



Clean Ocean Advocate

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- Ban on Offshore Drilling Upheld
- Aloha Spirit Shines at Ship Ahoy Beach Club
- C.O.A.S.T. for a "C.O.Z."

June 2006 Highlights

Eco-Tip of the Month
Save Water: A conventional showerhead pours out 5-7 gallons per minute. Install a low-flow showerhead, which saves 50% of the water. Purchase water-saving toilets and dish and clothes washers.
From "Our Environment," Vol 12, No. 3, by Ingrid Justick

Clean Ocean Action
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www.CleanOceanAction.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



June 2006

June 3, Saturday
- Red Bank Jazz & Blues Festival, Marine Park, Red Bank. Visit COA volunteers and the display at the "Helping Hands" booth, 4-9:30pm.

June 8, Thursday
- World Ocean Day

June 10-11, Saturday-Sunday
- New Jersey Seafood Festival, 5th & Ocean Avenues, Belmar, 11am-7pm. COA volunteers are needed from 10am-7pm. Contact Karl to volunteer.
- New Jersey "Fresh" Seafood Festival, Gardiner's Basin, Atlantic City, 10am-8pm. Call COA to volunteer.

Save the Date

5th Ocean Golf Classic to Benefit Clean Ocean Action Monday, September 25, 2006 Deal Country Club For more information, call Jennifer Smiga at COA.

COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Featuring... Belford Seafood Co-op

The Belford Seafood Cooperative is a commercial fishing operation located on the shores of Sandy Hook Bay. It is one of the most active fishermen's cooperatives on the Atlantic Coast. Established in 1958, many of its fishermen are third and fourth generation. Twenty-eight local fishermen and owners sell their catches at the Co-op.

The Co-op maintains a fleet of approximately 50 boats and has a retail market and a seafood restaurant, "Pirate's Cove," that provide a rotating cycle of freshly caught seafood to surrounding communities. Species change from season to season because fishing grounds in the New York Bight are highly migratory. In the winter months from December to March, the Co-op brings in blue claw crabs from Raritan and Sandy Hook Bays, and whiting, porgies, butterfish, and sea bass from the Hudson Canyon. From April to October, the Co-op catches winter and summer flounder and squid (from the south shore of Long Island), and hauls-in up to 400 pounds of scallops from day boat scalloping. The fishermen return to the Hudson Canyon in fall and winter months in between weather systems.

Fishermen's livelihoods depend on healthy seafood and it is essential to keep our waters clean to produce healthy seafood. Over the years, Clean Ocean Action (COA) and the Co-op have worked together to improve the region's waters.

"Being a commercial fisherman for 30 years and working with COA, I have seen a tremendous change in water quality," said Joseph Branin, Co-op General Manager. "COA rallied many organizations to stop pollution. It is a pleasure working with the organization."

The Co-op is located at 901 Port Monmouth Road, Belford, NJ 07718. For more information and hours, call 732-787-6509.



OFFSHORE ENERGY ISSUES

Ban on Offshore Drilling Upheld Entire NJ Delegation Votes for the Coast

On May 18th, the US House of Representatives voted to save the nation's coastlines from offshore drilling – at least for now. House members approved a bi-partisan, bi-coastal amendment co-sponsored by Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-D-6) to the federal US Department of Interior's Appropriations bill to continue the 25 years of protection from offshore drilling. The vote was close: 217 "Yes" to 203 "No," with 12 "Not Voting."

Also, Governor Jon Corzine continued his defense of New Jersey's coast by writing a letter to the entire NJ delegation urging their support for the moratorium. In the letter Corzine said, "Even a relatively minor incident involving oil or gas exploration or production could cause unimaginable harm to our coastal communities and tourism." NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Commissioner Lisa Jackson attended a press conference in Monmouth Beach, where she joined Rep. Pallone, local officials, Clean Ocean Action (COA), the American Littoral Society, Surfrider Foundation, Surfers' Environmental Alliance, NJ Environmental Federation, and others who conveyed the importance of the continued moratorium for our state's environment, economy, and way of life.

New Jersey's Congressional delegation voted 100% in support of the continued protection.

Thanks to the efforts of these officials, organizations, and concerned citizens, NJ's Congressional delegation voted 100% in support of the continued protection and deserve our gratitude. COA salutes their unanimous support for the coast. Energy experts agree that the only meaningful ways to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil are prompt, strong conservation measures and a mandated increase in automobile fuel efficiency standards.

Federal Agency Seeks Citizen Input on Alternative Energy Environmental Impact Statement

The federal Minerals Management Service (MMS) hosted a public scoping meeting on May 23 in Trenton for its "Outer Continental Shelf Renewable Energy and Alternative Use Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement." Representatives from environmental groups, business and industry, and the general public watched a presentation on alternate use technologies including offshore wind, wave, ocean current, and solar energy capture technologies. The meeting was one of several being held throughout the coastal US.

Many of the comments at the meeting focused on offshore wind energy. NJDEP Commissioner Jackson told the federal representatives that we need to

The meeting was one of several being held throughout the coastal US.

be vigilant of the consequences, but should not let concerns be obstacles. Some comments expressed concerns about the lack of data on offshore alternative energy and the potential impact on the coastal environment. Joining COA in raising questions about the potential impact on the environment and the economy were representatives from the American Littoral Society, Surfrider Foundation, and Jersey Coast Angler's Association.

Industry officials, many representing companies interested in developing offshore wind facilities, expressed concerns that foreign companies would strengthen their hold on the industry if projects are not allowed to move ahead.

The public can learn more about the scoping process and submit comments at: www.ocsenery.anl.gov. All comments received by Wednesday, July 5, 2006 will be considered.

Please clip and send to COA.

STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION!

MAILING LIST RENEWAL OR SIGN-UP FORM

- ➔ If you received a message on your address label, it's time to renew.
- ➔ Your contribution will ensure that you receive this monthly newsletter, action alerts, and notices of events for one year.
- ➔ To renew, please detach this form and enclose with your check.

Thank you.

Enclosed is my check for (please check one):

___ \$25 Individual/Family ___ \$15 Student/Senior

___ \$50 Participating Organizations

Name _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Please include organization name & contact, if applicable:

Please make check payable to
Clean Ocean Action, PO Box 505, Highlands, NJ 07732
To pay with MasterCard or Visa, please call 732-872-0111.

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

COASTAL WATER QUALITY

Point Pleasant Beach Seeks Solutions to Stormwater Discharge

Clean Ocean Action sent a letter to Mayor Thomas Vogel of Point Pleasant Beach, NJ, thanking him for inviting Jenni Samson, COA's Principal Scientist, to sit in on a borough council meeting to discuss the stormwater discharge that contaminated the Maryland Avenue beach last year after significant storm events.

Water testing performed at the end of the pipe discharging onto the beach indicated high concentrations of bacteria, lead, and oil/grease. Borough streets, parks, and yards were identified as the source of all three contaminants, which are washed into storm drains during rain events and through pipes, eventually ending-up on the beach.

All municipalities that discharge stormwater are required by law to develop a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). Adopting a good SWMP will also save the Borough of Point Pleasant Beach money in the long run by reducing street flooding and the flow of contaminated sediment into Lake Louise, Twilight Lake, and Lake of the Lilies, as well as eliminating the unsightly and unhealthy conditions at Maryland Avenue beach.

In addition, COA will reach out to other coastal communities with similar stormwater issues to offer solutions and to provide copies of COA's Stormwater Management Guide in an effort to help municipalities directly improve ocean water quality. For more information, call Jennifer Samson at 732-872-0111.

Water testing indicated high concentrations of bacteria, lead, and oil/grease.

Bacteria from Sewage Leak Closes Beaches in Deal in May Beaches Reopen After One Week

Beaches in Deal near the outflow of Poplar Brook were closed for one week after 36,000 gallons of raw sewerage were accidentally discharged into the brook by the Ocean Township Sewerage Authority on May 10. Workers and a contractor were replacing a worn check valve in one of three main pumps.

Beaches were closed immediately by the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission. Health officials warned of human exposure to raw sewerage, which contains the bacteria *enterococcus*. Human contact with the bacteria can lead to gastroenteritis and subsequent flu-like conditions. *Enterococcus* levels

remained high in the Poplar Brook one week after discharge, despite initial estimations that conditions would likely return to normal within "a few days."

Immediately following the spill, levels of *enterococcus* were measured at 260 times the limit needed for authorities to close the beach, with a reading of 27,000 *enterococci* per 100 milliliters.

State and local health officials close beaches to bathing during the summer if the amount of *enterococcus* exceeds 104 per 100 milliliters of water for two consecutive days.

Surfers' Environmental Alliance Executive Director Andrew Mencinsky called for the expansion of the notice system for beaches to include popular surf web sites after at least two surfers entered the water during the closure, claiming they were unaware of the potential hazard.

Citizens can protect their health by exercising caution if unsure if the water is safe. Citizens should avoid swimming after heavy rain, look for and do not swim near storm drains or pipes emptying near the beach, and look for more obvious signs of pollution, such as discoloration, odor, or floating debris. For information on the latest beach closings in New Jersey, call NJDEP's closure hotline at 1-800-648-SAND or visit www.Earth911.org.

CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

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

Naval Weapons Station Earle Dredging Dodges a Bullet

The Navy requested a major modification to their Federal Consistency Determination (FCD)/Water Quality Certificate (WQC) for Pier Complex Replacement in Sandy Hook Bay at Naval Weapons Station Earle. The modification request included procedures to remove discarded military munitions (DMM) from dredged material collected during pier replacement operations. Once cleared of all DMMs, the dredged sediments will be disposed at an upland placement site in Virginia, as originally proposed.

COA submitted comments on the proposed DMM removal operation, expressing concerns for chemicals that may have leached into sediments from the DMMs. Also, COA questioned the adequacy of sediment control measures to withstand severe weather, as the material will be stored on top of the abandoned pier trestle during recovery operations, and exposed to the elements. See COA's website for our letter to the Navy.

ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Proposed Sandy Hook Reef Elevation Change

The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife requested authorization from the Army Corps of Engineers to raise the height of reefs by 10 feet at four of the authorized reef sites including Sandy Hook Reef. This reef is close enough to federal navigation channels to warrant concerns over safe navigation. Many ships and chemical tankers draw drafts in excess of 25 feet, raising concerns for running aground and spilling oil or chemicals into the ocean. COA requested concurrence of approval for this new height by agencies charged with safe navigation and environmental protection of the region, and requested the comment period be extended. Please visit our website for the complete comment letter sent to Army Corps.

WASTING OUR WATERS AWAY

Proposal for Monitoring Ocean Discharge from Neptune Sewage Plant

COA submitted comments on the NJ Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) permit, for the Township of Neptune Sewerage Authority. The permittee discharges treated wastewater or effluent approximately 5,800 feet offshore of Evergreen Avenue into the Atlantic Ocean at an average design flow of 8.5 million gallons per day.

In general, COA was encouraged by several proposed additions to the permit requirements to improve NJDEP's ability to assess the impacts of the wastewater discharge on aquatic organisms, including an increase in the use or development of Water Quality Based Effluent Limits (WQBELs) for Chlorine Producing Oxidants, Ammonia, and other toxins. However, there were still some significant issues that need be addressed. Some of the newly proposed requirements were not adequate to address water quality issues during this next five-year permit cycle.

COASTAL CREATURE FEATURE



Harp Seal
Phoca groenlandica
(Photo by Joe Reynolds)

Everyone loves to visit the Jersey Shore, but the **June Creature** is an uninvited guest from the "far east" that crowds-out the natives and refuse to leave. You may have seen these critters with light/dark banding patterns scrambling on the rocks around inlets and jetties. The carapace is about the size of a silver dollar. They are not big enough to grill on your Hibachi or roll-up into sushi. 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; Education@CleanOceanAction.org).

(Coastal Creature Feature appears every other month in the *Clean Ocean Advocate*.)



June Creature

C.O.A.S.T. 2006

Jessie Barrett, 732-872-0111, Coast@cleanoceanaction.org

C.O.A.S.T. for a "COZ"



Join us for our **2006 C.O.A.S.T. (Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips)** campaign this summer and reach-out to your community! C.O.A.S.T. is an excellent way to educate your fellow beach-goers about ways to keep the ocean clean. COA is looking for volunteers to spend a few hours on Saturdays or Sundays in July and early August at beach sites in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Volunteers will inform beach-goers, sell T-shirts, and motivate citizens. Building on previous C.O.A.S.T. campaigns, volunteers will focus efforts on gathering support for the Clean Ocean Zone (COZ) legislation, poised to be introduced into the US House of Representatives shortly, that will lock-in COA's successes and lock-out future ocean pollution.

Experienced and new volunteers are encouraged to attend a volunteer information session to gear up for C.O.A.S.T. (see box below). For more information, to sign up to attend an information session, or to sign up to volunteer for C.O.A.S.T. 2006, contact Jessie.

Want to learn more about ocean pollution issues? Would you like to learn more about volunteering for COA?

GET INFORMED. TAKE ACTION.

Learn more at one of two upcoming volunteer information sessions:

Wednesday, June 21, Jenkinson's Aquarium, Pt. Pleasant; 7pm to explore the aquarium; 7:30pm meeting

Thursday, June 22, Monmouth Beach Borough Hall; 7:30pm meeting

Light refreshments will be served at each meeting. To sign up to attend a session, contact Jessie (732-872-0111 or coast@cleanoceanaction.org).

COA STAFF NEWS

Welcome Aboard, Jessie & Kristel!

This summer, COA welcomes two fabulous interns to our team. **Jessie Barrett** is the 2006 Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips (C.O.A.S.T.) Coordinator (see related article). Jessie is entering her senior year at Rowan University and pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication and public relations. She is also an active member of the Public Relations Student Society of America at Rowan. Jessie is a native of the Jersey Shore as a resident of Monmouth Beach.



Jessie Barrett

Kristel Haesler joins the COA crew as our Energy Policy Intern at Sandy Hook. Kristel is a May 2007 Juris Doctor candidate at the New England School of Law, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Science from University of California – Santa Barbara. Kristel's experiences as a law clerk, dive boat research assistant, and two-time US Olympic trial qualifier in swimming provides a strong background for her work at COA. During her internship, Kristel will review and evaluate the many offshore energy issues, proposals, and projects off New Jersey and New York's coasts, and develop a policy paper.



Kristel Haesler