



CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Defending the Sea Since 1984

May 2016

An Earth Day of Seismic Proportion



Photo courtesy of The Office of Senator Cory Booker

On Earth Day, April 22, 2016, when World leaders from 175 countries signed a historic Paris Climate Accord, Clean Ocean Action (COA) executive director Cindy Zipf stood with Senator Cory Booker, Senator Bob Menendez and colleagues, and called for the rejection of several proposed oil and gas seismic surveys in the Mid-Atlantic. The senators also introduced a bi-partisan bill called the Atlantic Seismic Airgun Protection Act.

In March, the Obama administration removed the mid-Atlantic from the offshore leasing program for 2017 to 2022, however the permits for the exploratory seismic blasting were not halted, and continue to be evaluated by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Not only would the seismic blasting encourage future oil and gas drilling in the region, but the noise from the seismic air guns is orders of magnitude worse than the harm caused by the Rutgers Geology

study last summer off Long Beach Island. Incredibly, if allowed, these studies could maim or kill up to 138,000 mammals and disrupt or harass 13 million mammals. These staggering numbers are unthinkable and will also harm the multi-million dollar fisheries and coastal economies. All efforts must be made to stop this seismic study and lock in protection for our ocean.

NJDEP Issues a Drop-in-the-Bucket Fine

Agate's Defense - "We Always do it that Way!"

Thanks to the watchful citizens who documented the Deal Dumping Debacle, there was ample evidence to issue "MAJOR" (the most serious) penalty against Agate Construction, Co. While some action was taken by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Clean Ocean Action (COA) believes stronger actions were necessary.

The NJDEP fined Agate Construction, Co. only \$14,000 for blatant, illegal dumping of truck-loads of muck over a 3-day period into the ocean off Deal, NJ. The NJDEP calculated the fine amount at \$7,000 per day and multiplied it by 2 days. NOTE: One of the photographs taken by Bill Senck' is time-stamped as Wednesday, February 17, 2016. The official NJDEP violation only accounts for dumping on the 18th and 19th of February. Photographic evidence proves that Agate Construction, Co. was dumping into the ocean for at least one additional day, this day is not accounted for in the NJDEP enforcement action. According to the \$7,000.00/day fine calculation this would equal \$21, 000.00. NOTE: COA shared the time-stamped photographs with the NJDEP.

After receiving the Notice of Violation (NOV) on February 22, 2016, Manson Engineering (the contractor which hired Agate Construction, Co.) requested that the NOV should be retracted because they believed the blatant dumping was, "Consistent with all past work practices undertaken in which the NJDEP and USACE were in full awareness of without previous complaint."

Additionally, Agate Construction, Co. argued that they were not at fault because they were, "Working within the specifications of the USACE contract." NOTE: COA has obtained and reviewed the contract and concludes that Agate Construction, Co. was NOT within the outlined specifications and the NJDEP agrees.



ANCHOR WATCH Monthly Spotlight

Tristan, a 15-year-old advocate, was inspired by Ancient Asian armor when he suggested the design idea (pictured below) for Arame Salon's entry into the 10th Annual AVEDA Catwalk for Water Fashion Show.

"Our Planet is in pain and resources are running out rapidly. When The Arame Team told me they wanted to make a dress out of Starbucks cups, I was immediately intrigued, as I love finding a new use and new way to recreate something. *The sky is the limit!* My inspiration to participate in The Catwalk for Water was my feeling that so many people don't care about the condition of our Planet.

Even if only a few people care, those few people can really make a difference. *Earth day should be every day!*

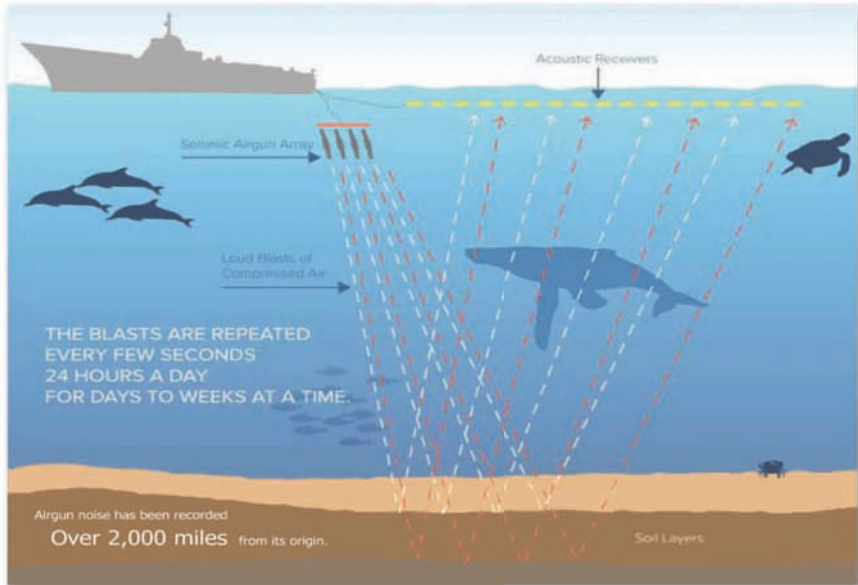
- Tristan Loughran



Another Seismic Expedition This Summer!?

COA is currently investigating a proposal by the NJDEP to use seismic surveying equipment to look for sand deposits which would be appropriate for summer 2016 beach replenishment.

The use of seismic surveying technology has the potential to disrupt critical marine mammal behaviors such as: communicating, feeding, mating and migrating. Furthermore, the summer months are some of the most critical times of the year off our shores for these animals.



While the size of the air guns for this proposed project are much smaller, and the depth of their focus much shallower, it is incumbent that COA carefully review these types of projects. COA's primary focus is to ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are taken and alternate times of the year are considered. With this project, vital offshore sand deposits that support fish habitats should not be targeted for harvesting.

COA will update the public as the situation develops and will continue our work to ensure that the ocean ecosystem is protected from any potential seismic blasting.

Water Quality threats Atlantic and Cape May Counties

Recently, COA was featured in the Press of Atlantic City for work done in South Jersey which focused on the Great Egg Harbor. COA has a long history of working to protect ocean and coastal resources in South Jersey. These efforts include an ongoing battle to stop the BL England generating facility from using a 'once through cooling system'. This system kills millions of organisms a year and discharges heated wastewater back into the bay which causes a low oxygen environment that is harmful to life around the outfall.

Additionally, COA is working on numerous stormwater pollution issues which affect the bay. These pollutants affect the ability for people to safely recreate and shellfish in specific bay areas, especially after a rainstorm.

Finally, COA is working alongside several municipalities in the area to attain Blue Star certification. Blue Star acknowledges and rewards towns that perform specific environmentally beneficial actions that protect the coastal environment.

Keep an eye on the Press of Atlantic City for developing stories on the Great Egg Harbor, as well as a TV interview with COA Policy Attorney Zach Lees airing soon!



Photo courtesy of Press of AC Ben Fogletto

VOLUNTEERS & EDUCATION

Amanda Wheeler, Volunteers & Education
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April Showers Bring May Festivals!

May brings more fun festivals throughout the Jersey Shore including:

Bridgewater Eco-Blast: May 7th

Ocean Fun Days Island Beach State Park: May 21 &
Sandy Hook on May 22nd.

Be the voice of the ocean! Both new and experienced volunteers are needed at these festivals and other upcoming events.

If you have never staffed a table or attended a training session, additional opportunities will be scheduled for early May. To volunteer or for more information, please call **Amanda at 732-872-0111** or email her at **citizens@cleanoceanaction.org**.

It's easy, fun, and an extremely rewarding way to spend an afternoon! Hope to see you at a table soon!

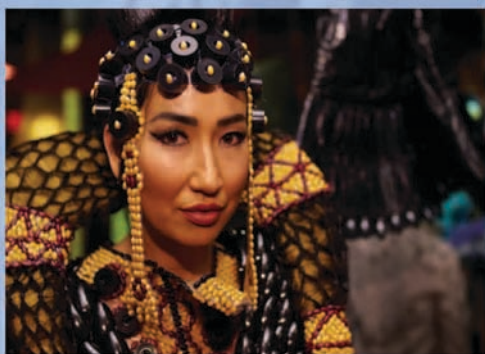
SPECIAL EVENTS

Tory Woods, Director of Development
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Highlights from
the 10th Annual
AVEDA Catwalk
for Water hosted
in NYC!

Photos by Hans Tanner
[@hanstanner](https://twitter.com/hanstanner)



MARINE SCIENCE PROGRAMS

Catie Tobin, Marine Science Education Coordinator
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2015 Beach Sweeps Data Released

COA released the 2015 Beach Sweeps Report highlighting the twelve most commonly collected items (“The Dirty Dozen”) along with the most outrageous finds (“The Roster of the Ridiculous”) and the breakdown of 332,033 pieces of marine debris collected by 6,375 volunteers last year.

The data creates a legacy of information that is used to fight for better anti-litter programs and educate people about the harms caused by marine debris to the economy and wildlife. The spring event coincides with Earth Month to provide citizens with an educational, hands-on, meaningful, rewarding activity to make a real difference.

In 2015, volunteers collected, tallied and removed over 332,003 pieces of debris from New Jersey’s shoreline during COA’s 30th Annual Beach Sweeps. The majority of the debris removed was disposable plastics. Plastic, including foam, represents 70.78% of the total waste found. The evidence is clear: disposable plastic items continue to litter beaches, threaten marine life, and impact water quality. Of the 260,624 plastic items collected, 70.6% were single use.

To download a copy of the report, please visit COA’s website.



Cindy Zipf, COA Executive Director
Ken Mosca, Public Affairs Manager
Atlantic City Electric
Catie Tobin, COA Marine Science
Education Manager
Vince Maione, Atlantic City Electric
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Category Breakdown

Breakdown by Category/Debris Type				
2015 Totals	Spring	Fall	Total	% of Total
Plastic	107187	127797	234984	70.78%
Foam Plastic	15081	10559	25640	7.72%
Paper	8061	7259	15320	4.61%
Glass	9409	6161	15570	4.69%
Metal	9887	7455	17342	5.22%
Wood	6932	5851	12783	3.85%
Rubber	3096	2883	5979	1.80%
Cloth	2156	2229	4385	1.32%
Pieces of Debris	161,809	170,194	332,003	100%

The Dirty Dozen

2015 Rank	Debris Items	2015	2014	2014 Rank	2013	2013 Rank	2012	2012 Rank
1	Plastic Pieces	42793	40880	1	39484	1	43777	2
2	Plastic Caps/Lids	34426	29804	3	32642	2	38349	3
3	Plastic Food, Candy Wrappers/Bags	33405	27381	4	30944	4	33162	4
4	Cigarette Filters	28041	30241	2	32303	3	49362	1
5	Straws/Stirrers	19633	18372	5	18161	5	22308	5
6	Foam Pieces	12841	13050	6	15692	6	22094	6
7	Plastic Beverage/Soda Bottles	12100	11775	8	9974	8	9715	7
8	Plastic Store/Shopping Bags	10808	8037	10	8371	9	6585	12
9	Lumber Pieces	9426	9235	9	13784	7	6713	11
10	Glass Pieces	8733	12703	7	7653	10	8155	9
11	Paper Pieces	7114	5560	12	4617	*	7044	10
12	Glass Beverage Bottles	4953	4467	*	6009	11	4017	*
	Percent of Total Debris	68%	67%		68%		71%	



Thank You
to all our
participants &
sponsors!

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COA'S Shining Starfish!

April had a deluge of festivals to celebrate Earth Month. Many thanks to COA's Tabling Team volunteers: Tom Fagan, Julie Rowe, Kathy Moyer, Bob Bennekamper (pictured below), Pat Bennekamper, Jennifer Leuin, Bambi Magie, Daniela Rodriguez, Kelly Fernandes, Eric Holly, Jim Sharkey and Valerie Taranto.

The outreach at these festivals is, without doubt, the best way to educate the public about ocean issues and threats. Festival-goers are eager to learn about environmental issues and how they can make a difference.

Great job, everyone!



TRIBUTES



Gifts made in honor or in celebration of family or friends.

In Memory of:

- Elizabeth Dunning Baxter
- Christopher Harris
- Samuel Karinja
- William Lavin
- Tara Ryan
- Carol Ann Ross
- Mary Ross