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March 2007 Highlights
 - Another Outrage: PCB Cleanup Delayed Again
 - Paddling Fun on the Film Screen
 - Register for Free Flat-out Fun & Prizes!

*****Eco-Tip of the Month*****
Green Spring Cleaning: Keep chlorine bleach out of the environment. Use natural products for cleaning and laundry.
Adapted from "Our Environment," Vol. 12, No. 3, by Ingrid Justick

Clean Ocean Action
 PO Box 505
 Sandy Hook, NJ 07732-0505
 732-872-0111
 www.CleanOceanAction.org
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STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION!

MAILING LIST RENEWAL OR SIGN-UP FORM

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 - Your contribution will ensure that you receive this monthly newsletter, action alerts, and notices of events for one year.
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- Thank you.

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 \$50 Participating Organizations

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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.

MARCH 2007

- March 23, Friday**
 - **Earth Share Celebrates New Jersey**, wine tasting, light fare, auction, art exhibit, Cream Ridge Winery, 6-9pm. Tickets: \$25/person. Call 609-989-1160, or www.earthsharenj.org.
- March 23-25, Friday-Sunday**
 - **Paddlesport 2007**. For details, see "Sea Scenes" inside, or to volunteer for COA see "Outreach" inside.
- March 25, Sunday**
 - **Local Beach Cleanup**, part of Preventative Health Awareness Fair, Ocean Grove Pavilion, 10am registration, 11am-2pm cleanup. Call 732-741-1444.
- March 31, Saturday**
 - **COA Flounder Tournament**. See "Events" inside for details.

SAVE THE DATE

- April 2007**
 - **Aveda Earth Month**: see COA's April newsletter or call COA for details on salon events in NY and NJ.
- April 28, Saturday**
 - **COA Spring Beach Sweeps**.

COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS Featuring...NY/NJ Baykeeper

Who watches-out for the waters of the Hudson-Raritan Estuary, one of the most urban estuaries on Earth? **New York/New Jersey Baykeeper** is the "citizen guardian" of this Estuary and has worked since 1989 to protect, preserve, and restore the environment. The Baykeeper stops polluters, champions public access, influences land use decisions, and restores habitat, benefiting the natural and human communities of our watershed. Baykeeper advocates for the environment through community partnerships, and by providing technical assistance to grassroots groups. Baykeeper also runs Oyster Restoration Programs, Eco Tours, and the Raritan Riverkeeper, Passaic River Patrol, and Jamaica Bay Pumpout programs.

The Baykeeper continues its advocacy work on the cleanup of dioxin in Newark Bay and the Passaic River, and the long-overdue cleanup of PCBs by General Electric in the Hudson River. Since river pollution runs into the ocean, a healthy ocean depends on clean rivers.

"The environmental health of our rivers, bays, and oceans can't be separated," said **Andrew Willner**, Executive Director of NY/NJ Baykeeper. "Dredging, combined sewer overflows, and poor water quality; Baykeeper and COA have worked together on these and other water related issues since the early days."

Baykeeper is working to garner support for a pumpout boat for Raritan and Sandy Hook Bays. To meet the goal to provide this service free of charge to all boaters, Baykeeper is looking to secure financial commitments for the pumpout boat.

Baykeeper needs some help from citizens throughout the Estuary. To learn more or how to become involved as an oyster gardener call 732-888-9870 or visit www.nynjbaykeeper.org.

Adapted from NY/NJ Baykeeper website

COASTAL WATER QUALITY

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

Another Outrage: PCB Cleanup Delayed Again

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the cleanup of PCBs in the Hudson River would not begin until **Spring 2009**. Five years ago, on February 1, 2002, EPA signed a landmark decision requiring the removal of PCBs from the Hudson River and recognizing General Electric (GE) as the responsible polluter. As a result, cleanup was originally expected to begin in 2005, but was delayed several times, and again this year.

For over 40 years, GE dumped approximately 1.3 million pounds of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) into the Hudson from two different plants. General Electric was aware of human health issues associated with PCBs since the late 1930s and the environmental dangers in 1970. Yet, GE continued to dump PCBs in the river until the federal government banned the chemical in 1976.

GE spent millions of dollars arguing against cleaning-up the river. Today, the Hudson River remains a 197-mile Superfund site, and PCBs still pose a health risk to the health of fish and humans. Numerous health advisories have been issued by NY and NJ health agencies to warn of the health impacts for consuming certain fish species from the Hudson River and nearby waterways.

OUTRAGED? TAKE ACTION! Demand no further delay in this long-overdue cleanup by writing to EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson at: US Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20460.

VICTORY! NJDEP Rejects Spraying Toxic Dimilin

As reported last month, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) asked the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to lift a ban on aerial spraying of toxic substances in an attempt to control Gypsy Moth infestations throughout the state. Due to public outcry, NJDEP refused to lift the ban, citing the highly toxic nature of Dimilin to aquatic organisms and other wildlife. Congratulations to the organizations and citizens who took action to prevent the spraying.

Help Reduce Impacts to Coastal Waters

As reported in last month's *Clean Ocean Advocate*, the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) re-applied for a "consistency review" from NJDEP. This review is required for OCNGS's efforts to re-license the nuclear power plant for another 20 years. Oyster Creek must show they do not violate any of the state's environmental rules and regulations. NJDEP extended the comment period to **March 25**.

TAKE ACTION NOW! Concerned citizens, organizations, businesses, and municipalities should take action:

- Visit COA's website to learn how to submit comments on this critical opportunity to reduce environmental impacts and pollution in our waterways. Also, see our website for documents of interest, including a summary of the Federal Consistency Determination Certificate (for a complete copy contact our Sandy Hook office).
- Contact COA to sign on to our comments opposing OCNGS's consistency.



NY/NJ Baykeeper Andrew Willner, US Rep. Pallone (D-NJ-6), and "evil" GE lightbulb at a press conference on PCB cleanup in 2006

CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

New Year, Congress, & Actions to Stop Offshore Oil & Gas Drilling



In January, **US Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ)** and **Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)** and **US Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ-6)** introduced legislation in Congress to permanently prohibit oil and gas drilling off the coast of New Jersey, and the Mid-Atlantic.

The bills, both entitled Clean Ocean and Safe Tourism Anti-Drilling Act, or COAST Anti-Drilling Act, would protect New Jersey's beaches, and the tourism industry it supports, by permanently banning oil and gas drilling off the Mid-Atlantic and Northern Atlantic coast.

Since 1982, Congress has enacted moratoria on drilling in most regions of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) by prohibiting funding for such activity. Also, in 1990, the first President Bush issued a directive forbidding offshore leasing or pre-leasing activities in most of the OCS until 2000, which was extended by President Clinton to 2012. The current Bush administration, however, has repeatedly considered drilling in the mid-Atlantic.

Also in January, **NJDEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson** testified before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee about the irreparable impact of offshore drilling on New Jersey.

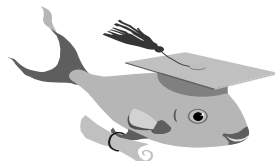
Shell Hires Gale Norton

Gale Norton, a former Secretary of the US Department of Interior during the Bush Administration and a supporter of opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other sensitive environmental landscapes for oil production, now holds a senior legal post at Shell. Norton joined as a general counsel for Shell's exploration and production business in the US and will be based primarily in Colorado, where she was once state attorney general. Norton is the latest in a series of controversial US appointments at the company.

Adapted from "Guardian Unlimited," Feb. 5, 2007

ATTENTION TEACHERS!

Applications for **COA's Spring Student Summit** on May 10 & 11, are being accepted from schools in northern and central New Jersey counties. Don't miss this opportunity to bring learning beyond the classroom at Sandy Hook. Free program. For an application, go to www.cleanoceanaction.org, and follow links for "Education Programs" and "Student Summit," or call 732-872-0111.



OUTREACH

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

Spring into Volunteering

The ocean needs your help! Contact COA to volunteer to educate others about our efforts at upcoming events and festivals throughout New Jersey. Volunteering is a great opportunity for community service.

March 23-25 – Paddlesport 2007, Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset.

Volunteers needed: Mar. 23, 12-9pm; Mar. 24, 8:30am-6pm, and Mar. 25, 8:30am-4:30pm.

March 25 – Local beach cleanup as part of Preventative Health Awareness Fair, Ocean Grove, 10am registration, 11am cleanup.

April 21 – Highlands Earth Day, Veteran's Park, Highlands, NJ.

Volunteers needed: 8:30am-3pm.

April 21 – Monmouth County Parks Earth Day, Manasquan Reservoir, Howell. Volunteers needed: 11:30am-5pm.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

U.S. Government Gets "C-" on Oceans Protection

The United States received an average grade of C- on a report card issued by the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative. The grade is up slightly from the D+ assigned in 2005. The report card is an assessment of the nation's collective progress in 2006 toward fulfilling the recommendations of the Congressionally mandated US Commission on Ocean Policy and the nonprofit Pew Oceans Commission – two premier groups recently determining the nation's coastal condition. The two commissions were joined together as the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative.

According to the Joint Commission, "The results of this evaluation are based upon careful monitoring of ocean policy developments over the last year and direct communication with leaders in Congress, the Administration, and the regions and states who are responsible for creating and implementing new and improved policies."

The grades on specific subjects range from "F" to "A-." A copy of the report card, including a detailed explanation of each grade, is available at www.jointoceancommission.org.



SEA SCENES: Paddling Fun on the Film Screen!

Jersey Paddler (JP) of Brick, NJ, hosts Paddlesport 2007 - the East Coast's largest kayak, canoe, and outdoor show - from March 23-25 at the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset, NJ. Jersey Paddler will feature Rapid Media's 2nd Annual Reel Paddling Film Festival World Tour to bring the world's best paddling films to paddlers. Visit www.rapidmedia.com/filmfest to see a list of featured films and a three-minute trailer. Proceeds from the film festival will benefit COA.

About Jersey Paddler

Started in the back of a gas station in the mid-late 1970s by Walter Durrue, JP has expanded over the years to a full service canoe and kayak retailer, carrying equipment to use for day trips to expeditions around the world. JP has been running river cleanups its beginning. John Durrue, Walter's son and current President of Jersey Paddler, Inc., recognizes the importance of clean water to the paddling community and is a true friend of our waterways.

"I have been paddling since I was nine years old and always find NJ waterways amazing. I have paddled with seals, seen whales off Sea Girt, and kayak surfed with dolphins. Now I am a father of three and hope to share these experience with my kids," said **John Durrue**. "After 30 years, I see the improvements in our waterways, but also see that we need organizations like COA to keep the tide moving in a positive direction."

Waves of gratitude to John Durrue and the Jersey Paddler team for their generosity and enthusiasm for a clean ocean -- you inspire us to continue the fight to protect and cleanup our waters for safe recreational fun. Paddle on!

(right) John and Jennifer Durrue at COA's Sunset at Sandy Hook, 2006



Reel Paddling Film Festival
\$10 admission/screening to benefit COA
Three screenings * Different films
Fri., 7-9pm, Sat., 2-4pm, Sun., 1-3 pm

Paddlesport Info
Fri. 12-9pm, Sat., 9am-6pm, and Sun. 10am-4:30pm
\$10, \$15 for a weekend pass, and FREE to children under 14
Visit www.jerseypaddler.com



EVENTS

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

Yoga Day USA Goes with the Flow of Success

Brahma Yoga Spa's 2nd Annual celebration of Yoga Day USA on January 27 was a wave of success. Many yogis came to support the event and try a yoga class, led by Brahma's talented staff. In the evening, a reception with entertainment by local talents, Tommy Anton and Abby Cahn, was attended by COA friends. Reception highlights included remarks by Cindy Zipf, a tea station, and fare donated by **Panera Bread** of Shrewsbury and **Yumi Sushi** of Sea Bright.

Shirts, beautifully designed by Helen Aquino, commemorating the occasion are still available at Brahma for \$20. All event and shirt proceeds will be donated to COA.

Visit www.brahmayoga.com for Brahma's top reasons to practice yoga. COA's top reason: "Why not treat yourself, enjoy yoga, and support a wonderful business that cares deeply about their environment, customers, and community." Special thanks to the Dow and Aquino families for their support and encouragement throughout the year.



Lisa and Helen Aquino, Brahma Yoga

Register for Free Flat-out Fun and Prizes!

Join us for the 13th Annual Memorial Winter Flounder Tournament on Saturday, March 31, at Bahrs Landing Restaurant, Highlands. The event is a "no entry fee," prize-money tournament, that kicks-off a new fishing season with the traditional blessing of the waters and continental breakfast at 9am. Weigh-in and auction festivities are 3-5pm, followed by an Awards Ceremony.

Over 200 families will gather to enjoy our "fish-tivities," which will include competitive family fishing, tasty chowder, door prizes, and an exciting auction of fishing gear and other sea-worthy donations. Prizes will be awarded to ten randomly selected *pre-registrants* entered by March 30; to pre-register for free, go to www.CleanOceanAction.org.

The memorial tournament honors Monmouth County's John Murphy, a fishing legend, and Bob Hunter, ocean advocate and founder of the event. The purposes are to raise awareness about how citizens can make a difference and to raise funds for COA's efforts to cleanup and protect the waters off the NJ/NY coast.

Call Jennifer at 732-872-0111 to make a donation on the occasion of this event. Contributors will be recognized at the event, and gifts of \$250 or more will be listed on the Official Tournament Shirt, designed by Elite Designs, Sea Bright.

At this year's tournament, COA will honor the memory of a dear friend, **William H. Duncan** of Highlands. Bill was dedicated to his community and supported many local charities, including COA. His passion for the ocean and commitment to friends was evident in his quiet hard work and generosity. From the first tournament, Bill was essential in its organization and success. His legacy will continue as we work ever onward for the ocean.



2007 Tournament Committee:

Dery Bennett,
American Littoral Society
Jay Cosgrove, Bahrs
Joe Daly, West Marine
Jean Marie Horgan & Ed Horgan, Skipper's Boatyard
Dorothy Obropta
Joan Wicklund
Ed Wisniewski