



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clean Ocean Action Releases "Pathogen Pollution in the Navesink River" Report:
Highlights Research, Offers Solutions and Calls for Action

Rumson, NJ - It was standing room only at the Rally for the Navesink meeting as citizens packed Bingham Hall in Rumson, NJ, to discuss the downgraded state of the Navesink River. Zach Lees, Coastal Policy Attorney for Clean Ocean Action (COA) presented nearly a year of research in a report entitled, "Pathogen Pollution in the Navesink River: Addressing Fecal Contamination in the Navesink River Watershed". COA has been investigating issues, researching the problems, compiling data, interviewing officials, identifying solutions, and organizing community leaders.

"There have been nearly 40 years of efforts to address fecal contamination in the Navesink, including victories and setbacks. Unfortunately, the last decade has seen a trend in deteriorating water quality in the Navesink due to high levels of fecal contamination indicating bacteria," Lees stated of the issue. "We believe that this report will help everyone from citizens to elected officials understand the problem, learn from the past and move forward with an idea of what an effective response to the water quality problem should be. We are incredibly grateful that brilliant representatives from environmental and academic organizations, elected and appointed officials, the NJDEP, and more have taken time out of their night to support the Navesink by attending this public meeting, presenting on this topic and answering questions. This is truly the first step toward improving the water quality in the Navesink."

Additionally, COA's meeting included the NJDEP's Source Tracking Plan for the Navesink and the Environmental Canine Service's utilization of scent-trained canines to detect and track human waste in lakes, rivers, stormwater systems, streams and oceans.

"We are so pleased to support the efforts to make the Navesink River a healthier place for the fishing, boating, swimming and other activities that are so important to all of us," said Karen Reynolds, President and Owner of Environmental Canine Services, LLC. "Our human waste water tracking canines are an additional tool to help locate sources of human pathogen pollution entering the river so it can be removed."

This call to action is an opportunity for the citizens and communities of the Navesink River to establish new a paradigm of local action to improve water quality and re-open the beds for clamming, and to make waters safe for families and fish---rain or shine.

"Unfortunately, decades of regulatory approaches have not worked. Now is the time for us to Rally for the Navesink. Together we can find the pollution and fix it, a no blame-game strategy that brings new

and innovative techniques and solutions. Most essential, is this new paradigm of a grassroots campaign where everyone in the watershed unites to get the job done," said Cindy Zipf, COA Executive Director.

The general theme of collaboration was expressed by Robert Schuster, Interim Bureau Chief at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring when he stated, "We [collectively] want to battle the issue, not each other or each of our organizations. We should all work together."

To date, Rally for the Navesink includes: American Littoral Society, Bayshore Regional Watershed Council, Clean Ocean Action, Monmouth Conservation Foundation, Navesink Maritime Heritage Association, Navesink Shrewsbury River Fishing Club, NY/NJ Baykeeper, and The New Jersey Chapter of the Recreational Fishing Alliance

Please call 732-872-0111 or email info@CleanOceanAction.org to become involved.

For a copy of the "Pathogen Pollution in the NavesinkRiver" Report please visit:
www.CleanOceanAction.org

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