\*\*\***  
 Get Some Air: Open your home windows for at least 15 minutes every day. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, indoor air is up to 90% more polluted than outdoors!  
 Adapted from *Our Environment*, Vol. 14, No. 1, by Ingrid Justick

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**STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION!**  
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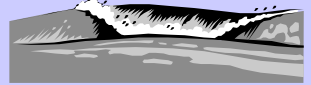
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 COA is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax deductible.

## November

Look for COA's Annual Holiday Appeal and Year-End Accomplishments Report by Mail & Email. To receive this information by email, send your email address to Jennifer at events@cleanoceanaction.org.

### Seaworthy Reminders



**Join the Wave!**  
 Want to learn of the latest ocean pollution threats and how to take action to save the ocean? Join **The Wave**, COA's email alert system, by clicking "Email List Sign-up" on our website.

**Volunteer in the New Year**  
 Sign-up to volunteer for COA in 2009 by completing the form on our website or contacting Carl. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. The ocean can always use more advocates!

**Our COAlition**  
 Featuring...  
**Strathmere Fishing and Environmental Club**



The **Strathmere Fishing and Environmental Club (SFEC)**, established in 1986, is a volunteer, community-based organization whose 200 members share common interests in fishing, boating, the artificial reef program, education, and environmental issues, such as clean water and beaches, and fish conservation.

Based in South Jersey, SFEC sponsors many social events including several fishing tournaments for children and adults, a boat parade, golf outing, barbecues, and a winter social. The Club also organizes boating safety and education courses with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The Club's main environmental emphasis is preserving fish populations and cleaning-up our oceans, waterways, and beaches. Of SFEC's many community service projects, the Club is involved in a monthly beach cleanup in conjunction with a national program.

SFEC works in cooperation with many organizations, including Clean Ocean Action (COA). Besides leading and participating in COA's Spring and Fall Beach Sweeps in Strathmere, SFEC participated in the Coalition to Stop Ocean Dumping, helping to set up meetings with elected officials and citizens in south Jersey.

"A healthy marine ecosystem is good for everyone, the fish, and fisheries," said **Randy Roash, SFEC President**. "Working together brings more influence on elected officials on these issues."

To learn more about SFEC, visit [www.strathmerefishing.org](http://www.strathmerefishing.org).  
 Portions adapted from SFEC website

**VOLUNTEERS CLEAN NJ BEACHES AND HELP BE THE SOLUTION TO OCEAN POLLUTION**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, an estimated 2,500 volunteers participated in Clean Ocean Action's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Beach Sweeps at over 60 sites throughout New Jersey. Volunteers removed and catalogued thousands of pieces of debris. This data will be combined with data from this year's Spring Beach Sweeps, and then analyzed and presented in an annual report, to be released in 2009, to help reduce sources of litter through education and action. For highlights and photos, see page 3.



Volunteers scour the beach at Sandy Hook for trash

## NJ GOVERNOR CORZINE ATTACKS OCEAN

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Clean Ocean Action (COA) condemned New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine's final Energy Master Plan (EMP), released on October 22. The EMP, which sets forth an energy agenda through 2020, opens the door to the building of liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities in the ocean for foreign energy and industrialization. It is the worst attack on the ocean by a NJ Governor in recent history.

The EMP's stated priority is ensuring that NJ "will receive a reliable supply of electricity and heating fuels at a reasonable price, consistent with the State's environmental priorities." In stark contrast to these goals, Corzine supports LNG importation. As shown by COA's recent report, "LNG: An Un-American Energy Source," LNG will increase the cost of energy, make the US dependent on volatile foreign global markets and countries, and cause more pollution.

**Corzine supports LNG in his Energy Master Plan.**

### Proving the Point, BP Packs It In

Indeed, consider the news that the company BP withdrew its plan to build an onshore LNG terminal in Logan Twp., NJ. The company announced that the "overriding factor" in its decision was that Asia is willing to pay much more for LNG. BP noted that it would have built the project, which Corzine supported, if NJ citizens were willing to pay more for BP's LNG. Due to America's abundance of natural gas reserves, BP was finally forced to concede that "it's very unlikely LNG cargos are going to be coming to the US for the foreseeable future."

### Corzine Also Favors Unsound Approach to Green Offshore Energy in EMP

Also, Corzine's EMP calls for 3,000 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind, which is nearly 10 times the amount of energy that a recently announced pilot project (which has not started) would generate. The EMP calls for this expansion of offshore wind turbines before any environmental study, pilot, or regulation is in place. While COA is not opposed to offshore wind, it should be based on sound science and regulations, properly sited, proven to work successfully, and safe for the ocean.

## CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

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Project comments are posted on our website

### Cleaning-up the Toxic Stain and Protecting Our Waterways

Since 1997, clean, remediation sediments have been placed at the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS) off Sandy Hook, NJ. The goal is to cover contaminated sediments by three feet to bury old toxic sediments. However, at a recent meeting, federal officials revealed that there has been over-placement of remediation sediments in certain regions, with several deposits measuring nearly 19 feet, while other contaminated areas remain exposed. COA called for better management of the site.

In comments on a recent dredging proposal, COA recommended that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) place the proposed 333,000 cubic yards (CY) of clean, remediation material dredged from Jamaica Bay in New York over contaminated areas that have no cap.

In other comments, COA urged ACOE to modify a maintenance dredging permit for the BP Products North America terminal in Carteret, NJ, along the Arthur Kill waterway. Due to contaminated sediments in the project area, COA urged that NJ's environmental protection requirements be added to the permit before it is approved to minimize resuspension of contaminants.

## COASTAL WATER QUALITY

### Black Day for the Ocean: Long-Time Coastal Protections Expire

Last month, COA reported that the US House of Representatives passed a bill to allow oil and gas drilling off our nation's coast. Since then, the US Senate failed to pass a government funding bill that has maintained a moratorium on drilling off the nation's coast (including off NY and NJ) for over a quarter of a century. As a result, the moratorium expired on

**DID YOU KNOW???**  
*The amount of oil from Maine to Florida would last roughly 6 months at current US consumption rates. The oil is scattered over hundreds of millions of acres and is not economically accessible.*  
(Source: MMS)

September 30, leaving our ocean waters and multi-billion dollar fishing, realty, and tourism industries at risk. COA pledges to work with citizens, groups, and businesses and elected officials to stand firm, derail efforts to drill off our coasts, and reinstate the moratorium in the next Congress.

Meanwhile, The MMS said Hurricane Ike destroyed at least 52 oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico and

severely damaged 32 others. At least a half million gallons of crude oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico and the marshes, bayous, and bays of Louisiana and Texas.

### Red Ocean Observed Off Ocean County

COA received two calls from citizens reporting unusually reddish-orange ocean water in Seaside Park and Lavellette the week of October 13. One of the citizens, a surfer, correctly called the NJDEP 24-hour pollution reporting hotline (1-877-WARN DEP). The NJDEP promptly responded and the Ocean County Health Department collected a water sample. Staff at NJDEP identified a bloom of a non-toxic dinoflagellate, called *Protoperidinium steinii*. Satellite imagery from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration indicated high chlorophyll levels in nearshore waters from southern NJ to North and South Carolina. This algal bloom provided food for the dinoflagellate and led to the observed high concentrations.

COA urges citizens who report signs of pollution and environmental problems, such as algal blooms, fish kills, discolored or oily water, or garbage washups, to proper agencies. *Remember, if you see it, report it!*

## FLOTSAM & JETSAM

### Latest American Idol! Whale Songs Recorded in the Clean Ocean Zone



Fin, humpback, and Northern right whales have attained stardom, singing into recorders placed 13 miles from the New York Harbor entrance and south of Fire Island in NY coastal waters. The Bioacoustics Research Program at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the NY State Department of Environmental

Conservation are listening to our endangered neighbors to learn more about the whales' migrations and population distributions in the region. This information will be used to develop management programs to help protect the whales from shipping and other human activities and impacts. For information, go to: <http://birds.cornell.edu/brp/>.

### Landowner Education Programs Workshop

Does your organization want to increase your visibility in the community? Are you looking to provide additional services to residents and businesses? Would landowners in your watershed benefit from land stewardship guidance? If so, running a landowner education program may be for you!

The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association is hosting a free workshop where New Jersey groups will detail their landowner education programs: how they work, what resources are needed, the main successes and challenges. By learning about these programs, groups can determine if a landowner education program is right for your group and how a program could work in your watershed. The workshop will be held on November 10, from 10am-2pm at the Association's office at 31 Titus Mill Road, Pennington, NJ 08534. Pre-registration is required by November 3. To register, contact Alyse Greenberg at 609-737-3735 x27 or [agreenberg@thewatershed.org](mailto:agreenberg@thewatershed.org). For a link to the agenda, go to [www.thewatershedinstitute.org/workshops](http://www.thewatershedinstitute.org/workshops).

### SEA SCENES: The Next Wave of Ocean Advocacy



Upon learning about Aveda's *Caps Recycling program*, the Wolfe Family of Fair Haven jumped into action, organizing caps collection programs in several area schools and businesses.

"Learning that caps are not recycled and knowing what a responsibility we have to this planet and all of its inhabitants, I knew we had to get behind Aveda and support their valiant effort," said **Patty Wolfe**.

"This program is great for children who love marine life and nature, but often feel they cannot make a difference on their own," added Patty. "My two children, Casey, 12, and James, 9, (pictured left) are wild about the environment. They brought the caps campaign to the Ranney School where they are in the 8th and 4th grades."

"The childrens' response to this contest has been unbelievable. Many of them are collecting at home as well and have even asked their relatives and neighbors to help! Of course the kids want to win, but they have also said that they are happy to help protect the environment and animals. In just 2 months, we have over 10,000 caps. Our new goal is to break 75,000!" said **Jen McDermott**, the Science Teacher heading the Ranney Lower School caps collection program.

"Patty and our young ocean advocates Casey and James are leading us into the next wave of ocean advocacy. Reduce, reuse, and recycle themes are essential for us to protect the health of the ocean. We applaud their seaworthy efforts to protect their planet and inspire others to act," says **COA's Cindy Zipf**.

Clean Ocean Action's network of families, schools, and community groups will collect caps and present them to Aveda at COA's Family Beach Ball for the Ocean on May 17, 2009. Call COA to join the Caps Recycling program. Earthy green prizes will be awarded to program participants at the event.

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

## CITIZEN ACTION

Carl Guastafarro, 732-872-0111, [Citizens@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Citizens@cleanoceanaction.org)

### Students Scientists at the Beach

On October 2, over 300 students from 12 southern NJ schools gathered at Island Beach State Park (IBSP) for COA's **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Student Summit**. At the summit, students participate in field trips and workshop sessions to learn about the marine environment, the effects of ocean pollution, and how they can make a difference in their communities. Specifically, students learned about Project Terrapin, a program that studies and promotes the conservation of Northern Diamondback Terrapins (coastal turtles) in the Barnegat Bay Estuary. Workstation topics, led by students from the **Marine Academy of Technology and Environment Science (MATES)**, included invertebrates, seashells, nonpoint source pollution, and the effects of marine litter. COA thanks and gives high marks to the students from MATES and their teacher, **John Wnek**, for their marine expertise and providing live marine life for the event.



John Wnek, a teacher at MATES, introduces students to Terrapins



Students test and compare ocean and bay water quality with COA's Heather Saffert

Students also participated in several field trips, including testing water quality, bird-watching and identification, seining and marine life identification, scouring the beach in a scavenger hunt, cleaning the beach and learning about marine pollution, and learning about the barrier island from ocean to bay. Special thanks to the field trip leaders: **Jim Merritt of the Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center; Tyler Braham of the IBSP Nature Center; Kathleen Gasienica of the Marine Sciences Consortium; and Jeff Martin and students from Lower Cape May Regional School.**

The Spring Student Summit for students in grades 5-8 from schools in northern and central NJ is scheduled for May 2009. Applications will be available in February.

## COA STAFF NEWS

### Say Hello to COA's New Pollution Prevention Coordinator!

COA welcomes **Tavia Danch** to our staff as Pollution Prevention Coordinator. Tavia received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Villanova University and grew-up with passion for the environment. Prior to COA, Tavia worked as Assistant to the Director for both Princeton Project 55 and Princeton In Asia where she managed special events. Tavia has considerable experience within the communication and nonprofit fields.



"Throughout life I possessed a strong passion and understanding of the environment and have worked hard to make a difference," said Tavia. "In an age where environmental innovation is crucial, I want to continue to be part of that change and cannot see myself pursuing any other career path."

At COA, Tavia will work with municipalities, groups, and students on programs and efforts to prevent pollution, specifically nonpoint source pollution. Tavia will lead COA's Beach Sweeps, Student Ocean Advocates, Barnegat Bay Buddy programs, among others. *Welcome to the crew, Tavia!*