

**Ocean Pollution Action List**  
**Making the Ocean Healthier and Happier**  
**An Agenda for the McGreevey Administration**

**1. Improve Waters from the Bottom Up: NJDEP Action/NJ Legislature**

Initiate a statewide program to assess levels of contamination in coastal zone sediments to ensure that “sensitive species at sensitive life stages” and the food chain are protected. Establish a dredged material management task force to develop environmentally sound alternatives that beneficially use sediments and provide regional solutions for regional navigation dredging needs including funding of regional facilities. See Coastal Sediments Action Plan. Legislative support and funding would follow as needed.

**2. Reuse Wastewater Wisely and Safely: NJDEP Action**

Improve NJ’s wastewater reuse program by setting regulatory standards (implemented through guidelines) and guidance that protect the environment, including groundwater, aquatic life, and wildlife, and have been subject to peer and public review and comment. Do not allow the release of the *General Permit* now being considered by DEP before reuse standards and regulations are adopted and implemented.

**3. Ocean Discharge Improvement Plan: NJDEP Action**

Currently, NJDEP lacks evidence to show compliance with existing Clean Water Act Ocean Discharge Criteria and prove the “no unreasonable degradation” standard. Increase monitoring requirements in effluent and ocean and set limits for chlorination by-products and enterococcus. Oppose USEPA’s proposed, “blending” guidance.

**4. Stop the Floating Junk at the Source: NJDEP Action**

Ensure NJ uses screens on all CSOs and urge NY to do the same. Translate all SIIA maps of storm water discharge maps into GIS by using college and university students studying the GIS program.

**5. Mop up Wreck Pond: NJDEP/local and regional officials and citizens**

Bring the full force of NJDEP expertise together with municipal and county officials, and environmental groups to target storm water and run-off problems at Wreck Pond to achieve ocean bathing water quality standards by 2005.

**6. Water Pollution Elimination Act/Fund: NJDEP and NJ Legislature**

Enforce SIIA requirements to control pollution in storm water from run-off and agriculture. Consider a fee on new impervious areas to fund pollution reduction from storm water.

**7. Sewage Infrastructure Enforcement Action: NJDEP Action**

Statewide, sanitary sewers are deteriorating. A review of state guidance reveals woefully inadequate voluntary program for monitoring sanitary sewers. Middlesex County Utilities Authority and Ocean County Utilities Authority show evidence of a stronger program. Recommend a mandatory monitoring program and reporting program that would include state reporting and filing requirements.

**8. Ensure NJ’s Right to Protect Our Seas in Federal Waters: NJDEP and NJ Legislature**

Set strong coastal policies to empower the state with the following goals:

- Prohibit development of strip mining for sand and gravel for permanent extraction. Protect offshore non-renewable aggregate resources. Conduct an assessment of needs for sand and gravel resources and develop a plan identifying resource needs based on recycling, navigational channel sources, and reuse of sand.
- Prohibit exploration or development of offshore oil and gas drilling. Set a firm aggressive policy.
- Set environmentally protective and responsible standards, criteria, and regulations for green energy facilities.
- Prohibit new ocean disposal sites and discharges.
- Prohibit off shore industrial and non-renewable energy facilities and infrastructure.

**Repeated Proposals for NJDEP Action:**

- **Review 309 Coastal Group Recommendations:** develop cumulative and secondary impacts assessment tools and management actions to address impacts, adopt a networked Coastal Management Program throughout the DEP, map wetlands loss and unmapped wetland areas, compare data gaps with research agendas to ensure progress.
- **Get Tough on Litter-ers:** send clear message with a state-wide litter enforcement week and summit through Clean Communities. Funds collected will support programs. Follow up on reporting requirements under the program.
- **“Eyes in the Sky”:** Use CCMP coastal flights to look for violations along the coast—bulk-heading, wetlands destruction, near-shore dumping, as well as other monitoring opportunities.