

Clean Ocean Advocate



Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper with soy ink.

- Devastating BP Oil Spill in the Gulf is now four times the size of New Jersey!
- Join Hands Across the Sand with us on June 26th
- Offshore Drilling comments due June 30th

June 2010 Highlights

Clean Ocean Action
 18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2
 Highlands, NJ 07732
 732-872-0111
 www.CleanOceanAction.org



Please clip and send to COA.

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

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Please print clearly. Thank you.



Name _____

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Please include organization name & contact, if applicable: _____

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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

Contact Meg Gardner to volunteer for any of the June-August events at citizens@cleanoceanaction.org or 732-872-0111.

June-August: Corporate Sweeps, Sandy Hook, NJ

June 5: World Oceans Day, 1-4pm Jenkinsons Aquarium, Point Pleasant

June 6: Barnegat Bay Festival, 10am-4pm, Wanamaker Complex, Island Heights

June 8: World Oceans Day, Adventure Aquarium, Camden

June 26: Hands Across the Sand

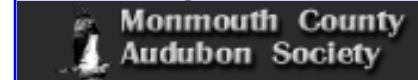
July 8: Barnegat Bay Day, 11am-3pm, Loveladies

October 1: 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

Our Coalition Featuring...



The Monmouth County (NJ) Audubon Society (MCAS), a chapter of the National Audubon Society, is dedicated to the enjoyment and study of nature, habitat protection, wildlife conservation, and education.

MCAS believes that people can lead the way to a better environment by getting involved at all levels with our political and economic decision makers. We should make the little changes within our power to promote and support a positive, proactive approach to climate change. It is important for people to work together toward conservation of our natural resources and expanded use of clean energy.

Join MCAS on June 10, at 6:00 p.m. for an evening bird walk to look for nesters and shorebirds on Sandy Hook. Meet at the Sandy Hook Visitor's Center parking lot.

"The evening is a great time to explore the quieter areas of Sandy Hook," explains Linda Mack, trip leader and past president of the MCAS. "We never know what we will discover on these summer walks - herons, shorebirds, Ospreys and gulls are all regulars - and we may be able to sneak a peek at Piping Plovers, the endangered shorebirds that nest at Sandy Hook."

Participants should bring field guides, binoculars and dress appropriately for the weather. Insect repellent is recommended. The walk will take place light rain or shine. Pets are not permitted.

MCAS field trips are open to both members and non-members.

There is no fee. Tell Park attendant you are there for the MCAS birdwalk and they will let you in. Monmouthaudubon.org.



Tragedy in Gulf Beyond Comprehension

At Press Time Surface of Oil Spill Almost 4 Times the Size of NJ

Oil and natural gas continue to gush from the Deepwater Horizon drilling well in the Gulf of Mexico since the April 20th rig explosion that killed 11 people. An estimated 210,000 to 2,500,000 gallons of crude oil per day have been overflowing into the Gulf. Thus far, the response efforts have been inadequate to contain the catastrophe. A May 24th satellite image showed the surface slick and sheen of almost 29,000 square miles, which is almost 4 times the size of New Jersey.

Large areas of the Gulf and the marine life within it are devastated by the fossil fuels and dispersants on the surface and in the water column. Oil is now severely contaminating critical coastal habitats. There are at least 25 National Wildlife Refuges at risk, where many threatened and endangered species live, including manatees, whooping cranes, wood storks, and four species of sea turtles. Coastal marsh areas support shorebirds and serve as important nursery areas for fish and other animals. Numerous seabirds including, Brown Pelicans, terns, and plovers, are now nesting in the coastal region. Oiled wildlife have been found in Louisiana although more regions will likely be affected in the near future. Oil can harm wildlife through ingestion, inhalation, and absorption on skin, scales, or feathers. Although less visible, oil can be toxic to and contaminate plankton, such as algae, fish eggs and larvae, and invertebrates, that other species such as fish, turtles, and marine mammals eat. Many species of whales, sharks, and dolphins also live in the Gulf and will be impacted. The bluefin tuna spawns in the region from mid-April to mid-June. Sharks and other fish are also spawning at this time. Several of these species migrate over large regions beyond the Gulf and populations found in the Atlantic Ocean may be affected. Modeling has shown the potential for oil and toxic dispersants in the Gulf to be transported by the Loop Current off western Florida to the Florida Current which flows eastward between southern Florida and Cuba to the Atlantic Ocean. The Gulf Stream could then swiftly move the oil north up the east coast. Depending on conditions, it is possible that oil from this spill could end up on the Jersey Shore. NJDEP expects that such an event is unlikely, but if oil hits our beaches, it is expected to be in the form of tarballs. For up to date information on the oil spill visit our website at cleanoceanaction.org, join us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter.



On May 13 and 14, over 800 middle school students and teachers from 20 schools in northern and central New Jersey were scientists for a day at COA's 22nd Annual Spring Student Summit at Sandy Hook. The Summit program is designed to present students with an interdisciplinary marine and environmental education experience that complements the NJ Science Standards. Students participated in a roundtable of six hands-on workshops and twelve interactive field activities where they explored and studied beaches, trails, and marshes, and learned about horseshoe crabs, sea stars, spider crabs, and many other native birds and fish. Students also observed models of nonpoint source pollution, learned about the lethal effects of litter on the marine environment, and served our ocean by sweeping the beaches clean. COA sincerely appreciates the efforts of the talented educators, students from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST) who served as peer teachers, and the National Park Service who worked to make this a successful experience for the students. Special thanks to Kathleen Gasienica for her enlightening horseshoe crab lecture.

A Day of Science and Advocacy on Sandy Hook

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EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

Tavia Danch, Education@CleanOceanAction.org
Meg Gardner, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Student Ocean Advocates Achieve Results



The **Ocean County Student Ocean Advocate** (SOA) program successfully completed its first year on May 19, 2010.

Students were awarded for their efforts to protect and improve Barnegat Bay by recruiting 208 Ocean County residents to become Barnegat Bay Buddies and ultimately part of a larger movement of citizen action for Barnegat Bay.

Congratulations Ocean County SOA Class of 2010: Emily Keppen, Dana

Gregory, Austin Jarrett and Jeanne Stad of the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science, Caitlin Kohl and Julie Peterson of Monsignor Donovan H.S., and Krista Barone of Lacey Township H.S. Special thanks to the Barnegat Bay Partnership for hosting SOA at Ocean County College.

The **Monmouth County SOA** program completed a fourth successful year on May 24th, 2010. Students were awarded for advocacy work to stop ocean industrialization from liquefied natural gas facilities. They achieved their goal on Earth Day 2010 when Governor Christie told them that as long as he is Governor of NJ, he will not allow LNG facilities off our shores. These students also collected over 1,000 valentines for the Governor and completed campaign projects to raise awareness of LNG among their classmates and community.

Congratulations Monmouth County SOA Class of 2010: Kathleen Sorensen, Lauren Krug, Jack Clarizio, Travis Rosa, and Beth Hunt of Wall High School; Albert DiBenedetto, Cole Barney, and Hannah Tracy of Middletown High School South; Nelson LaMarche and Sarika Madari of the Academy of Allied Health and Science; Jacqueline Golding, Emily Sperduto, and Gina Stornelli of Communications High School; Eileen Connair, Joanne Pena, Maryssa Beale, Colleen McLoughin, and Emily Smiga from Long Branch High School; Adrianna Matyas, Elizabeth Stockton, Brian Geiger, and J.D. Kuper from Manasquan High School; Pat Whalen, Lena Larrieu, and Jamie Freeman from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology; Gila Goldstein, Tara Nietzold, and Amanda Zipf from Ocean Township High School; Luke Fetten, Briallana Castillo, and Drew Mendelson from Red Bank Regional High School; Kendall Axt, Chelsea Dow, Harley Mulheren, Chandler McCauley, and Eve Critton from Rumson Fair Haven Regional High School. COA would also like to thank the Urban Coast Institute for hosting SOA at Monmouth University.

CITIZEN ACTION



join hands with us
www.handsacrossthesand.org
JUNE 26TH 2010

HANDS ACROSS THE SAND
Hands Across The Sand Is Coming Soon To Your Beach
World Oceans Day: June 5, 1-4pm, Jenkinson's Aquarium; **Barnegat Bay Festival:** June 6, 10am-4pm, Island Heights; **World Oceans Day:** June 8, Adventure Aquarium, Camden; **LBI Fest:** June 12, 11am-6pm, Long Beach Township Municipal Complex; **Roller Derby Event:** June 12, 1-8pm, Convention Hall, Asbury Park (free roller derby tickets to volunteers)! **Trenton Thunders Environmental Awareness Fair:** June 16, 5-7pm, Waterfront Park, Trenton; **Cape May Harbor Fest:** June 19, 10am-5pm, Cape May; **Neighborhood Event:** June 19, 12-4pm, Middletown; **Hands Across the Sand:** June 26. Complete our volunteer form online at cleanoceanaction.org under "Help Your Ocean" or contact Meg at citizens@cleanoceanaction.org or 732-872-0111.

EVENTS

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

Cruisin' for a Clean Ocean!



Over 300 friends zipped around a 5 mile loop on Sandy Hook to raise over \$2,400 during Ted Shred's 4th Annual Beach Cruiser Bike Race on May 8th, 2010.

Everyone had a cruisin' good time at the race raising awareness on current ocean pollution issues especially this year's race winner, "Volkswagen" Dan, who donated his prize of a brand new beach cruiser to the Bike Church in Asbury Park. Special thanks to after-party host Windansea in Highlands, and DNA, Triple Threat, and Quincy Mumford who kept the music going through the afternoon.

The Beach Cruiser Bike Race was supported by Billabong of Shrewsbury, Jamian's Food & Drink, Jersey Shore Apparel Co., Katin, The Peddler of Long Branch, Shannon Black Designs, Spellbinders, Splash Zone, Sunsatation, Ted Shred's Camps, Universe Graphics, Surfer, Whole Foods Market, and Zoo York. Thanks to Ted Shred's Original Surf Wax Candle Co. for helping to keep our oceans clean!

COA STAFF NEWS



COA welcomes Anna Tweten aboard as the new C.O.A.S.T. Coordinator! Anna is a rising junior at Vassar College and an Environmental Studies and Political Science double major. She is a member of the Vassar Greens and the Outreach Coordinator of Operation Donation, a student charity organization in Poughkeepsie, New York. A lifetime resident of New Jersey, Anna is passionate about protecting the environment, and thrilled to be part of COA this summer. Prior to Clean Ocean Action, Anna spent three summers in the Adirondack Mountains as a counselor at Tanager Lodge, a wilderness camp. Call or email Anna to volunteer for C.O.A.S.T. at 732-872-0111 or intern@cleanoceanaction.org.

CREATURE FEATURE



April's Creature

April's creature feature was the Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla*, a medium size gull known for its laughing call.

Populations have increased due to greater protection since the last century, however loss of coastal marsh habitat is still a concern. Laughing Gulls eat insects, crabs, fish, berries, and garbage. Eggs usually hatch in

late June. Judge C. Nettle thanks all who submitted guesses and congratulates contest winner Angela Cilia of Atlantic Highlands, NJ!

June's Creature Feature

June's creature feature is a small, silvery fish. These bony foodfish are fast-growing and short-lived, with few living more than 3 years. They are found from Florida to Newfoundland, but most schools live in the region from Cape Hatteras to Southern New England. They migrate in response to temperature, preferring warmer waters. For a chance to win a COA T-shirt, submit your guess to Judge Sal Mon by mail, fax, email (18 Hartshorne Dr., Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732; 732-872-8041; science@CleanOceanAction.org) or by visiting CleanOceanAction.org. Only one entry per person please.



COA SCIENCE NEWS

Heather Saffert, Science@CleanOceanAction.org

COA Demands Halt to Offshore Drilling & Exploration

COA demanded that the government halt all plans for oil and gas exploration in the Atlantic coast until the Deepwater Horizon disaster is investigated. COA's comments on the revised 2007-2012 Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Plan are posted online.

COA supported NJ's Senator Robert Menendez, Senator Frank Lautenberg, Representative Frank Pallone, and Representative Rush Holt who have also called for such a response in an April 20, 2010 letter to President Obama stating:

The Deepwater Horizon tragedy should bring a halt to any expansion of offshore drilling, including MMS's current decision-making process with regard to seismic testing, revising the 2007 to 2012 5-year plan and scoping for the 2012 to 2017 plan. Therefore we ask that you suspend all action on expanding such exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf immediately and reverse any plans to drill off the Atlantic Coast.

COA and NJ leaders also called for reinstating the long-standing Moratorium against drilling in the Atlantic.

COA Speaks Out Against Oil/Gas Exploration Activities

COA testified at a recent hearing and opposed proposed seismic surveying to explore for oil and gas off the Atlantic Coast. Written comments are online.

The noise from intensive surveys can stress and harm marine life, interfere with vital communication and feeding activities, and even decrease commercial fishing catches. The endangered North Atlantic Right Whales are particularly vulnerable. Even the southern most surveys proposed in Florida could introduce more noise pollution in NJ coastal waters.

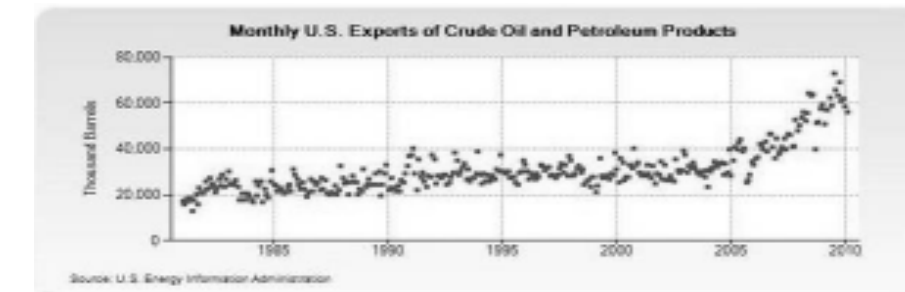
Next 5-year 2012-2017 Plan

The DOI will be holding more meetings and is asking for comments on the next 5-year plan for 2012-2017. The Mid- and South Atlantic regions are included in this plan.

Comments are due June 30 to: Mr. J. F. Bennett, Chief, Branch of Environmental Assessment, Minerals Management Service, 381 Elden Street, MS 4042, Herndon, Virginia 20170, or online at: ocs5years.eis.anl.gov. For more information please visit the following link: <http://www.mms.gov/5-year/PDFs/2010-2015/NOIandScoping2012-2017.pdf>

Domestic Energy Scam

One of the rationales to expand offshore drilling is to increase domestic energy supply to increase energy independence. Some of the public believes if we drill more in our ocean, we will become more energy secure. However, fossil fuels drilled in the U.S. are not guaranteed to stay in the U.S. A recent review of the Energy Information Administration (EIA) proves that US petroleum products do not necessarily stay in the US, in fact, the US exports 60 million barrels a month!¹



¹<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/pet/hist/LeafHandler.ashx?n=PET&s=MTTEXUS1&f=M> Accessed on May 3, 2010.