



- A Message from COA's Executive Director
 - Interim Report on Development of Offshore Wind Turbines
 - 2006 COA Calendar of Events

January 2006 Highlights

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January 2006

Happy New Year!

See inside for
 a calendar of
 2006 COA events!

SAVE THE DATE!

February 18, Saturday

- **Fishing Flea Market**, Ocean Wreck Divers of New Jersey, 8AM-2PM. Admission is \$3, Toms River Intermediate West School. For more information, visit www.oceanwreckdivers.com. See article inside.

February 19, Sunday

- **SCUBA Flea Market**, Ocean Wreck Divers of New Jersey, 8:30 AM-2PM. Admission is \$5, Toms River Intermediate West School. For more information, visit www.oceanwreckdivers.com. See article inside.

COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Featuring...

Marine Trades Association of New Jersey

The Marine Trades Association of New Jersey (MTA/NJ) has been a major voice of the recreational marine industry for over 30 years in New Jersey. Comprised of over 300 marine related businesses, MTA/NJ is a non-profit trade organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the recreational marine industry and waterways in the state.

The organization administers the Clean Vessel Act program, which awards grants for the installation of pump out facilities at private marinas to remove sewage from recreational boats. The MTA/NJ distributes a free waterproof pumpout guide/map that lists participating marinas and helpful information. Also, MT/NJ is involved in the NJ Clean Marina Program.

The MTA/NJ also focuses on working to solve dredging challenges in waterways. The MTA/NJ has participated in and/or co-sponsored a number of educational workshops and seminars focused on dredging and dredged material management.

In addition, MTA/NJ works with organizations and councils on national, state, and local levels. The MTA/NJ advises and is an active participant in many councils and organizations, including Clean Ocean Action (COA).

"NJ boaters and businesses alike depend on clean water and a healthy boating environment, and therefore we support efforts to protect and improve our waterways," said, Melissa Danko, MTA/NJ Executive Director.

The MTA/NJ is a long-time coalition member, representing the recreational boating industry and participating in COA's campaigns to end ocean dumping and pollution. Scottie Franklin of Main One Marina in Avon-By-The-Sea sits on both MTA/NJ and COA Boards. The organization is the most recent supporter of the Clean Ocean Zone.

For information about MTA/NJ, call 732-292-1051 or visit www.mtanj.org.

Portions adapted from MTA/NJ website

MESSAGE FROM COA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Overall, 2005 was a challenging and successful year for the ocean. What follows is a brief overview of 2005 and a glimpse of next steps.

Long-time ocean champions US Representatives Jim Saxton (R-3) and Frank Pallone (D-6) agreed to be prime sponsors of the Clean Ocean Zone (COZ) legislation drafted by citizens. The official version of the bill in Washington is ready and will be introduced shortly. Next steps will be to gain strong co-sponsorships from NJ and NY delegations and to begin the process of getting the bill passed. See more inside.

NJ Governor Codey launched "Coast 2005" which included important coastal and ocean pollution abatement actions. Next steps will be to ensure Governor Elect Corzine embraces and improves these initiatives.

Federal proposals to weaken ocean protection were thwarted thanks to the strong leadership of NJ's Congressional Delegation. These included USEPA's sewage blending policy (which could have released raw and partially treated sewage into our waters) and opening of our ocean waters to offshore oil and gas drilling. Next step is to pass the COZ, which will lock out these activities.

Federal funding of the NY District Army Corps of Engineers Floatable Action Program (which works to skim garbage slicks before they leave the harbor) was lost, found, and then went missing in the budget process. Rep. Frelinghuysen (R-11) has assured the funding of this critical program will be restored. Last year the skimmers collected 536,400 cubic feet (that's enough to fill 1000 garbage trucks, which would snake along for 4.5 miles). Next steps are to ensure that the funding is secured and in a timely manner.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection proposed a draft permit to require the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Plant (in Lacy Township) to install a "closed cycle" cooling system. The current system uses 1.4 billion gallon of estuarine rich waters and is responsible for the death of trillions of marine critters each year including the rarest sea turtles, Kemp's Ridley. Next step is to ensure that NJDEP stands firm on this permit that would nearly eliminate the marine environmental impacts.



COA launched many programs to improve awareness and citizen action:

- A 30 second Public Service Announcement (PSA) and a 6-minute vignette and a poster. These can be viewed on COA's revitalized website, and were also played, shown, or printed on radio, television, and publications.
- A new "sewer sleuth" program is being piloted to help track down sources of pollution. The kits are easy to build

and use and can find sources of illegal waste-streams in waterways by identifying optical brighteners found in laundry detergent.

- Efforts to find solutions to meet regional dredge material management needs are underway.
- COA is building consensus on beneficial reuse of wastewater to improve treatment and protect the ecosystems.

For information on these activities or other questions, please call COA.

Cheerio to all, and to all a wonderful new year.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

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

Shark River Dredging Update

The Shark River Environmental Planning Committee has postponed the submittal of their Dredged Material Management Plan to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT) in order to revise the Draft and submit it again for public comment.

Interim Report on Development of Offshore Wind Turbines

In response to several proposals to develop wind facilities off New Jersey's coast, Acting NJ Governor Codey established the Panel and charged the group with "identifying and weighing the costs and benefits of developing offshore wind turbine facilities." Public hearings were held and public comments accepted with the expectation of interim and final reports. On November 30th, the Blue Ribbon Panel released an Interim Report (see www.njwindpanel.org).

According to Edward J. McKenna, Jr., Chair of the Panel, "[t]his interim report represents our progress to date toward meeting the Governor's mandate...[and]

provides a summary and analysis of the Panel's objective findings. During the next phase of our work, we will seek public input on the content, accuracy, and scope of these findings before deliberations begin on the specific policy recommendations to be included in the final report that will be

Another round of public hearings will be held to accept public comments on the interim report.

forwarded to Governor-elect Jon S. Corzine next March." COA is reviewing the Interim Report and appendices in detail. However, no recommendations were made. Rather, in general, the Interim Report informs the debate by:

- providing better insight into the opportunities and problems
- identifying significant issues for ocean resources,
- detailing benefits and cost of offshore wind turbines.

Another round of public hearings will be held to accept public comments on the interim report. The first meeting is Tuesday, December 20, 2005, from 6-9pm at the State House Annex, Committee Room 1, Trenton, NJ. Another meeting will be scheduled in January in Toms River. Visit the Panel's website for dates and updates.

CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

COZ Briefing Paper, Supporters, & Legislation

COA completed a Briefing Paper detailing the action points of the NJ/NY Clean Ocean Zone (COZ). The paper explains the need and rationale for the COZ, as well as gives details about the goals and purposes of the various aspects of the legislation. View the Briefing Paper on our website by going to www.cleanoceanzone.org and following the links for "COZ Legislation." COA is working with several elected officials to finalize the COZ legislation in hopes of getting the bill introduced in the New Year.

The list of supporters is growing and now includes 84 organizations, 32 municipalities and environmental commissions, and 12,500 citizens. Check the COZ website to be sure your elected official and town are COZ supporters.

Also, watch for an update from COA's Tony Totah on "Comcast Newsmakers" (25 & 55 minutes past the hour) on television stations in south Jersey.



OUTREACH

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

Get Your Gear or Volunteer!

Ocean Wreck Divers of New Jersey is hosting two fabulous and fun flea markets in February. These events are great places to pick up gear for your fishing and diving adventures. Also, COA seeks volunteers to staff information tables and sell COA merchandise. The Fishing Market (admission \$3) is scheduled for Saturday, February 18, 2006 from 8AM to 2PM, and the SCUBA Flea Market (admission \$5) is scheduled for Sunday, February 19, 2006 from 8:30 AM to 2PM. Both markets will be held at the Toms River Intermediate West School at 150 Intermediate West Way, Toms River. For information about the markets or Ocean Wreck Divers, visit www.oceanwreckdivers.com. To volunteer for COA, contact Kari.



EVENTS

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



Many brave souls plunged into the cold ocean at the 2005 Sons of Ireland Polar Bear Plunge.

An Icy Plunge for the Ocean

It's time for the 3rd annual Sons of Ireland Polar Bear Plunge! The annual event takes place on New Year's Day in Sea Bright, NJ. All funds raised are donated to well-deserving local charities. Last year, the brave souls who took the plunge raised \$40,000 for COA and Teddy's Fund. This January 1st, the Sons of Ireland will continue their support of a clean ocean with donations going to COA, as well as three other deserving charities.

"A number of the participants grew up and live close to the ocean and it is an integral part of their lives," said Dennis Nitka, Jr. of Rumson. "Most remember the days of red tides and high bacteria counts and don't want our children to lose the resource."

Pre-game warm-up and registration starts at 10am on Jan 1, 2006, at Donovan's Reef in Sea Bright, NJ. The plunge is at 1pm sharp. For more about the Sons of Ireland and pictures from last year's plunge, go to www.sonsofirelandnj.tripod.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE 2006 COA EVENTS:

January 1 - Sons of Ireland Polar Bear Plunge, Donovan's Reef, Sea Bright. Warm-up 10am; plunge 1pm

April 1 - 12th Annual John Murphy and Bob Hunter Flounder Tournament, Bahrs Landing, Highlands. Blessing of the Waters 9am, Weigh-in 5pm.

April 29 - 21st Annual Statewide Spring Beach Sweeps, 9am to 12:30pm

May 16-17 - 18th Annual Spring Student Summit, Sandy Hook

May 21 - 2nd Annual Family Luau for the Ocean, Ship Ahoy Beach Club, Sea Bright, 3-7pm

September TBA - Underwater Cleanup

September 15 - 8th Annual Sunset at Sandy Hook, Sea Gulls Nest, Sandy Hook, 6-11pm

September 28 - 5th Annual Ocean Golf Classic, Navesink Country Club, Middletown

October 4-5 - 18th Annual Fall Student Summit, Island Beach State Park

October 21 - 21st Annual Statewide Fall Beach Sweeps, 9am to 12:30pm

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Congratulations to Environmental Advocate, Jacqueline Royce

NJDEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell honored environmental leaders at a ceremony in November. Awards are given to individuals, businesses, and communities that contributed to environmental protection in NJ. **Jacqueline Royce, Ph.D.** of Atlantic Highlands was this year's Environmental Stewardship Winner. Dr. Royce created the Atlantic Highlands Environmental Commission in 1998, served as its Vice Chair, and co-authored "Our Town's Environment," the basic inventory needed for all future efforts. Congratulations, Jacqueline!

Chemical Weapons Dumped Off NJ's Coast

The US Army now admits that it secretly dumped 64 million pounds of nerve and mustard agents into the sea, along with 400,000 chemical-filled bombs, land mines, and rockets, and more than 500 tons of radioactive waste, either tossed overboard or packed into the holds of scuttled vessels. These weapons virtually ring the country's coast. The Army has examined only a few of its 26 dump zones and none in the past 30 years, and records are sketchy, missing, or were destroyed. Army cannot say exactly where all the weapons were dumped from World War II to 1970 and, furthermore, the Army has not reviewed World War I-era records, when ocean dumping of chemical weapons was common.

In the summer of 2004, a clam-dredging operation off New Jersey pulled up an old artillery shell. The long-submerged World War I-era explosive was filled with a black tar-like substance. Three bomb disposal technicians from Dover Air Force Base, DE, who were brought in to dismantle it, and were injured from exposure to mustard gas. The shell was filled with mustard gas in solid form and was pulled up with clams in relatively shallow water only 20 miles off Atlantic City. In fact, 1985 charts from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) identify numerous areas where explosives and weapons were disposed in the NY/NJ Bight.

When mustard gas is exposed to seawater, it forms a concentrated gel that lasts for at least five years, killing or contaminating sea life. When released in the ocean, nerve agent lasts up to six weeks, killing every organism it touches before breaking down into its non-lethal chemical components.

The Army's secret ocean-dumping program spanned decades, from 1944 to 1970. The dumped weapons were deemed to be unneeded surplus. US Congress banned the practice in 1972. Three years later, the United States signed an international treaty prohibiting ocean disposal of chemical weapons.

Adapted from Daily Press

The Army's secret ocean-dumping program spanned decades, from 1944 to 1970.

Images Identify Oil Slicks in Gulf of Mexico

With satellite images and digital mapping, SkyTruth observed damage to oil and gas infrastructure and identified oil slicks in the Gulf of Mexico after Hurricane Katrina (visit www.skytruth.org for pictures). SkyTruth is a nonprofit organization that

"We conservatively estimate that more than 100,000 gallons of oil were released from the offshore platforms and pipelines."

"uses remote sensing and digital mapping to educate the public and policymakers about the environmental consequences of human activities, and to hold corporations and governments to higher standards of accountability around the globe."

SkyTruth identified slicks both large and small: "Based on the extensive slicks...and ongoing small leaks from a few platforms for weeks following the storm, we conservatively estimate that more than 100,000 gallons of oil were released from the offshore platforms and pipelines damaged by Hurricane Katrina." The slicks were very thin, implying they were formed by numerous individual leaks spread over a large area. The images also showed dozens of slicks extending across an area of more than 7,000 square miles.