



September 2008 Highlights

- Persistent Pollution Plagues Beaches
- C.O.A.S.T. Comes to a Close
- Farewell Interns, Welcome New Staff

*****Eco-Tip of the Month*****
It's Cool to Carpool: Automobiles contribute about 25% of the climate-changing carbon dioxide emissions in the United States. Carpool to work or school to save money, gas, and the environment.
Adapted from Our Environment, Vol. 11, No. 8, by Ingrid Justick

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



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STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION!
MAILING LIST RENEWAL OR SIGN-UP FORM

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 ➡ 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 _____
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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.

September

September 8, Monday
 - 3rd Annual Atlantic City Electric Charity Golf Classic, benefits COA, Marriott Seaview Resort & Spa, Galloway Township, NJ. For information and to register, call Jim Cinelli at (856) 753-2850.

September 19, Friday
 - COA's 10th Annual Sunset at Sandy Hook, hosted by The Segall Family of The Sea Gulls' Nest Deck Restaurant, Sandy Hook, 6-11pm. See page 4 inside.

SAVE THE DATE

October 3, Thursday
 - 10th Annual COA Fall Student Summit, 9am-12:30pm, Island Beach State Park. South Jersey schools (grades 5-8) must apply by Sept. 19. Application on COA website.

October 18, Saturday
 - 23rd Annual COA Fall Beach Sweeps, 9am-12:30pm. For sites, go to www.cleanoceanaction.org.

Our COAlition
Featuring...
Concerned Citizens of COA



Clean Ocean Action (COA) engages citizens, organizations, and businesses in campaigns and actions to improve and protect our ocean. The **Concerned Citizens of COA** represent legions of volunteers and contributors who are concerned with ocean pollution and are motivated to take action. Organized in 1984, when COA began, by the late Pamela Brinton (left in photo), Marion Huber (right in photo), and Daisy Belle Lincoln, the group is touted as the ocean's first line of defense.

Today, the Concerned Citizens are comprised of thousands of individuals, small and tall, who advocate for a clean ocean through: letter writing and phone calls; folding, stamping, and stuffing COA mailings; testifying at public hearings and attending rallies; staffing COA information and action tables; cleaning beaches; teaching students of all ages; and more.

COA's success depends on the Concerned Citizens for its successful campaigns, including the campaign against ocean dumping, "Dump No More, March for the Shore" campaign, and most recently, the campaign for the Clean Ocean Zone. Over the years, the Concerned Citizens, all volunteers, have collected hundreds of thousands of petition signatures, made and sent countless calls and emails, and spent thousands of hours at rallies and events.

Concerned Citizens of COA subscribe to our monthly newsletter, *The Clean Ocean Advocate*, for one year. For \$25 per year (\$15 for students and seniors), citizens are informed of the latest ocean pollution issues, threats, and solutions, as well as action opportunities and events. To be a Concerned Citizen of COA, go to www.cleanoceanaction.org and click Join/Donate on the left menu.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY

Persistent Pollution Plagues Beaches

The annual report, "Testing the Waters," prepared by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and released in New Jersey by COA and Environment NJ, reviews national beach closures and advisories in 2007 (www.nrdc.org/ttw/). The report shows **22,571** days of beach closings and advisories nationwide at ocean, bay, and Great Lakes beaches in 2007. In New Jersey, there were **142** days of closures, an increase from 134 days in 2006. Rainfall and the resulting polluted stormwater runoff, as well as aging and poorly designed stormwater and sewage systems are to blame for the pollution of coastal waters. The state of NJ monitors its waters at least once a week and, after a second sampling, notifies the public of closures if sampling shows elevated bacterial levels. However, these closures occur after two days. Many of the groups' recommendations to address failures in monitoring programs are in the Beach Protection Act of 2008, pending in U.S. Congress.



CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

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Officials Discuss Offshore LNG Ports

On July 17, 2008, Clean Ocean Action (COA) and representatives from Concerned Citizens of Montauk, Natural Resources Protective Association, NY Sportsfishing Federation, South Shore Audubon Society, Staten Island Tuna Club, and Surfrider Foundation - NYC Chapter, met with **NY Secretary of State Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez** to discuss liquefied natural gas (LNG) ports proposed off the shared coasts of NJ and NY. Secretary Cortés-Vázquez denied a permit for an LNG terminal in Long Island Sound, but suggested two sites in the Atlantic Ocean. The groups presented facts and environmental, economic, and policy concerns for the proposed ports and importing LNG to this region. The Secretary stated a need to "balance" issues, and did not indicate a position on the proposed LNG ports in the ocean.

On August 7, 2008, the **NJ Senate Environment Committee** and the **NJ Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee** held their annual coastal issues hearing in Toms River. The Committees accepted testimony from the public on the topic of offshore LNG ports. Exxon and Excalibur presented their projects, BlueOcean Energy and Liberty Natural Gas, respectively. Ten environmental, surfing, and fishing organizations, including COA (testimony on website) testified or presented an opinion at the hearing; all but one voicing strong opposition to LNG and to all three offshore projects. The Committee Chairs and Members expressed concerns about the proposals.

Federal Agency Looks to Lease the Ocean for Energy

The U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) is accepting comments on two offshore matters. First, MMS is proposing regulations to establish a program to allow for alternative energy project activities and for the alternate use of existing facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Comments are due Sept. 8. Second, MMS is preparing a five-year oil and gas leasing program for the OCS, despite that the current program is in place until June 30, 2012. According to MMS, "the new program, depending on public comment, can consider any area although any leasing in a banned area would need congressional action." This sets a dangerous precedent for offshore oil and gas drilling off our nation's coast. Comments are due Sept. 15.

WASTING OUR WATERS AWAY

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Project comments submitted by COA are posted on our website

Wastewater Discharged into Ocean Needs Stricter Limits

Ocean County's Central Water Pollution Control Facility, which discharges up to 26.5 million gallons a day (MGD) of treated wastewater into the Atlantic Ocean, proposed a draft pollution discharge permit. The draft permit includes a request to increase the maximum flow rate to 32 million

Chlorine and its byproducts are highly toxic to aquatic life. gallons per day (MGD). However, the permit does not contain information about any improvements or changes to the facility that would justify an increase in flow rate. The proposed three-year delay in implementing limits on chlorine in the effluent is also disappointing. Chlorine and its byproducts are highly toxic to aquatic life and must be limited immediately. Also, COA opposes the use of mixing zones for setting the limits for chlorine and other contaminants. Unfortunately, organisms swimming at or near the pipeline are not protected from these toxic releases. The draft permit also fails to limit the allowable concentration of Enterococci (bacteria) in the discharge. To maintain consistency with other state water quality monitoring programs and to ensure protection of both the environment and public, COA urged NJDEP to expedite the transition from Fecal Coliform, which is currently tested for, to Enterococci.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY

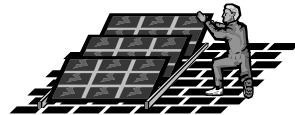
Defining Marine Debris

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the US Coast Guard proposed a definition of "marine debris" to include in the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act. The Act's purpose is to "assess, reduce, and prevent marine debris and its adverse impacts on the marine environment and navigation safety" to solidify a federal Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Program. COA submitted comments to ensure the proposed definition accounts for all possible forms and sources of marine debris. A broad, inclusive definition will also help ensure adequate funding for the program, make waters safe for navigation, and protect marine life from trash and waste.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Let the Sun Shine!

Investing in solar energy reduces greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, which is having dramatic changes in the ocean, including sea level rise and ocean acidification. Recently, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) proposed new rules for solar renewable portfolio standards (RPS). Although there were several proposed changes that will improve the state's solar energy program, COA voiced opposition to freezing the solar RPS once 1,700 megawatts (MW) of solar electricity has been generated. The freeze is also triggered whenever the annual solar RPS has been achieved or solar electricity prices exceed two percent of the "total retail cost of electricity." The current solar RPS established a feasible base rate of growth, and that rate should be the floor for progress, not the ceiling. Instead, the proposed freeze will undermine the state's ability to expand in-state renewable energy resources, place contingencies on achieving the solar RPS that could reduce the required percentage of this green, renewable in-state electricity source to below 2.12 percent of 2020 total electric demand, and compromise the state's ability to achieve the goal of meeting 20% of our electricity demand through green renewable energy sources by 2020. See COA's website for our comments.



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

C.O.A.S.T. Comes to a Close: A Message from Casey Shanley, Coordinator

This summer's C.O.A.S.T. campaign was a great success, educating and motivating thousands of beach-goers to protect the ocean! I thank all the volunteers who helped with the campaign. It has been a pleasure to work with such inspirational and highly motivated people who care so much about the wellness and future of our ocean.

Our exceptional volunteers staffed information and action tables at 25 beach clubs, towns, and festivals throughout Monmouth and Ocean Counties on every weekend from early July to mid-August. Nearly **1,000** citizens signed the petition to "Stop the Insanity" of industrial projects proposed off our coast. Volunteers also raised nearly **\$2,000** from the sale of the limited edition t-shirt and donations. (*Buy a campaign t-shirt; see page 3.*) Citizens can join COA at www.cleanoceanaction.org or on Facebook for information about the campaign and to find out how to take action.

Also, special thanks to **Matt Applegate from Aerial Sign North Inc.** of Lakewood Airport, NJ, who helped COA reach hundreds of thousands of beach-goers by flying his unmistakable, bright yellow banner plane with messages, including: "Big Oil in Our Ocean = Big Mistake," "Help! Your Ocean's Under Attack," and "Help Save the Dolphins." COA is purchasing carbon offsets for the 692 miles traveled by the banner planes.

With the cooperation of citizens, organizations, towns, and beach clubs, the successful summertime tradition of C.O.A.S.T. continued!

Fall Into Volunteering!

Help COA during this busy fall festival season. Volunteer for a 2-4 hour time period. To sign-up for the following events, please contact Carl Guastafarro at COA:

- Sunday, September 7:** *Beach Plum Festival*, Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park, 8:30am-4:00pm
- Saturday, September 20:** *Festival of the Sea*, Pt. Pleasant Beach, 10am-7pm
- Sunday, October 5:** *Cattus Island Nature Festival*, Toms River, 9am-3pm
- Sunday, October 12:** *Coast Day*, Cape May, 10:30am-4:00pm

SEA SCENES

Since the early days of COA, **Guaranteed Plants & Florist** in Locust, NJ, has donated countless blooms and boughs, as well as hours of creativity, expertise, and overall support. Guaranteed has decorated and designed almost all of COA's events, from the early Sea Soiree and Spring Brunches, to the 20th Anniversary Luau, Beach Parties, and Sunset at Sandy Hook celebrations. Guaranteed's unparalleled creativity in showcasing flora and their dedication to a clean ocean is extraordinary.

Guaranteed Plants and Florist, owned by **Todd and Stevie Thompson and Stephen Powers**, has gone green. Guaranteed switched to new completely biodegradable rice hull pots, composed of waste from sustainable natural plant fibers and without heavy metals or toxic ingredients. Guaranteed carries natural and organic fertilizers and natural pest controls.

"We've been in business for 32 years, but we've swam and surfed at the Jersey Shore all our lives. It is our good fortune to know Cindy Zipf, who has inspired many of us to give in any way that we can to help our ocean," said Stevie and Todd. "The fight for a clean ocean has become even more serious as most consumers will not give up their dependence on oil. We will continue as a business and as individuals to help COA in any way we can. Remember -- there is no second chance for our ocean!"

"Todd, Stevie, and Stephen are passionate about their work and improving the quality of life around us. Indeed, all the folks at Guaranteed Plants & Florist are as beautiful as their flowers, plants, and stunning arrangements," said COA's Cindy Zipf. "They are amazing, blooming ocean advocates...guaranteed!"

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



Help Be the Solution to Ocean Pollution!



Join us for the **23rd Annual Fall Beach Sweeps**
Saturday, October 18, 2008, 9am-12:30pm

Groups, Individuals, & All Ages Welcome
Sites from Middlesex to Cape May Counties
Go to www.CleanOceanAction.org for an interactive map of sites,
registration information for groups, and tips for the beach cleanup

COA STAFF NEWS

Clean Ocean Action welcomes a new staff member and thanks this summer's interns for their hardwork and enthusiasm.



Carl Guastafarro joined COA as the Citizen Action and Activities Coordinator. Carl graduated from Marist College with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Political Science, including public affairs, with a minor in Global Studies and Philosophy. Prior to COA, Carl was Development Associate for The Roosevelt Institution, the nation's first student think-tank that promotes the policy ideas of students and provides the mechanisms to make those ideas heard in the public arena. Carl brings strong e-activism, communication, and organizing skills and knowledge of nonprofit operations and environmental affairs.

Lisa Harris completed her second consecutive summer internship with COA as Event and Program Activities Intern, where she gained experience in non-profit operations, marketing, grassroots organizing, and publications. Lisa compiled data from the 2008 Aveda Earth Month campaign, developed and organized the 2007 Beach Sweeps Annual Report, and assisted with the Corporate Beach Sweeps. Lisa begins her junior year at the University of Vermont where she is majoring in Environmental Studies.



Laura Mott completed her internship as Legal Intern, using her legal research and writing skills to advocate for a clean ocean and working on a variety of projects in several areas of environmental law. Specifically, Laura looked at the proposed weakening of water quality protections in New Jersey, quantified marine mammal harassment from existing offshore liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities, and reviewed existing LNG facilities' harmful environmental effects. Laura continues her legal and advocacy work as a second year law student at CUNY Law School.

Casey Shanley, the 2008 C.O.A.S.T. Coordinator, completed her internship with COA. Casey led a successful outreach, awareness, and public relations campaign to inspire beach-goers to help stop the industrialization of the ocean (see above article). Casey organized and trained volunteers, developed a campaign t-shirt, coordinated with municipalities and beach clubs, and communicated with the media. Casey begins her senior year at Wheaton College where she is majoring in history.

