



Clean Ocean Advocate

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- Industrial Assault on Ocean Continues: Third LNG Port
- State Water Quality Protections Weakened
- Save the Shore this Summer: C.O.A.S.T. 2008 Campaign

June 2008 Highlights

*****Eco-Tip of the Month*****
Eye-Spy Pollution: Keep your eyes, ears, and noses tuned into the environment. Report environmental problems or incidents, such as polluted water, oil spills, dead fish or wildlife, or suspicious dumping immediately. To report incidents (24 hours): in NJ call 1-877-WARN-DEP; in NY call 1-800-TIP-DEC; in New York City call 311. Call Clean Ocean Action with your report. For more tips on reporting eco-emergencies, go to www.cleanoceanaction.org.

Clean Ocean Action
 18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2
 Highlands, NJ 07732
 732-872-0111
www.CleanOceanAction.org
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STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION! MAILING LIST RENEWAL OR SIGN-UP FORM

➡ 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.
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Please include organization name & contact, if applicable:

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

JUNE

June 1, Sunday
 - **Barnegat Bay Festival**, hosted by Barnegat Bay Estuary Program, Wanamaker Complex, Island Heights, 10am-4pm.

June 5, Thursday
 - **Blue Tulip In-Store Sea-Worthy Shopping Event**, Chapel Hill Shopping Center, 459 Route 35, Middletown; all day. 15% of your purchases donated to COA.

June 7-8, Saturday-Sunday
 - **NJ Seafood Festival**, Ocean Avenue between 5th & 6th Avenues, Belmar. Stop by COA's action table, or to volunteer, call Anna.

SAVE THE DATE
September 19, Friday
 - **10th Annual Sunset at Sandy Hook Party**, COA's Fall Seaside Fundraiser, Sea Gulls' Nest, 6-10pm. Stay tuned for more details and reservation information.

Our COAlition Featuring... Keyport Environmental Commission

Coastal municipalities have an important role in protecting marine waters. As a borough that sits on the shores of Raritan Bay, the actions of Keyport's municipal officials and residents affect the health of the community, local waters, and the environment, in general.

Over the years, the **Keyport Environmental Commission** has worked with municipal officials to achieve pesticide-free park areas, discuss mosquito spraying actions, and, recently, evaluate proposed flood map alterations. The Commission conveys information about stormwater management to businesses and residents. The Commission provides tips for reducing stormwater and its associated pollution by distributing materials at every scheduled borough event, as well as at special events, such as cleanups. Also, the Commission reviews construction projects submitted to the town's Planning Board for environmental impacts and concerns. The Commission works to ensure the town enforces wetland infringements.

"Clearly, clean water and clean beaches are of interest to us in Keyport – we're right on the water," said **Rowland Seckinger, Chair of the Keyport Environmental Commission** for the past three years. "Plus, clean bays and beaches mean a clean ocean."

Recognizing this connection, the Keyport Environmental Commission has organized and conducted many successful Spring and Fall Beach Sweeps with Clean Ocean Action (COA). At the beach cleanups, the Commission brings officials, businesses, and citizens together to work toward a cleaner community, cleaner bay, and, ultimately, a cleaner ocean.

The Keyport Environmental Commission meets the second Monday of each month in Borough Hall. To learn more about the Commission, contact the Borough of Keyport at 732-739-3900.

Contact your town's environmental commission and get involved.

INDUSTRIAL ASSAULT ON OCEAN CONTINUES

Third LNG Port Proposed Off NY/NJ Coast

Excalibur Energy, a new energy conglomerate and joint venture between Canadian Superior Energy Inc. and Global LNG Inc., has proposed "Liberty Natural Gas Transmission Project," the third proposed importation facility for liquefied natural gas (LNG) off New Jersey. This project would be located 15 miles off Asbury Park, between "Insanity Island" and Exxon Mobil's floating barge. The project would require 50 miles of offshore pipeline and 11 miles of onshore pipeline, running from South Amboy to Linden.

"There is nothing 'liberating' about industrializing our ocean, becoming more dependent on foreign fossil fuels, and increasing our energy costs," said Cindy Zipf, COA Executive Director. "We must remain vigilant and stop all three of these monstrous projects – the ocean is no one's guinea pig."

Like Exxon's proposal, the formal "Liberty" application has not been filed. From the available information, Excalibur will install four turrets (connectors) that would receive gas from LNG tankers that must have the technology onboard to reheat the gas. Only three such tankers exist today. Three offshore turrets are currently operational in the US, yet they are drastically under-utilized since it is far cheaper to use existing domestic natural gas supplies than to import LNG, which is globally priced.

Canadian Superior Energy is looking to find a market for the natural gas it is currently drilling and extracting from ocean waters off Trinidad and Tobago. Thus, supporting this LNG facility would subsidize this offshore drilling in a country that already has environmental problems with oil pollution on beaches.

COA continues to spearhead a citizen action campaign against the offshore LNG ports. To sign the petition, for a sample group and/or municipal resolution, and to learn more about all three proposals, go to COA's website.



Sign the Petition to Oppose LNG Ports in the Ocean
 See COA's website

A DAY OF SCIENCE & ADVOCACY AT THE BEACH



Students drag a seining net to learn and observe marine life in Sandy Hook Bay.

In early May, nearly 800 middle school students and teachers from 28 schools in northern and central New Jersey were scientists and advocates at COA's Annual Spring Student Summit at Sandy Hook. Students participated in a roundtable of six hands-on workshops and twelve interactive field activities. Students

explored and studied beaches, trails, and historic sites, and learned about horseshoe crabs, sea stars, spider crabs, moon snails, and a variety of fish and bird species. Students also observed models of nonpoint source pollution, learned about the lethal effects of litter on the marine environment, and served our ocean by helping to sweep beaches clean.

COA sincerely appreciates the efforts of the talented educators, the students from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST) who served as peer teachers, and the National Park Service at Sandy Hook who all worked to make this a successful experience for the students.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

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State Water Quality Protections Weakened

Last year, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) proposed devastating changes to the classification of waterways eligible for what is legally known as Category One (C1) Waters. A C1 status for a waterway protects it from further degradation by providing a "no further degradation" standard to the watershed. It has been an important tool for improving water quality.

Appallingly, the NJDEP changes will make it nearly impossible for any more brackish or saline waters to be added to the list of protected waters, and adding freshwater streams will be extremely difficult. Further, as a result of the new C1 criteria, NJDEP cut the number of proposed protected miles of waterways, from 910 to 686 miles. Worse yet, the new rules may put existing C1 waterways in jeopardy of losing their C1 status.

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COA's comments opposing the rule change are posted on our website (see Issues/Campaigns and Coastal Water Quality). COA is considering all options for challenging this drastic weakening of water quality protections.

Bills for Better Ocean Swimming

On May 21, the US Senate Environment Committee passed the Beach Protection Act. The bill, sponsored by Senator Lautenberg (D-NJ), will bring beach water quality testing into the 21st Century. The bill requires the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and states to adopt rapid testing methods for pollution so the public will know far sooner whether it is safe to swim. The bill allows funding for source tracking and pollution prevention efforts. The US House of Representatives passed a similar bill, sponsored by Rep. Pallone (NJ-D-6). The bills will be combined and voted on.

WASTING OUR WATERS AWAY

Heather Saffert, PhD, 732-872-0111, Science@cleanoceanaction.org
Project comments submitted by COA are posted on our website (click Issues/Campaigns, Wastewater, and COA Comment Letters)

Unacceptable Changes to NJ Wastewater Regulations

The NJDEP proposed rule changes to the NJ Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) that will negatively impact coastal water quality and marine life. The NJDEP proposed reducing limits of a toxicity test to a lower enforcement level, which directly violates the NJPDES anti-backsliding rule and federal law. COA rejected this change as well as the use of "mixing" or dilution zones to determine effluent limitations.

COA urged NJDEP to add limits for chlorine-related pollution. Chlorine is currently used to disinfect wastewater. However, by-products from chlorination and residual chlorine in discharge are toxic to marine life.

Further, NJDEP did not update the bacterial indicators. COA urged adoption of new NJ Surface Water Quality Criteria (*E. coli* for fresh water and *enterococci* for marine waters) to protect public health. In addition, COA recommended that specific contaminant limits be established for use of wastewater for beneficial reuses.

Bayshore Regional Sewage Authority Permit

In May, COA submitted comments on the NJPDES draft permit renewal for Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority, which discharges wastewater into the ocean off Sandy Hook and Sea Bright, NJ. COA's review found it fraught with fatal flaws, as well as significant deficiencies. COA urged NJDEP to withdraw the draft permit and fix the flaws before issuing a final permit.

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Anna Will, 732-872-0111, Education@cleanoceanaction.org

"Be Green to Save Big Blue"

On May 21, the 2007-2008 COA Student Ocean Advocates (SOA) presented highlights from their campaigns to protect the ocean. SOA is an alliance of students from eight Monmouth County high schools that learn about current issues affecting the ocean and the environment, and take on projects and campaigns to encourage members of their communities to make environmentally conscious choices in their daily lives.

This year, the students decided to focus on nonpoint source pollution — the number one contributor to ocean pollution — by promoting "The Three Rs:" reduce, reuse, recycle. Students in each of the schools organized campaigns directed to their peers, teachers, and community members. SOA members shared lessons learned and campaign initiatives, including e-newsletters, "green" pledges, handmade reusable bags, recycling drives, petition drives, lesson plans for younger students, beach cleanups, and raising funds to purchase compact fluorescent light bulbs for low income families.



SOA & COA (L-R): Anna Will (COA), Alexa Kretsch, Mara Higgins, Ashley Harmer, Erik Anderson, Safya O'Rourke, David Weinstock, Tanya George, Lawrence Wong, Lavina Jethari, Emily Hackett (COA), and Cindy Zipf (COA)

Not pictured: Christin Sagui, John Necef, John Caddock, Amanda Rothman, Marly Stasi, Laura Stasi, and Paula Nociolo

The SOA representatives are: Tanya George, Lavina Jethari, and Lawrence Wong, Academy of Allied Health & Science; Safya O'Rourke and David Weinstock, Henry Hudson Regional High School; Alexa Kretsch and Christin Sagui, Marine Academy of Science & Technology; John Necef and John Caddock, Mater Dei High School; Erik Anderson, Middletown South High School; Amanda Rothman, Marly Stasi, and Laura Stasi, Red Bank Regional High School; Paula Nociolo and Katie Lusheski, Rumson Fair Haven Regional High School; and Ashley Harmer and Mara Higgins, Wall High School.

COASTAL CREATURE FEATURE



Horseshoe Crab
Limulus polyphemus

The April Creature was the **Horseshoe Crab**. The Horseshoe Crab is a unique creature that pre-dates most other species on the planet. Many species depend on horseshoe crabs, such as migratory shorebirds that use horseshoe crab eggs as an important food source, and humans. An extract of the horseshoe crab's blood is used by the pharmaceutical and medical industries to ensure injectable medication is free of bacterial contamination. Congratulations to **Sloan Sawhill** of Egg Harbor City, NJ, for being selected from a pool of correct entries.

June Creature: This species is usually found in the nearshore coastal waters and bays, but moves offshore to depths of 100 to 500 feet of water in the fall and winter months. This species uses its field of vision, shape, and coloration to help it catch prey. Unlike other similar looking species, this species will swim into the water column and chase prey to the surface. For a chance to win a COA T-shirt, submit your guess by mail, fax, email (18 Hartshorne Dr., Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732; 732-872-8041; Education@CleanOceanAction.org), or at www.CleanOceanAction.org.



June Coastal Creature

The Coastal Creature Feature winner will be announced in the August newsletter.

C.O.A.S.T. 2008 Campaign

Casey Shanley, 732-872-0111, Coast@cleanoceanaction.org

Save the Shore this Summer: Help Stop Ocean Industrialization!

With summer right around the corner, it is time to get excited to spend our days enjoying the sunshine and wonderful beaches! It is also time to call on citizens to volunteer for the C.O.A.S.T. Campaign (Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips). The C.O.A.S.T. Campaign organizes volunteers to set up and staff information and action tables at beach locations in Monmouth and Ocean Counties on weekends in July and early August. These opportunities educate citizens about current ocean pollution issues, and provide ways for citizens to take action for a cleaner ocean. Volunteers also sell our popular, one-of-a-kind campaign T-shirts to raise funds for COA's efforts to stop ocean pollution.

This summer COA seeks volunteers of all ages to spend a few hours to help to save the ocean. Interested volunteers, both new and experienced C.O.A.S.T. volunteers, are urged to attend two upcoming "Pizza Parties with a Purpose" to learn more about this year's campaign and actions, which will be focused on the numerous offshore proposals for liquefied natural gas (LNG) ports (see feature story).

For more information about C.O.A.S.T., to attend a pizza party, or to sign-up to volunteer this summer, contact Casey.

C.O.A.S.T. 2008
"Pizza Parties with a Purpose"
June 3rd, 7pm,
Sea Bright Public Library
June 4th, 7pm,
Jenkinson's Aquarium

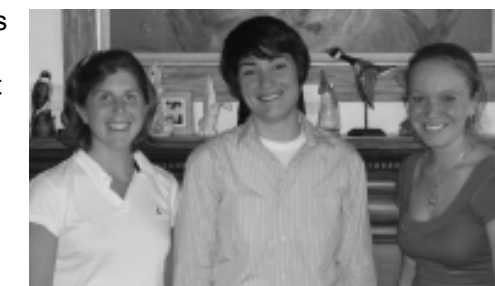
COA STAFF NEWS

This summer, COA welcomes three interns to our crew. **Laura Mott**, COA's legal intern, is a first year student at CUNY Law School. She chose to attend law school to protect NJ's terrestrial and marine environments. Laura holds a B.A. from Rutgers University in Anthropology. She grew-up in Warren and summered in Point Pleasant, crabbing, swimming, and taking the rowboat into the waves. She's also an avid surfer. She is working on the C1 issue and reviewing the offshore LNG proposals.

Casey Shanley is our 2008 Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips (C.O.A.S.T.) Campaign intern. Casey is entering her senior year at Wheaton College, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. She is interested in working in public relations after graduation. Casey is a native to the Jersey Shore, having lived in Rumson, NJ, and been a lifeguard at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Long Branch. Casey brings enthusiasm for a cleaner ocean and looks forward to working with C.O.A.S.T. volunteers.

Lisa Harris joins COA's crew for a second summer as Events & Program Intern. Lisa is a junior at the University of Vermont, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies. She will assist with the summer Corporate Beach Sweeps program, the recent Aveda Earth Month Campaign, and help to compile the 2007 Beach Sweeps report.

Helen Edwards, South Jersey Program Coordinator, was honored for her efforts organizing the Beach Sweeps in Atlantic & Cape May Counties. The Belhaven Middle School 6th Grade Gifted & Talented S.P.E.A.K. Class honored Helen as one of the nine Upstanding Citizens of Atlantic County. Helen has since left her COA position for a marine water quality position at Rutgers University. Congratulations, Helen, and best of luck!



2008 COA Interns (L-R): Casey Shanley, Laura Mott, and Lisa Harris