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December 2005 Highlights

- Offshore Oil & Gas Drilling Thwarted
- "Discovering Volunteerism"
- Fishing for Holiday Gift Ideas?

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

December 2005

Some Holiday Facts...

Did you know that the amount of household garbage in the United States generally increases by **25 percent** between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, from **4 million tons** to **5 million tons**?



Did you also know that **38,000 miles** of ribbon is thrown out in the US annually, which is enough to tie a bow around the Earth?

(Source: USEPA)

Help reduce this waste by following environmentally sound holiday shopping and gift-giving tips.

For tips, see the insert inside.

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Featuring...

Alliance for a Living Ocean



Celebrating its 18th birthday this year, **Alliance for a Living Ocean (ALO)** is a leading defender of waters surrounding Long Beach Island, NJ. ALO is a citizens group committed to ending contamination of NJ's coastal waters. Their mission is "to promote and maintain clean water and a healthy coastal environment through education, research and active participation." The organization recognizes the need to manage the watershed, bay, and ocean holistically since all water flows from "the raindrop to the ocean."

ALO's recent efforts focus on pollution discharge from Oyster Creek Nuclear Generation Station, advocating the removal of drums of chemicals in a leaking landfill owned by Ciba Geigy, fighting the "Fast Track" law, and stopping non-point source pollution.

In addition, for the past ten years, ALO volunteers have been monitoring coastal waters in Ocean County, NJ. The "Barnegat BayWatch Monitoring Program" is run by more than 50 volunteers, who monitor Barnegat Bay waters from Manasquan to Tuckerton, to establish baseline conditions and assess water quality.

ALO and COA have worked closely over the years to stop ocean pollution.

"In addition to supporting each other on issues, one of the best things about being a COA participating organization is the sharing of information that is based on science," said **Larrell Brown, ALO Issues Chair and past president.**

Currently, ALO is an active supporter of the Clean Ocean Zone and continues to galvanize citizens, elected officials, and municipalities to support this campaign to permanently protect NJ's marine waters from pollution.

For information about ALO or to become a member or volunteer, call (609) 492-0222, or visit www.livingocean.org.

Adapted from ALO's website

OFFSHORE OIL & GAS DRILLING THWARTED

NJ Congressmen Had Key Role in Protecting the Coast

Following a contentious battle late in the evening on November 9, provisions in a budget reconciliation bill (HR 4241) that would have opened the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts to oil and gas drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) were removed. Several of New Jersey's Congressmen played a pivotal role in removing language that posed a threat to ocean waters. COA commends those elected officials for voting to protect the nation's shorelines. While this is not a permanent victory, offshore oil and gas drilling is off the table for now.



As written, the OCS provisions in the bill would have eliminated over two decades of moratoria protecting the ocean from oil and gas drilling. Specifically, the language would have given states the option to drill off their coasts and would have received 50% of the revenues generated. A key issue was that since states share ocean waters, those that chose to drill would have subjected neighboring states to potential pollution and devastating consequences.

COA salutes the numerous citizens and organizations and state elected officials who quickly rallied for the ocean and urged their members of Congress to vote against opening sensitive coastal areas to oil and gas drilling. This is an example of how citizens can directly affect what happens in Washington.

Congratulations on this short victory, and stay tuned to this ongoing battle to protect the Jersey shore, and the nation's coasts, from offshore oil & gas activities. Unfortunately, efforts are already underway to re-introduce these threatening provisions.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

UPDATE: Funding to Control Floating Debris

Funding for a program to control floating debris in NY/NJ Harbor was not restored in a final federal bill due to clerical error. However, US Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ-R-11) and US Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-D-6) will continue their work to restore the funds needed for the NY/NJ Harbor Drift Removal Project.

Information from the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), one of the regional collaborators in the program, underscored the need for this joint program and its benefits. Since 1990 this program has removed garbage slicks from the Harbor.

This regional program is needed to collect the millions of tons of floating junk that pollutes beaches, kills marine life, and poses threats to navigation. The project consists of locating, collecting, removing, and disposing at least 530,000 cubic feet of debris per year, which equates to filling about 225 forty-foot highway tractor-trailors. Removing drift and floatables each year results in the avoidance of approximately \$23,000,000 of damages to vessels.



COASTAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Nicole Simmons, 732-872-0111, Policy@cleanoceanaction.org



NJDEP Commissioner Campbell speaks to forum attendees

Raritan Bay-Sandy Hook Bay Dredge Management Forum

On November 10, the Bayshore Regional Watershed Council (BRWC) hosted a public forum in Atlantic Highlands to discuss the development of a regional dredged material management plan in the Raritan Bay-Sandy Hook Bay area. The forum was well-attended by local citizens from towns on the Bayshore. Speakers for the evening included Commissioner Bradley Campbell, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP); Genevieve Boehm, NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT) - Office of Maritime Resources; Cindy Zipf, COA; Valerie Montecalvo, Bayshore Recycling Corporation; and, Michael Sinnema, Tom Rospos, and Joe McGinty from Birdsall Engineering.

Each speaker presented insight into the need for regional solutions for the current dredging problems and ways in which their expertise may be useful for the development of a regional plan. In his remarks, NJDEP Commissioner Campbell stated, "I want to really encourage this effort, because it is the right way to approach [dredging] on a short-term and long-term basis."

Members of the public raised important issues and expressed concerns about the implementation of a plan. However, the consensus was to move forward with creating a regional plan. According to Joe Reynolds, co-chair of BRWC, "The next step will be to review the information and public input received during the forum. From there, I would like to go about acquiring grant funds to complete a dredge management study for the Bayshore region that will analyze the dredging needs in the bay, list possible Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) sites to manage the material, and catalog all the potential, cost-effective uses for the dredged material from the Bayshore."

Update: Oyster Creek Draft Pollution Discharge Permit

The deadline to submit comments was extended to **November 21, 2005**. COA drafted comments in conjunction with American Littoral Society and Save Barnegat Bay for submission to NJDEP. Several other organizations and individuals signed onto the comments. Please visit our website and follow the links for Oyster Creek under Issues & Campaigns for more information, including a detailed Position Paper.

Dredging in Atlantic Highlands Harbor Resumes

The Atlantic Highlands Municipal Harbor recently submitted a permit modification request to NJDEP to modify their existing dredge permit. The request is to incorporate the recently re-designed Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) and include dredging of approximately 4,000 cubic yards of material from Frank's Pier, which was previously authorized by another permit that has since expired.

After substantial modifications to the CDF, dredging began during the week of November 7. COA will continue to communicate with NJDEP about the project to ensure that it proceeds in an environmentally sound manner.

OUTREACH

Kari Jermansen, 732-872-0111, Outreach@cleanoceanaction.org

"Discovering Volunteerism" - COA Reaches Cable TV



During COA's October 22nd Beach Sweeps, despite driving wind and rain, almost 2,000 people cleaned and collected data at beaches from South Amboy to Cape May (see *November Ocean Advocate*). Sea Bright Beach Captain Nancy Walzog, President of Tapestry International, an Academy and Emmy Award-winning Sea Bright based production company, led an enthusiastic team of Tapestry staff and Red Bank High School students in a cleanup.

COA's Beach Sweeps will be featured in two children's series, produced by Tapestry International, for The Discovery Channel and The Learning Channel (TLC), titled "Assignment Discovery" (which targets grades 9-12) and TLC Elementary (which targets grades K-8). Tapestry International's productions reach over 90,000 schools across the United States, serving 1.5 million teachers and their 35 million students each year.

"When Discovery Communications approached us to produce a television series on civics for kids, we started to look for organizations in the area that represent the core American values of volunteerism and civic-mindedness. The Beach Sweeps was a perfect backdrop for our shoot and Clean Ocean Action was a delight to work with," said Jean Meltzer, Creative Director/Producer for Tapestry International. "We sincerely hope that America's children will be inspired to make a difference in their own communities by watching this episode to air on TLC in January 2006."

COA thanks the staff and crew of Tapestry International for educating thousands of citizens, small and tall, about the importance of volunteerism and making a commitment to making a difference in the communities in which we live, work, and play.

VOLUNTEER IN THE NEW YEAR!

Visit www.cleanoceanaction.org and complete COA's online volunteer form. Once submitted, you will be contacted about volunteer opportunities.

Whether it is once a week or once a year, offering your expertise and enthusiasm for a clean ocean is a fun and rewarding experience for both volunteers and our organization.



Piping Plover
Charadrius melodus

Coastal Creature Feature

October's Creature Feature was the **Piping Plover**, an endangered shorebird. This sandy-brown colored bird grows to 7 or 8 inches in height and has a black breast band with bright orange legs and a yellow bill. Males and females are very similar in appearance, however, males usually have larger, darker bands. Piping Plovers eat both freshwater and marine worms, crustaceans, and mollusks, but their favorite food is insects. The decline in Piping Plovers has been attributed to

human disturbance, habitat loss, and predation. Depending on the season, piping plovers can be seen from Florida or New Foundland. Congratulations to **Peggy Nitka of Rumson** who correctly guessed the Piping Plover and won a COA T-shirt!

December's Creature Feature is a bottom-dwelling fish that can change its coloring to blend in with the substrate. These flatfish have very small mouths and two eyes that are located on the right side of their heads. These fish are popular along the NY and NJ coasts and are the focus of a COA event. They come into the estuaries to spawn during the winter months, giving this fish its seasonal name. 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; SandyHook@CleanOceanAction.org).



December's
Creature

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



Fishing for Holiday Gift Ideas?

Visit COA's online store. Visit www.CleanOceanAction.org (follow links for "Join/Donate" and "COA Store") and shop for beachy items from tote bags to t-shirts.

Shop at igive.com. Clean Ocean Action is a featured cause on [igive.com](http://www.igive.com), the model for safe and secure online charity mall shopping. We are proud to now offer our supporters yet another way to support COA and many other wonderful charities this holiday season. iGive.com delivers shopping opportunities for millions of consumers, donations to more than 11,000 worthy causes, and new customers for more than 230 merchants. The company's overall strategy and philosophy is to "change online shopping for good." Here's how it works:

1. Join to support COA. It's free, private, and easy. Go to www.igive.com to sign up. Or, to donate to COA, go directly to: <http://www.iGive.com/html/refer.cfm?memberid=420943&causeid=33495>.
2. Shop the Mall at iGive.com. You'll see familiar stores like Gap, Hallmark, Lands' End, Office Depot, JCPenney, L.L. Bean, Neiman Marcus, Expedia, Barnes & Noble, and eBay to mention just a few!
3. Enjoy knowing that up to 30% of each purchase is donated to COA.

All Wrapped Up for a Cleaner Ocean

When you visit Barnes & Noble in Howell, NJ, to purchase that special gift on November 27, COA volunteers will ease your wrapping worries by wrapping your gift in the store. Gift-wrapping is free; donations, which will go directly to COA, are welcome.

Date: Sunday, November 27, 2005

Time: 9am-3pm

Store Location: 4831 US Highway 9 in Howell, NJ

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to partner with COA for our Holiday Gift Wrap Program. This program is designed to help local not-for-profit organizations raise funds and increase visibility by wrapping gifts for donations during the holiday season," said Melissa Bogart, Community Relations Manager for Barnes & Noble Booksellers.

EVENTS

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

Clean Ocean Action Proves Itself a Market Mover

During the holidays, COA calls upon **Fishcal Agent S.W. Fish** to appeal to citizens to invest in a cleaner and healthier ocean. You will receive a letter from Mr. Salt Water Fish shortly describing ways you can help protect our ocean.

"As your 'ofisial' ocean investment advisor, marine water quality continues to look uncertain. Regional and national political and financial uncertainties create a high-risk environment. Current state and federal budget realities threaten to undermine current assets via lackluster infrastructure investments. However, the ocean dollar is still strong and with the watchful analysis and swift response by your ocean protection leader, Clean Ocean Action, your 'fishcal' investments will be well guarded." S.W. Fish

COA works throughout the year to protect your ocean investment portfolio. We are your ocean agents, dedicated to accomplishing "mission impossible," day in day out. We love what we do, and so it seems, does your ocean, which continues to improve and thrive. Please call Jennifer to receive more information on ocean investment portfolio options.