

Clean Ocean Advocate

Celebrating 20 Years of Ocean Advocacy, 1984-2004



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December 2004 Highlights
- Reuse or Bust
- Water Policy Analyst Joins COA Team
- Holiday Shopping for a Better World

WASTING OUR WATERS AWAY

Reuse or Bust



Our nation is one of consumption. Many of us consume in excess. Water use is no different. In fact, federal estimates indicate that one person uses approximately 120 gallons of water per day. Although the supply may seem endless, effective conservation and management of our water resources is quickly rising to the top of the Nation's environmental priority list due to water supply and pollution problems.

One way to conserve high-quality water and extend the life of current water resources is a technique called "water reuse." Water reuse derives maximum resource benefits from reclaimed water while protecting the environment and public health. The technique, also known as water recycling or water reclamation, is the use of treated wastewater effluent for beneficial purposes. Beneficial purposes include irrigation of parks and golf courses, toilet flushing, fire protection, power plant cooling water, wetland restoration, stream augmentation, aquifer recharge, and more.

While the idea of water reuse may rouse fears of contaminated drinking water, these fears will likely remain unrealized. First, the majority of the listed beneficial purposes do not require water purity. For example, reused water can safely be used to flush toilets. Each of us, on average, flush 27 gallons of water per day - the largest daily indoor use. In many states, toilet water undergoes stringent treatment. Using reused water instead conserves potable water and saves money. Second, reused water will only contact potable water after passing through a treatment facility and the natural hydrological cycle, thus removing any impurities that might cause adverse health effects.

One person uses approximately 120 gallons of water per day.

Currently, Florida, California, and Washington lead the nation in water reuse. States with young and unstructured water reuse programs, like New Jersey, can implement aspects of their programs. For instance, Florida has adopted a statutory objective to encourage and promote water conservation and the reuse of reclaimed water. Consequently, Florida enacted various regulations and rules that, among other things, grant districts the authority to mandate the reuse of reclaimed water in areas with water supply problems. By doing so, Florida reclaims 38% of the domestic water available for reuse.

A handful of New Jersey dischargers participate in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Beneficial Reuse program, and have reused over one billion gallons, an applaudable amount. However, New Jersey's program operates under mere guidelines rather than regulatory authority, and does not have a staff person solely designated to direct the program. With so much potential, New Jersey desperately needs a comprehensive program for water reuse.

Clean Ocean Action (COA) is evaluating other states' water reuse programs, as well as the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) most recent "Guidelines for Water Reuse" (see www.epa.gov/ORD/NRMRL/pubs and scroll to title) in order to select the most progressive, responsible, and environmentally protective plan on which to base New Jersey's formal program. With the outcome of our analysis, New Jersey can take the lead in water reuse.

Waves of thanks to **Lauren Koch**, COA's Marine Science and Policy summer intern, for her extensive research and great insight on this subject. Her comparative analysis provides valuable information to advocate for the establishment of a responsible reuse program in New Jersey.

For more information about water reuse and recycling, visit www.watereuse.org, or www.epa.gov/region9/water/recycling/index.html.

COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS Featuring...WATERSPIRIT



WATERSPIRIT is a program committed to informing, inspiring, and enabling people to grow in knowledge of ecological issues related to oceans, rivers, lakes, coasts, and wetlands; embrace life style changes to protect and preserve creation; and join efforts in confronting ecological issues.

"WATERSPIRIT's goal is to lead its participants to action. COA is an ideal organization for us and contributes to WATERSPIRIT's mission," said Suzanne Golas, csjp.

Based at Stella Maris Retreat Center overlooking the Atlantic Ocean in Elberon, NJ, WATERSPIRIT offers education and reflection programs and retreats, prayer experiences, Earth-related events, and hands-on activities about water, the environment, and spirituality. WATERSPIRIT is directed by Suzanne Golas, csjp, who is also the non-governmental organization liaison for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace at the United Nations where she focuses on sustainable development and, in particular, water.

WATERSPIRIT collaborates with groups around the world to raise concerns, discuss solutions, and take action on water quality issues. It was one of the first groups to support the Clean Ocean Zone, a project of COA's, and has collected hundreds of signatures in support of this initiative. The program continues to be an advocate for the ocean by alerting participants to oppose policies that negatively affect the ocean, performing regular beach cleanups, and promoting environmentally sound lawn and garden practices to limit runoff and to provide a safe habitat for local species.

Join WATERSPIRIT at these events:

- **Celebration of the Winter Solstice**, December 18, from 7:30-9:30pm.

Features music, readings, and reflections celebrating winter's arrival.

- **Come to the Water**, January 28-30.

A reflective and educational experience about the significance of water and current water quality problems.

WATERSPIRIT's programs are open to all individuals and groups who seek a greater awareness of their connections with water. For more information, call 732-923-9788, email unws@bellatlantic.net, or visit www.WATERSPIRIT.org.

Contributions by Suzanne Golas

RETURNS SERVICE REQUESTED

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December 2004

December 2, Thursday
- **Public Meeting: Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant**, 7pm, Civic Plaza (270 Chambers Bridge Rd.), Brick Township. Comments sought on renewal of plant's license.

December 4 & 11, Saturdays
- **Holiday Shopping Days at ICE**, 10am-5pm, The Institute of Coastal Education (ICE), 3419 Pacific Avenue, Wildwood. Find that special gift this season and browse the aquariums and exhibits.

December 10, Friday
- **Wildwood Christmas Parade**, dusk, ICE. Arrive early to make free bird feeders for our feathered friends.

December 18, Saturday
- **Celebration of the Winter Solstice**, 7:30-9:30pm, Stella Maris Retreat Center, Elberon. Features music, readings, and reflections celebrating winter's arrival.

CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

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

Dock Building 101

A federal permit authorizing existing and proposed non-commercial piers, docks, and bulkheads is up for revalidation. The existing permit, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) General Permit, SPGP-19, expires December 31, 2004. COA took this opportunity to urge USACE to ban the use of pressure treated wood (PTW) for structures built in low-flow areas. The permit already requires the use of non-polluting materials when building over shellfish habitats. PTW contains heavy metals such as copper, arsenic and chromium, which has been shown to leach into the water and adjacent sediments. Residential use of CCA-treated (copper chromium arsenate) wood was banned in 2003, but aquatic uses were exempt. COA provided USACE with strong scientific evidence of lethal and sublethal effects on organisms, as well as bioaccumulation of leachates by organisms. These impacts occur throughout the aquatic environment but are most damaging in areas of low water flow. The National Marine Fisheries Service supports our efforts and presented their own evidence of adverse effects on essential fish habitat (EFH).

Take the Initiative

COA is in the process of responding to a list of Coastal and Ocean Protection Initiatives proposed by Bradley Campbell, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), in April of this year. Issues in this list include coastal habitat protection, water quality improvement, and coastal development. Campbell has recently indicated that he is ready to move forward on some of these actions. COA is working to ensure our 2004 Ocean Pollution Action List is included. To view both documents, visit www.cleoceanaction.org and follow links for issues.



COASTAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Save NJ Reveals Legislative Outline to Repeal Fast Track Law

According to the Save New Jersey Coalition, legislation is required to address the fatal and fundamental flaws in the "Fast Track" law, signed by NJ Governor James McGreevey earlier this year. The basic elements of Save NJ Coalition's legislative outline that is required to amend this law are:

1. Categorically exclude all federally funded, delegated, or affected programs.
2. Eliminate automatic approvals and provide flexibility for complex reviews.
3. Assure meaningful public participation and municipal input.
4. Prohibit "pay-to-play", include strict ethical standards for private consultants, and restrict their role to reviewing as opposed to approving permits.
5. Restore the legal presumption of validity of DEP decisions.
6. Maintain current environmental protections and standards in growth areas.
7. Require avoidance, minimization and mitigation of adverse impacts.
8. Assure that impaired or degraded natural resources are restored.
9. Require low impact design in Smart Growth Areas.
10. Fix the State Plan Map by removing environmentally sensitive areas from Smart Growth areas.
11. Exempt environmental permits unrelated to land use and development, e.g., contaminated industrial sites, toxic cleanup, and hazardous substance management programs.
12. Implement Governor McGreevey's Executive Order on environmental justice.
13. Provide DEP and third party access to Administrative appeals process.
14. Limit the role of Ombudsman in the regulatory arena.
15. Exempt wetlands and other environmentally sensitive natural resources.
16. Provide flexibility for adequate review of large projects of regional significance.
17. Provide a public health and safety exemption.
18. Protect the coast — exempt all Coastal Management Programs.
19. Protect New Jersey's special areas — exempt the Highlands Planning Area, Pinelands, and Hackensack Meadowlands.

In conclusion, the Fast Track law is clearly so flawed that it must be completely repealed and meaningful smart growth legislation developed to reduce sprawl. For information about Fast Track and the coalition, visit www.SaveNJ.net.

Bayonne Ocean Terminal

COA received the latest Public Notice (PN #FP63-PJCA2A-2004) for Contract Area 2A of the proposed channel deepening and re-alignment of the non-federal Port Jersey Channel in Bayonne, NJ. The PN involves the proposed disposal of 95,000 cubic yards (CY) of dredged material at the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS) off the coast of Sandy Hook. The total to be dredged from Contract Area 2A is 774,200 CY of material with the remainder going to the EnCap Golf Site and NJ Meadowlands Commission 1E landfill (ongoing sites for treatment and beneficial use of dredged material).

The entire project will result in the loss of approximately 12 acres of shallow water habitat known as the Jersey Flats. Public comment is due by December 9. COA attended a recent meeting with state and federal agencies involved in the deepening project to hear their proposed plan to restore the south side of the Bayonne Ocean Terminal using HARS suitable material from the project.

COA and NY/NJ Baykeeper are investigating the environmental implications of the restoration project on the existing and surrounding habitat. For more information, contact Jenni at COA.



Sea nettle
Chrysaora quinquecirrha

Coastal Creature Feature

October's creature feature was the **sea nettle**, a common medusa jellyfish in the Middle Atlantic. The sea nettle is typically bell-shaped and pale white, sometimes ribbed with reddish markings that resemble numerous wheels pulsating along the surface; long thin tentacles edge the bell. Each tentacle of a medusa jellyfish has thousands of tiny stinging cells, called nematocysts, which are used to capture food. The sea nettle spends most of its life cycle attached to the underside of oyster shells and other hard surfaces in coastal areas. Small sea slugs or nudibranchs find them irresistible snacks. The sea nettle is familiar to both fishermen and swimmers because of its abundance in the summer and its sting. This past summer, sea nettles were observed in large quantities in Barnegat Bay, raising questions about water quality. For more about sea nettles and jellyfish, visit www.littoralsociety.org/jelly.htm. There were no correct entries.

This month's creature feature (see photo) is a fish that is slimy and eel-like. It lives on the bottom of the ocean and NJ fishermen do not "sulk" when catching them in 50-100 feet of water where the ocean floor is rocky. The fish can also be found in soft-bottom habitats.

To enter for a chance to win a COA T-shirt, send your guess by mail, fax, or e-mail (PO Box 505, Sandy Hook, NJ 07732; fax 732-872-8041; e-mail SandyHook@CleanOceanAction.org).

(What's Cool at Ice and Coastal Creature Feature will appear every other month.)



ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Reef Building

COA urges the public to comment on the latest draft of NJ's Artificial Reef Plan. The deadline is December 6, 2004. To view the draft, go to www.njfishandwildlife.com/reefplan04.htm.

COA STAFF NEWS

Water Policy Analyst Joins Team

COA welcomes C. Nicole Simmons as Water Policy Analyst. Nicole has lived in coastal communities (GA, FL, and TX) and cherishes the ocean.

Nicole graduated from Texas A & M University with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science. She attended Pace University School of Law and graduated in May 2004 as a Juris Doctor with an Env'l Certificate. She received The Henry M. Feldschuh Environmental Law Award and held offices in the 2004 National Env'l Law Moot Court Competition and the Env'l Law Society, as well as membership in many clubs and societies. Nicole attended the Comparative Env'l Law Course in Brazil.

Nicole has held internship positions, including Law Clerk at the US Dept. of the Interior, Colorado Riverkeeper, Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic, and USEPA. She is particularly proud of her work at the Clinic where, under the guidance of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., was given primary responsibility for three cases, including one regarding the issue of whether pesticide spraying over navigable waters without a permit constituted a violation of the Clean Water Act.



Be an ocean advocate and support the Clean Ocean Zone (COZ)! Our fabulous 2004 summer interns* (L to R) Kate Tatem, Julia Brodbeck, and Lauren Koch model this durable and fun tote bag. Purchase a COZ tote bag for \$7 (includes shipping and handling) for holiday gift giving, grocery shopping, or beach-going. See insert.

*Hats are not available for sale.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

New Species of Sea Squirts?

Three new species of bottom-dwelling critters known as sea squirts may have been discovered off the coast of Georgia. The sea squirts, also known as tunicates, were found at Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, a reef 17.5 miles east of Sapelo Island. Two of the creatures are about four inches and the third is the size of a grape. The sea squirts were discovered by a university researcher and his students. A research project has now turned into an experiment to see whether the animals are truly new to science. The ocean is filled with surprises!

(Adapted from the Associated Press)

EDUCATION

Julie Hajdusek, 732-872-0111, Education@cleanoceanaction.org
Tony Totah, 609-729-9262, Wildwood@cleanoceanaction.org

Attention Educators: Save the Date for ANJEE!

On January 6-8, 2005, the Alliance for NJ Environmental Education (ANJEE) will hold their annual conference at Rider University. This year's theme is "Diversity: The Nature of New Jersey." For more information or to register, visit www.anjee.net. COA's Tony Totah and Julie Hajdusek, will be presenting workshops to attendees. Tony's workshop will focus on the Beach Sweeps and the ways that teachers can incorporate our 10 years of Sweeps data into lessons for students. Julie's workshop will illustrate how using a program focused around an outdoor environment (such as the Student Summit) can facilitate an experiential learning experience.

ICE Offers Cool Education Workshop Series

Wildwood enrolled some of their Middle School students in an after-school environmental workshop series offered by the Institute of Coastal Education (ICE). This series of 18 hands-on programs during the fall semester covers a wide range of topics: water resources, artificial habitats, water quality & testing, marine pollution, invertebrates, shells of the Jersey shore, careers in the environment, plankton lab, whales, biology of fishes, nature in art, future of the oceans, and habitat exploration. The underlying theme of the program is biodiversity and human impact on the environment. Students conduct experiments, make observations, take measurements, and identify and classify marine life. If your south Jersey school is interested in participating in a similar program series in the Spring or Summer of 2005, contact Tony Totah.

