



Clean Ocean Advocate

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- Volunteers Sweep NJ's Beaches & Waterways Clean
 - Vote "Yes" for Open Space in New Jersey
 - Urgent Citizen Action Needed: Offshore Industrial Island

November 2007 Highlights

*****Eco-Tip of the Month*****
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Source: Ecology Center, National Wildlife Federation and Natural Resources Defense Council

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

NOVEMBER 2007

November
 - **COA Annual Appeal.** Look in your mailboxes in November for opportunities to improve and protect the ocean.

November 6, Tuesday
 - **Election Day: Vote to "Keep NJ Green!"**

See information about State Public Ballot Question #3 inside. For ways to help, visit www.NJKeptItGreen.org.



November 24 & December 1, Saturdays
 - **Billabong Store Grand Opening**
5% Days to benefit organizations, 4-8pm, Shrewsbury at the Grove West, 512 Broad Street, Shrewsbury, NJ. Call 732-219-9600.

November 24 - 5% day to benefit Surfers' Environmental Alliance
December 1 - 5% day to benefit Clean Ocean Action

Need holiday gift ideas and eco-tips?
 "Sea" the December Ocean Advocate



Our COalition

Featuring...
Fishermen's Conservation Association

The Fishermen's Conservation Association (FCA) is the newest Participating Organization in the coalition. The FCA was formed in 2006 by like-minded fishermen in the tri-state region who wanted to make a difference in the marine environment.

The FCA is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to promote the "Conservation Triad:" Access, Habitat, and Fisheries Management. The organization's programming and support directly benefits the marine waters of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. The organization represents 900 members.

In its first two years, FCA hosted many events and programs to promote conservation awareness and action: "Hooked For a Lifetime" Kids Fishing Event, boating awareness, fishing tournaments, including the "Manhattan Cup" and "Bluefish Bonanza," as well as beach cleanups.

The association's priorities include fighting the proposed dumping of toxic waste in Jamaica Bay, illegal poaching, beach access, and a variety of fisheries related issues. Also, FCA supports the Clean Ocean Zone legislation to permanently protect the NY/NJ Bight from pollution, and has concerns about the man-made industrial island proposed off the NY/NJ coast (see article inside).

"Our primary goal remains conservation for the marine resource," said **Captain Frank Crescitelli, FCA Chairman.** "We are going back to the basics: let's clean up the resource and let's reconnect people to that resource so they work to protect it."

The FCA is a 100% volunteer group. Meetings for the Staten Island Chapter are held the third Tuesday of every month at the Nature Center in Blue Heron Park, Annadale, NY. The NJ Chapter has just formed and will meet in November in Port Monmouth. A chapter in Manhattan will be formed by year's end. To learn more visit www.joinfca.org.

Volunteers Sweep New Jersey's Beaches & Waterways Clean



On Saturday, October 20, approximately 2,000 volunteers participated in Clean Ocean Action's (COA) 22nd Annual Fall Beach Sweeps at 60 sites throughout New Jersey, from Glen Ridge to Cape May. Volunteers removed tons of litter and recorded data of the debris. The results of the Fall Beach Sweeps will be included in an annual report released Spring 2008.

"COA's Sweeps remove harmful litter from the environment and, most importantly, collect evidence of pollution problems. Litter is lethal to marine wildlife and can ruin an otherwise wonderful day at the beach," said **Cindy Zopf, COA's Executive Director.** "Our goal is to educate citizens & reduce sources of litter to eliminate the need for Beach Sweeps in the future."

An overnight storm dampened and buried debris, and west winds carried debris offshore before the cleanup, but there was still plenty of garbage for volunteers to remove. Volunteers enjoyed a beautiful autumn day at the shore, while making a difference. Some of the highlights include:

Asbury Park - Beach Sweepers, including volunteers from the NJ Shore Chapter of the Sierra Club, reported a sewage leak from Convention Hall. Since the Sweeps, the leak has been repaired.

Atlantic City - Volunteers and employees from Sponsor Atlantic City Electric (pictured above), picked-up 1,000 cigarette butts from a half mile of beach.

Lavallette - Over 70 volunteers from high schools, colleges, scout troops, and local government participated to improve and protect the beach.

Point Pleasant Beach - Over 80 volunteers from Alpha Phi Omega chapters at Stevens Institute of Technology, Wagner College, and NJ Institute of Technology cleaned the beach in front of Jenkinson's Aquarium.

Sandy Hook - Over 300 volunteers removed 4,229 plastic caps and lids and some odd items including a kazoo, a coconut, and an Easter basket from ocean and bayside beaches within the park.



Volunteers clean Barnegat Bay's shoreline in Seaside Park

Strathmere - 23 volunteers collected and removed 302 pounds of debris.

Ventnor - Employees from Adventure Aquarium in Camden & approximately 50 volunteers scoured the beaches and found items including a jar of peanut butter, a park bench, and a golf ball.

New Jersey Senator Joseph Kyriillos (R-13) and NJ Assemblyman Jim Whelan (D-2) showed their support for the Beach Sweeps by attending the kick-off events in Sandy Hook and Atlantic City, respectively.

(continued, see "Beach Sweeps," page 3)

CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

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URGENT Citizen Action Needed: Offshore Industrial Island

There is still time for organizations and citizens to support NJ Governor Jon Corzine's request for New Jersey's voice to be heard on a proposed man-made island for an industrial complex. The offshore island will serve as a facility to off-load, store, and process liquefied natural gas (LNG) (see October *Ocean Advocate*). The Atlantic Sea Island Group (ASIG) "Safe Harbor Energy" project is planned for 19 miles off the coast of New Jersey and 13 miles off New York.

At press time, the US Maritime Administration, an agency overseeing the project application along with the US Coast Guard, has not decided whether New Jersey is considered an "adjacent coastal state" as defined in the Deepwater Port Act. The agency is expected to make a decision on or before **November 2**.

Additional facts show the footprint of the project is much larger than just the 60.5-acre island. According to a letter from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) requesting a coastal consistency review, "The proposed artificial island would cover approximately 112 acres of seafloor...and will have a 500 meter exclusion zone surrounding it, which, when coupled with the island itself, will preclude vessels from over 630 acres of the ocean."

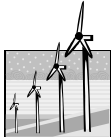
US Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) requested NJ to be part of the review process, and US Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-D-6) urged the US Maritime Administration to grant NJ Governor Corzine's request.

Take Action Now

Citizens and organizations are urged to send letters supporting Mr. Corzine's request to the US Maritime Administration and US Coast Guard (remember to send copies to NJ Governor Jon Corzine and to COA). Call COA or go to www.cleanoceanaction.org for a sample letter to personalize, addresses to send letters to, and threats to the ocean from the proposed industrial complex.

COA thanks the organizations that have submitted letters thus far: Garden Club of Long Beach Island (who generated dozens of letters from citizens), Marine Trades Association of New Jersey, Monmouth County Audubon Society, Natural Resources Protective Association, North Shore Waterfront Conservancy, and Sisters of St. Dominic - Blauvelt Dominican Sisters. COA also thanks the citizens who have sent letters, including William Feinberg, member of the Asbury Park Fishing Club and of COA's Board of Trustees.

NJ Seeks Developers for Offshore Wind Pilot Project



On October 4, the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) unanimously approved an offshore wind competitive grant solicitation with up to \$19 million in funding to support the financing and development of an offshore wind pilot project. The BPU is seeking proposals from developers to build a pilot project that will have an aggregate capacity of up to 350 megawatts (MW) of electricity. The Blue Ribbon Panel's Final Report indicates that approximately 80 turbines would produce 350 MW. The BPU expects to choose a winning solicitation by March of 2008.

This Solicitation does not follow the Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendation of a pilot project following important baseline studies. The State has allocated \$4.5 million for an 18-month, ecological, baseline study of certain birds, marine mammals, turtles, and other offshore species. The study has not yet begun and therefore the BPU will award a contract to a developer before the ecological effects are even assessed. COA is also concerned that the State is only allocating \$4.5 million to a complex and important study of the marine environment, but will award over four times as much to a developer to build the project.

POLLUTION PREVENTION

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A Day of Science at the Beach

During COA's **Fall Student Summit** on September 27, over 400 middle school students from south Jersey were marine scientists for a day. Fourteen schools from Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Ocean Counties attended the 9th annual summit at Island Beach State Park (IBSP). Summit participants engaged in hands-on environmental learning focusing on the NJ marine environment.

"From holding a horseshoe crab to water sampling, students got an up-close look at the coastal world that provides them with a sense of awe and appreciation for their natural environment" said **Cindy Zipf**, COA Executive Director.



Students carefully touch and learn about a sea star, one of the many invertebrates on display in the environmental workstations

Special thanks to the field trip leaders: Melissa Raulerson of Jenkinson's Aquarium, Scott Barnes of NJ Audubon Society's Sandy Hook Bird Observatory, Kevin Knutsen of IBSP, Kathleen Gasienica of Rumson, NJ, and Jeff Martin and students from Lower Cape May Regional High School. COA also thanks the staff at Jenkinson's Aquarium and John Wnek and students from the Marine Academy of Technology & Environmental Science (MATES) for helping to provide marine life and leadership for the workstations. The Fall Student Summit was made possible by: staff of IBSP and Panera Bakery Cafés of Ocean Township, NJ.

The Spring Student Summit for schools in northern and central NJ is scheduled for May 8 & 9, 2008. Applications will be available in February.



Students observe and take measurements of a horseshoe crab, an animal that pre-dates the dinosaur

SEA SCENES: Beach Clubs "Tee Off" for the Ocean

Ocean Event Sponsors The New York Mercantile Exchange Charitable Foundation and Chapel Beach Club hosted the **Sixth Annual Ocean Golf Classic** on a gorgeous, sunny October 4th at Rumson Country Club. Over 100 golfers and local businesses participated from across the region.

A highlight of the day was the "Beach Club Challenge," a tournament within the tournament, where foursomes from beach clubs competed for coveted bragging rights, official driftwood trophy, and a tournament flag, which is displayed proudly at the winning beach club the following summer. With the water's edge only feet from beach club doors, owners and members participate in this annual day of golf fun and competition to protect a natural resource -- the ocean.

This year's Beach Club Champion, Chapel Beach Club in Sea Bright, has participated in the event for six years, encouraging sportsmanship and fun competition among participants. Special thanks to The Mulheren Family, Greg Vasil, and crew for their continued seaside spirit for the ocean! Other Beach Club Challenge participants included Water's Edge (2006 Beach Club Challenge Champions), Surfrider, Water's Edge, Ship Ahoy, and Driftwood.

Stay tuned in December for additional golf highlights.

(Sea Scenes appears every other month in the *Clean Ocean Advocate*.)



2007 Beach Club Challenge Champion: Chapel Beach Club, Sea Bright

EVENTS

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British LUSH founder Mark Constantine says, "The hand and body lotion is one of the best and most popular products that we have ever made, so it is perfect for helping to multiply the money available in the kitty to give to green and humane causes."

To order your Charity Pot, visit <http://usa.lush.com/cgi-bin/lushdb/CharityPot>.

Beach Sweeps: A Wave of Support (continued from page 1)

The Fall Beach Sweeps were made possible by support from generous sponsors. The Statewide Sponsors include **Verizon**, **Lara Bar**, and **Wakefern Foods Corporation**, which includes **ShopRite** stores. **United Teletch Financial** sponsored Monmouth County sites, and **Atlantic City Electric** sponsored sites in Atlantic City, Brigantine, Cape May, and Sea Isle City. Individual site sponsors included: **Adventure Aquarium**, **Lower Cape May Regional Education Association**, **Surfrider Foundation - Jersey Shore Chapter**, **Keypoint Business Alliance**, **Shore Environmental LLC**, **Panasonic**, **Panera Bread Bakery Cafes**, and **Monmouth County Association of Realtors**.

COA also thanks the staff of the Gateway National Recreation Area - Sandy Hook, and Leona Mostowski and students from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST) for organizing the Sandy Hook site, and the Culinary Education Center of



Lara Bar celebrates the Sweeps with MAST at Sandy Hook

Brookdale Community College and Monmouth County Vocational School for the special cake for volunteers at Sandy Hook.

Most of all, COA thanks the dozens of volunteer Beach Captains and the municipalities who participated in the statewide event.



United Teletch employees show their bags of trash collected at Sandy Hook



Nearly 300 volunteers swept the beach clean at Sea Bright Public Beach