



Clean Ocean Advocate

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper with soy ink.

May 2010 Highlights

- Obama Offshore Oil and Gas Plan Comments are Due May 3rd
- Ocean Emotion delivered to Governor Christie on Earth Day 2010!
- Ted Shreds Beach Cruiser Bike Race Proceeds to Benefit COA
- Save the Day for "Beachy" fun at the Family Beach Ball for the Ocean!

**Extraordinary Victory for the ocean!
Governor Christie Rejects Dirty Fossil Fuels in the Ocean**

**Extraordinary Victory for the ocean!
Governor Christie Rejects Dirty Fossil Fuels in the Ocean
Earth Day was Ocean Day for the Region**



Earth Day 2010 marked a new day for the ocean. NJ Governor Christie came to the Jersey Shore and announced his steadfast opposition to any Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities and any Offshore Drilling that could adversely affect New Jersey waters. The crowd of 150 ocean friends was jubilant.

The Governor was joined by former NJ Governor Tom Kean and NJ DEP Commissioner Bob Martin.

Governor Christie's bold and crystal clear promise at the press conference on Earth Day rejects these new industrial assaults:

On LNG he stated, *"The future of our shore, the future of our children to enjoy our beaches in the same way that I got to enjoy them is more important than any project regarding liquefied natural gas. ... That's why I'm confident in announcing that decision today on Earth Day and it is a decision that I will stand by every day that I am Governor of the State of New Jersey."*

On offshore drilling Governor Christie said, *"We [Governor Christie's Administration] have also stated our very strong opposition to any kind of offshore drilling."*

Governor Christie's declarations were an act of swift, firm, and outstanding leadership. He kept his campaign promises on these issues within his first 100 days. To see and hear the speeches, visit www.cleanoceanaction.org.

Ocean Emotion Delivered to Governor Christie on Earth Day

Students from throughout Monmouth County, including the Academy of Allied Health and Science, Beers Street School, Manasquan High School, Marine Academy of Science and Technology, Middletown High School South, Ocean Township High School, and Rumson Fair Haven Regional High School presented the Governor with ocean emotion. These students represented the thousands of students and citizens from throughout NJ who made the Governor over 2,300 valentines in February as part of the "Valentines for Governor Christie" campaign to thank him for his strong commitment to a healthy, industry-free ocean.

The campaign asked citizens to make Valentines to welcome Governor Christie and to encourage him to act quickly on his strong commitment to the ocean. The students were thrilled to present Governor Christie with the thousands of handmade valentines, many of them works of art, and receive the news that he will not allow LNG projects off NJ's coast.



**Our Coalition
Featuring...**



**The New Jersey
Environmental Federation**

The New Jersey Environmental Federation (NJEF), the state chapter of Clean Water Action, is a non-profit, action-oriented organization developing a growing coalition of community, environmental, student and labor organizations fighting to protect natural resources and clean up pollution in New Jersey.

Through its lobbying in Trenton and Washington and its grassroots mobilization efforts, the NJ Environmental Federation increases the pressure on corporations, communities, and government agencies to protect New Jersey's environment and public health.

Since its formation in 1982, the NJ Environmental Federation has been influential in shaping environmental policy in New Jersey because the Federation's programs educate citizens and get them involved in the decision making process. Community organizers bring local groups together to develop unified campaigns which result in passing effective policies that emphasize pollution prevention. By giving citizen activists hands-on experience in organizing, media relations, research and lobbying, a base of leaders can build a stronger environmental movement throughout the state of New Jersey.

The NJ Environmental Federation endorsed Republican Chris Christie for Governor and joined with him for the release of his environmental agenda. During Governor Christie's campaign Sharon Finlayson, who heads the Vote Environment Committee, the organization's political arm stated, "Throughout our rigorous, exhaustive process, Christie consistently expressed a strong commitment to the environment and certainly demonstrated a willingness to work with us." For more information, visit www.cleanwateraction.org/njef and www.cleanwaterfund.org

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



2010 SAVE THE DATE

**A Snapshot:
COA Events & Programs**

May 8: Ted Shreds Beach Cruiser Bike Race, 10a.m., Sandy Hook, NJ (see article inside)

May 13 & 14: Spring Student Summit, Sandy Hook, NJ

May 15: Brook 35 Block Party (see article inside)

May 23: Beach Ball, 3-7p.m., Ship Ahoy Beach Club, Sea Bright, NJ (see insert)

June-August: Corporate Sweeps, Sandy Hook, NJ

October 1: Sunset at Sandy Hook, Sea Gulls Nest, Sandy Hook, NJ

October 7: Fall Student Summit, Island Beach State Park, NJ

October 23: 25th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps, Statewide, NJ

Please clip and send to COA.

**STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION!
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP FORM**

If you are already a member, and would like to receive the Clean Ocean Advocate via **email only** please detach this form and include your email address.

Please print clearly. Thank you.

Name _____

Email _____

Please include organization name & contact, if applicable: _____

Please take a minute to answer the following questions:

I agree with and support Clean Ocean Action's decision of an electronic newsletter. If not, here is why _____

On a scale of 1-10 (one being minimum and 10 being maximum) please rate the effectiveness of the Clean Ocean Advocate on keeping you up to date with the latest ocean issues and events.

Additional Comments: _____

Mail to: Clean Ocean Action, 18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732

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

**Obama Offshore Oil and Gas Plan
Expansion Imperils Vast Coastal Ocean Areas**

On March 31st, President Obama's new expanded strategy for offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling was announced. The strategy opens the Eastern Gulf of Mexico - 125 miles off Florida's west coast, the Arctic Ocean, and from the NJ-Delaware border to mid-Florida for noisy exploration and dirty oil and gas development.

"It's a deal with the devil as the clear objective for opening up drilling in the Atlantic Ocean and other sensitive areas is to buy votes for legislation to reduce emissions causing climate change," stated COA's Executive Director Cindy Zipf outraged by the news. "It is twisted logic at best to increase a dirty, polluting industry that will increase greenhouse gas emissions in the name of reducing climate change and at the same time threaten our national shore tourism and fishing."



Spills from drilling off Virginia or Delaware may be carried north, posing a threat to the Jersey Shore coastal marshes and beaches. Blasting airguns during exploration surveys endangers marine life, such as the already vulnerable North Atlantic Right Whale that calves off the southern Atlantic coast and migrates through the mid-Atlantic. Intense noise also injures and affects fish, reducing commercial catches. Air and water pollution are routine during extraction.

Despite claims of new and "safe" technology, multiple accidents over the last year have proven otherwise. Last fall, one of the worst oil spills in Australian history occurred with new offshore drilling technology with an estimated 9 million gallons released from a blowout at a drill rig. The oil slick spread across an area larger than the size of New Jersey and contaminated 19,000 square miles of coastal regions. On April 20, a tragic blast at a rig in the Gulf of Mexico occurred initially leaking at least 18,000 gallons of crude oil into the Delta National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana. The Coast Guard estimates that 42,000 gallons of oil are leaking each day from the well and a slick of at least 1,800 square miles has been reported so far. Two days later the massive drilling rig, built in 2001, capsized and sank with the unburned portion of an estimated 700,000 gallons of fuel oil.

Zipf also asserted that "Clean Ocean Action stands with our strong bi-partisan NJ Congressional delegation and Governor Chris Christie who oppose offshore oil drilling and vow to work with them to fight against this attack on our way of life."

Citizens can take action in two ways. **Submit email or written comments (due May 3rd) against offshore drilling** at: www.mms.gov/5-year/2007-2012main.htm and follow Commenting Instructions. In the entry titled "Enter Keyword or ID," enter docket ID: MMS-2009-OMM-0016 then click search. Under the tab "View By Docket Folder," you can submit public comments and view supporting and related materials available for this Notice. Mail comments to: Department of the Interior, Attention: Leasing Division (LD), 381 Elden Street, MS-4010, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817. Please reference "Remand of the 2007-2012 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program" in your comments and include your name and address.

Submit written comments on the Exploration Surveys (seismic testing) by May 17th to: "Comments on the PEIS Scope" Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment (MS 5410); Minerals Management Service; Gulf of Mexico OCS Region; 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard; New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 or submit them electronically by going to GGEIS@mms.gov.

Cruisin' for a Clean Ocean

Join us for Ted Shred's 4th Annual Beach Cruiser Bike Race on May 8th, at Sandy Hook to benefit Clean Ocean Action. An after party will be held at Windansea located at 56 Shrewsbury Ave. Highlands, NJ. After party music by DNA, Triple Threat and Quincy Mumford. Food and refreshments by Windansea, Surf Taco and Jr's! Killer giveaways and prizes for winners! The Beach Cruiser Bike Race is supported by Billabong of Shrewsbury, Jamian's Food & Drink, Jersey Shore Apparel Co., Katin, The Peddler of Long Branch, Shannon Black Design, Spellbinders, Splash Zone, Sunstation, Ted Shred's Camps, Universe Graphics, Surfer, Whole Foods Market, and Zoo York. Visit www.tedshredsbikerace.bbnw.org/index.php for info and to pre-register. The entry fee is \$10 for pre-registered riders. Day of registration is \$15 at Gaitors Restaurant in Sea Bright, NJ.

**Brook 35 Block Party to Benefit COA**

Brook 35 Plaza in Sea Girt, 2010 sponsor of Beach Sweeps25 in Manasquan and Spring Lake, will host its Annual Block Party and Used Bike Drive on **Saturday, May 15 (rain date May 16), from 12-3pm**. The bike drive is sponsored by Pedals for Progress, a non-profit group that ships the bikes to third world countries. For every bike donated, Brielle Cyclery will provide one entry for a chance to win one of their beach cruiser bikes.

For every donation made to COA during the event, Brook 35 will provide one entry for a chance to win a \$1,000 Brook 35 Shopping Giveaway.

Horseshoe crab expert and COA volunteer, Kathleen Gascienica will host "Horseshoe Crab Fun," an activity where participants observe live juvenile horseshoe crabs while learning about this fascinating 350 million year old marine animal, its role as a keystone species, and its vital contribution to human health. Young participants will also have the opportunity to construct a take home model of the horseshoe crab.

SEA SCENES**Green Cuisine**

Branches Catering in West Long Branch is the generous catering sponsor for COA's widely anticipated Family Beach Ball for the Ocean on May 23 from 3-7pm at Ship Ahoy Beach Club in Sea Bright, NJ. This fun-filled seaside event is an amazing gathering of hundreds of families and local businesses partnering to donate funds for ocean protection efforts.

"Branches Catering, its ownership, management and staff is proud to begin an initiative incorporating policies that we feel are for the good of all concerned. We call this program 'Green Cuisine' and it will be applied as a related network of policies and procedures as well as a mindset. It is not a 'special event' that we do periodically. It involves a combination and overlapping of social, economic, and ecological issues that is woven through our daily work," explained John Lombardo, Branches Managing Partner.

If you would like Branches to keep you informed of their progress, please sign up for their e-newsletter at www.BranchesCatering.com and indicate "Green Cuisine" as your topic of interest.

Special thanks to our 2010 refreshment sponsors Fisherman's Dock Cooperative of Point Pleasant, The Flaky Tart of Atlantic Highlands, Hunterdon Brewing Co., Island Margaritas, The Lusty Lobster of Highlands, NovelTeas of Red Bank, and Wegmans of Ocean and thank you also to our past caterer and dear friend Gourmet Picnic of Fair Haven.

The 2009 Beach Sweep Results are In!

Just in time for the 25th Annual Spring Beach Sweeps, COA released the 2009 Annual Beach Sweeps Report. 2009 ranks 3rd in the amount of litter collected over 25 years with a total number of items collected of 301,783.

Once again, the majority of debris removed was disposable plastics - items designed to be used once and thrown away. Plastic, including foam, represents 80% of the total waste.

In recent years, bottle caps and lids and cigarette butts have been alternating at the number one spot of top beach trash. The number one item found for 2009 is plastic caps and lids.

The 2009 Dirty Dozen:

- #1 Bottle caps and lids: 33,551
- #2 Cigarette Filters: 30,784
- #3 Plastic pieces: 28,508
- #4 Straws and stirrers: 21,920
- #5 Plastic Food wrappers and bags: 19,848
- #6 Foam Plastic Pieces: 16,713
- #7 Plastic Beverage bottles: 11,056
- #8 Plastic Cap Rings: 8,215
- #9 Metal Bottle Caps: 6,774
(first time in Dirty Dozen)
- #10 Wood Pieces : 6,472
- #11 Plastic Shopping bags: 5,707
- #12 Plastic cigar tips: 5,702

In comparing the previous 15 years of data to 2009, increases were seen in the number of plastic foam pieces and packaging material. An increase in mylar balloons was found and for the first time, in 2009 more mylar than rubber balloons were collected. The number of plastic tampon applicators (an indicator of raw sewage) has been increasing over time. For the first time, in 2009 metal bottle caps made the Dirty Dozen list. To view the full 2009 Beach Sweep Annual Report and the Beach Sweeps 25! Journal of Citizen Action against Beach Litter visit www.cleanoceanaction.org.

**CITIZEN ACTION****Be the "Action" in Citizen Action!**

Help protect the ocean with COA! We are seeking volunteers.

We need volunteers for general office work, special events, advocacy, education, and design/technology.

We are also looking for a volunteer to staff our information and action table at the **Seaside Music Festival in Seaside Heights May 22, anytime from 12-7p.m.**

If you are interested in becoming a COA Volunteer, please find our volunteer form online at cleanoceanaction.org under "Help Your Ocean" or contact Meg at citizens@cleanoceanaction.org or **732-872-0111**.