



# Clean Ocean Advocate

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- Celebrate Sea Sage Dery Bennett, February 27th at Sandy Hook.
- Attend Public Hearing on Oyster Creek Permit to Help Barnegat Bay!
- Clean Ocean Action Celebrates 25 Years of Beach Sweeps!

## February 2010 Highlights



Clean Ocean Action  
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Highlands, NJ 07732  
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www.CleanOceanAction.org  
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### A Celebration of Dery Bennett



1930-2009  
Saturday, February 27, 2010  
2 pm to 4 pm  
Chapel at Sandy Hook Gateway National  
Recreation Area, Sandy Hook

*The Bennett Family, the American Littoral Society, and Clean Ocean Action invite you to celebrate the remarkable life and legacy of Dery Bennett for an afternoon of memories.*

*A simple reception will follow at Building 18, Hartshorne Drive, Sandy Hook to reminisce, share "tall" tales, and add your favorite moments.*

(for directions or more information go to [www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org))

Dery Bennett was Executive Director of the American Littoral Society for nearly forty years. Along the way, he authored several books on the coast and fishing, took coastal raiders to court, and transformed coastal protection.

Dery inspired many new marine advocacy groups by putting faith in young up-starts, and with his sage and quirky style, created a coastal protection revolution.

Most of you know he was the architect and originator of Clean Ocean Action, and served as its leader ever since. Other groups founded and nurtured by Dery include the who's who of ocean advocacy: the national Coast Alliance and Restore America's Estuaries, and regionally-based NY/NJ Baykeeper and Delaware RiverKeeper among many others. Countless individuals were also inspired by Dery and lead environmental causes.

In turn they have all achieved important marine protections, educated and motivated thousands of citizens-the small and the tall, and instilled a culture of environmental stewardship which extends for generations.

Dery truly made a splash; he remains a force and a spirit that will continue to make waves long into the future. As has been said by many, his big feet leave footprints large enough for us all to follow.

### Great News for the Barnegat Bay! Draft Permit Calls for Cooling Towers at Oyster Creek

Finally, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is telling Oyster Creek power plant to clean up its act.

After 10 years of delay, the DEP has finally enforced the law and proposed a draft permit that requires Exelon to build a closed loop cooling system that will significantly reduce the amount of water the plant needs to draw from the bay. This improved system will dramatically reduce the harmful impacts to aquatic life and lead to a healthier Barnegat Bay.

But the battle is not over yet. Exelon is fighting the decision, claiming that the plant's impact on the shore is minor.

#### Mark your calendars!

The DEP will hold public hearings regarding the draft permit:  
**Wednesday, Feb. 24, 1-4pm & 7-9pm (or end of testimony)**  
Lacey Township Municipal Building  
818 West Lacey Road, Forked River  
**Wednesday, March 3, 1-4pm (or end of testimony)**  
DEP Public Hearing Room, 401 East State Street, Trenton.

The DEP will also accept written public comments until March 15. Comments may be sent to Pilar Patterson, Chief of the Bureau of Surface Water Permitting, P.O. Box 029; Trenton, NJ 08625. Please attend the hearings in support of the Bay!

### Show Your Ocean Emotion! Send Governor Christie a Valentine!

As you may recall, Governor Chris Christie announced his commitment to the shore and his opposition to three liquefied natural gas (LNG) proposals off the New Jersey shore during his campaign this fall. Now that he is in office, let's urge him to take action on his commitment to the ocean as a bold first initiative.

You can help hold him true blue by sending him a Valentine! We will present the piles of ocean emotion to Governor Christie before Valentine's Day. He has the power of a veto and by making it clear now, he can send the foreign fossil fuel companies packing.

Invite your friends and family to join in the campaign. Visit our website for more details, [www.cleanoceanaction.org/lng](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org/lng). We need all valentines by February 10th. Be sure to include your name and town on the card and use recycled or scrap paper. You can also send a virtual valentine from the website. See samples below or try your own!

Sunsets are red, the ocean is blue; Veto LNG  
and we'll love you!  
Make our ocean a Clean Ocean Zone!  
Love the ocean, Veto LNG!  
Be the ocean's valentine!  
Have a heart, don't let them start!



Please clip and send to COA.

### STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION! ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP FORM

➔ If you are already a member, and would like to receive the Clean Ocean Advocate via email only please detach this form and include your email address.

Please print clearly. Thank you.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include organization name & contact, if applicable:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please take a minute to answer the following questions:

➔ \_\_\_\_\_ I agree with and support Clean Ocean Action's decision of an electronic newsletter. If not, here is why \_\_\_\_\_

➔ \_\_\_\_\_ On a scale of 1-10 (one being minimum and 10 being maximum) please rate the effectiveness of the Clean Ocean Advocate on keeping you up to date with the latest ocean issues and events.

**Additional Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **Clean Ocean Action, 18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732**

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

### 2010 SAVE THE DATE

#### A Snapshot:

#### COA Events & Programs

- February 14:** 9am-2pm Scuba Flea Market, Toms River
- March 13:** Beach Sweeps 25! A 2010 Symposium to highlight a Generation of Action Against Littered Beaches
- March 26:** EarthShare Celebrates New Jersey Wine Tasting; Laurita Winery, New Egypt, NJ
- April:** Aveda Month
- April 22:** Earth Day Brooklyn Bridge Walk for Water
- April 24:** 25th Annual Spring Beach Sweeps; Statewide, NJ
- May 6 & 7:** Spring Student Summit; Sandy Hook, NJ
- May 23:** Beach Ball; Ship Ahoy Beach Club, Sea Bright, NJ
- June-August:** Corporate Sweeps; Sandy Hook, NJ
- September:** Sunset at Sandy Hook; Sea Gulls Nest, Sandy Hook, NJ
- October 7:** Fall Student Summit; Island Beach State Park, NJ
- October 23:** 25th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps; Statewide, NJ

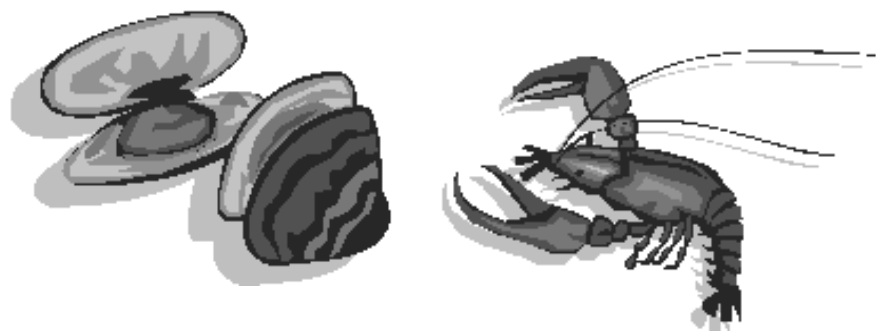
## COA SCIENCE NEWS

Heather Saffert, PhD., Science@CleanOceanAction.org

### Shellfishing and Pollution in the Navesink River

Despite efforts to reduce fecal pollution in the Navesink River, the state is proposing to close a portion of the river to shellfishing due to increased pollution. The area currently classified as Special Restricted (shellfishing allowed under special permits only), southwest of the Oceanic Bridge to Red Bank, will be changed to Prohibited (no shellfishing allowed). Total coliform levels which indicate sewage and/or animal waste pollution in the water have increased.

The state's study in 2008 of the upper Navesink River region found that the pollution was rainfall-related and from both human and wildlife sources. Several stormwater discharge pipes had high fecal concentrations. The report also identified dumpsters as problems and recommended proper maintenance to keep them water tight. Further investigations to identify potential sewer leakage were also recommended. Since the study, some homes with septic systems were sewerred. However, more efforts are clearly needed to reduce pollution to the Navesink River and to reopen this area to shellfishing.



### Nutrient Water Quality Standards

New Jersey has proposed to extend the narrative nutrient water quality standards that currently only apply to fresh waters to also include marine waters. Without standards, many nutrient-related problems in coastal waters are not formally recognized by the state. Without recognition, nutrient problems cannot be resolved.

The state is working with the EPA and Rutgers to develop methods to assess nutrient-related problems in the future. The standards and new assessment methods represent important progress, however these changes are long overdue and it will likely be years before all coastal waters are assessed for nutrient impacts - let alone addressed by the state's cleanup process. More information to submit comments (due Feb. 19) can be obtained at: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/rules/notices/122109a.html>.

### Needed Actions to Reduce Nutrient Pollution

NOAA has identified the Barnegat Bay estuary system and NJ's inland coastal bays as highly affected by nutrients and among the worst of coastal lagoons in the country for nutrient problems. The Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program has also made improving water quality a top priority. COA supports the following actions to reduce nutrient pollution:

- Implement stormwater controls to reduce nitrogen
- Conserve and reuse water to reduce wastewater volumes
- Implement practices to improve soil health and prevent compaction
- Protect and restore natural buffers to rivers and creeks
- Limit development in critical areas and support low impact development
- Implement state legislation to reduce fertilizer use

## EVENTS

Jennifer Smiga, Events@CleanOceanAction.org  
Emily Hackett, Programs@CleanOceanAction.org

### ATTENTION ALL FLOUNDER FRIENDS! Memorial Winter Flounder Tournament Has Been Postponed

We regret to announce, Clean Ocean Action's Memorial Winter Flounder Tournament has been postponed for 2010. According to NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, "The recreational fishery possession limit has been reduced for the 2010 fishing season to two fish, down from ten fish in 2009." By postponing this year, we hope the winter flounder will flourish and we can look forward to flat out fun in the future." We appreciate your continued support of our fun-filled event and hope we can schedule a tournament for April 2011. For detailed information from NJDEP Fish & Wildlife visit this link, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/news/2009/winterflounder09.htm>



### Get Involved! Volunteer Opportunities:

This winter/spring, COA seeks volunteers to staff information and action tables at the following events. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Meg at [Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org) or (732) 872-0111.

**February 14, 9am-2pm** Scuba Flea Market, Toms River, NJ

**March 25, 6:30-9pm** Enviropalooza at Rumson Fair Haven High School

If staffing informational booths is not your cup of tea but you would still like to volunteer, call or email Meg for other opportunities.

In addition to festivals and outreach we need volunteers for beach sweeps, general office work, special events, activism, education and design/technology. There is something for every ocean lover!



## CREATURE FEATURE

Heather Saffert, PhD, Science@CleanOceanAction.org



### December's Creature

A narrow bait fish that buries into the sand, was the sand lance (or sand eel) (*Ammodytes* spp.). In the fall, sand lances appear in high numbers along New Jersey beaches and in Sandy Hook Bay.

Acres of turbulent waters were seen in the bay last October, as bluefish and hundreds of birds pursued the numerous sand lances. The sand lance spawns typically at inshore sandy regions from November to March. Judge Bay Striper thanks all who submitted guesses and congratulates the contest winner Ray Dodd of Neptune, New Jersey!

### February's Creature Feature

February's creature feature is a marine mammal that has been spotted wintering in the Hudson River estuary and Jersey shore where it hauls-out to rest on beaches, rocky areas, logs, or ice floats. Its scientific name means "hooked-nose pig of the sea." Its snout can be used to distinguish it from other species of this animal type and this creature can hold its breath for over an hour!

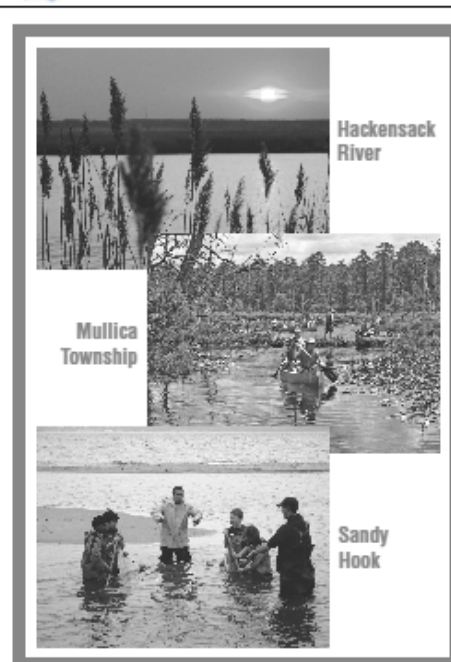
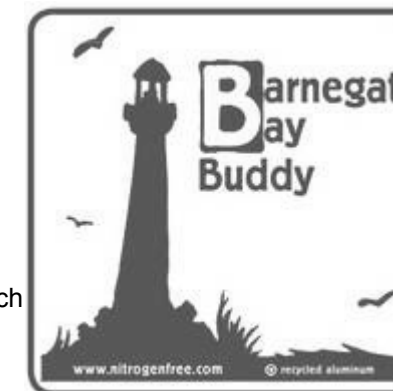
For a chance to win a COA T-shirt, submit your guess to Judge Amber Jack by mail, fax or email 18 Hartshorne Dr., Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732  
F: 732-872-8041  
E: [science@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:science@CleanOceanAction.org) or visit [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org). Only one entry per person please.



### Become a Barnegat Bay Buddy...Because Every Drop Counts!

Fact: Barnegat Bay is polluted with excessive amounts of nitrogen, among other pollutants, which are suffocating its fragile ecosystem.

Nitrogen is an important nutrient that helps plants grow, however there is too much in Barnegat Bay. Excess nitrogen from human activities causes harmful algal blooms, which block light in the water from reaching plants, fish, and shellfish. A marine ecosystem with too much nitrogen is unsuitable for many plants and animals. In order to help protect the unique Barnegat Bay ecosystem, we need to work together to reduce the amount of nitrogen entering the bay. Learn how to become a Barnegat Bay Buddy by contacting [education@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:education@cleanoceanaction.org). Certified "Bay Buddies" receive a Yard Medallion (made from 100% post-consumer recycled aluminum) to display their bay-friendly status!



EarthShare Celebrates New Jersey  
Fine Wine—Wonderful Food—Great Art  
Exclusive Experience New Jersey Naturally Auctions  
March 26, 2010  
Laurita Winery 6:30 PM  
Tickets and information available online  
EarthShareNJ.org  
Or call 609-989-1160  
EarthShare New Jersey makes a difference for your health and our water, air and land. Become a partner today!  
EarthShare New Jersey One environment. One simple way to care for it.